

Marking an Egg Without a Paper Pattern

By Maureen Williams

Marking a simple paper pattern or template on a relatively flat part of an egg is usually easy enough to do but problems occur when trying to mark on the curvature of the shell. It is necessary to pleat the paper so it sits flat on the shell and this isn't always accurate. By learning how to freehand the markings on a shell you will be able to mark up many designs easily.

Although store bought oval or circular templates are a big help you can use a number of household items to mark a curve on an eggshell.



Look for items like a set of measuring spoons for circular markings.

Different shaped plastic spoons can be used for a variety of outlines.

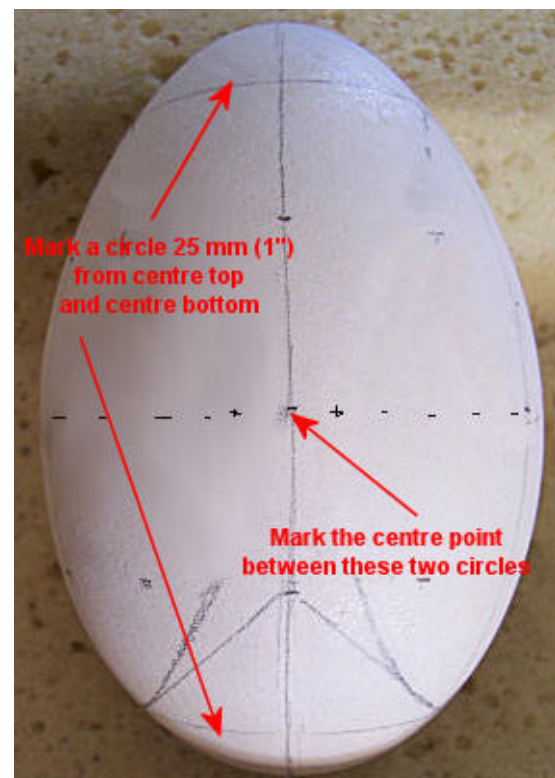
Lids off film containers, plastic lids off various small containers, flexible medicine cups and disposable jello dessert containers are all suitable for marking eggs

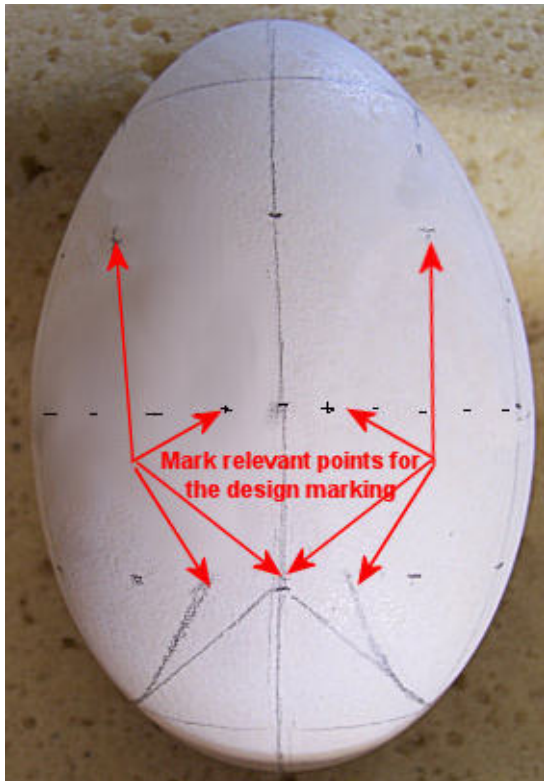
Use an egg marker or rubber bands to mark the egg into the desired number of vertical segments and locate the centre top and bottom points on the shell. I'm using 6 segments in this example.

Note: if you don't have a marker and don't know how to mark an egg using rubber bands you can view a short video here

<http://aussie-eggshell-carvers.com/freebies.htm>

Mark in a circle 25 mm (1") from the centre top mark and from the centre bottom.





Mark in relevant measurements either on the lines or using these lines as a guide.

Note: a narrow flexible tape measure is best for doing these markings, as the edge of the tape can be used to draw in straight lines.

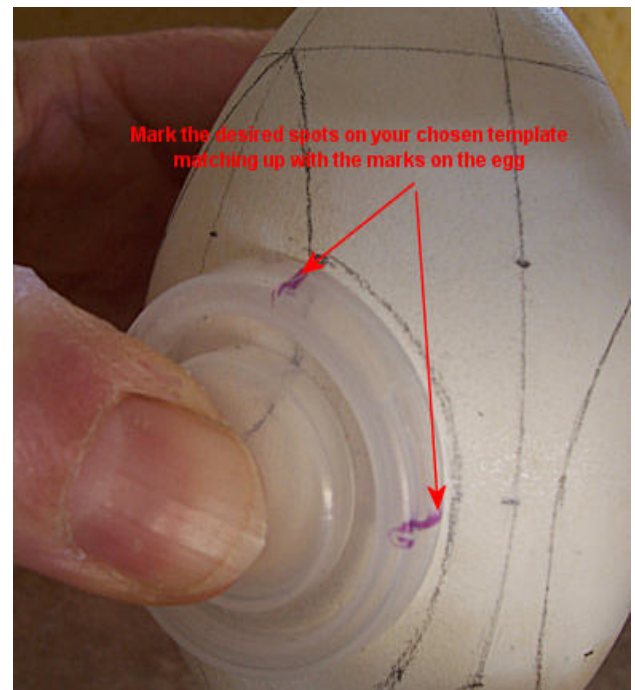
I've marked two points either side 7 mm (1/4") from the centre line on the centre girth line.

The top marks are 20 mm down from the top circle and 15 mm in from the vertical line.

Find something that gives you the desired curve between two given points. In this example I've used the lid off a film container.

By marking each point on the lid it is then a simple matter to go around the egg matching up the marks on the lid with the points marked in on the shell. Use a sharp pencil to mark in the curve.

I've moved the lid slightly away from where the line is marked for photographic purposes.



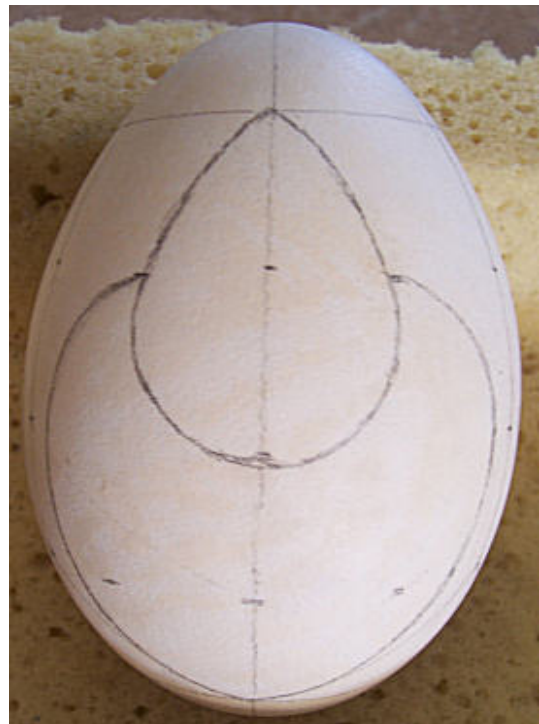


Check out different sizes and shapes for other curves in a design.

Use the edge of the tape measure to draw in guide lines as shown in this photo.

These lines can then become guides for the placement of scrolls or other decorative elements.

Repeat the markings in the other sections of the design as required using the same measurements as for the first segment.





Once you have marked in the desired elements of a design use a ultra fine point permanent marker to dot in the relevant marking lines.

Use an eraser or scrub the egg with creamy cleanser to remove all the unwanted pencil lines before you do any cutting.

After cutting the egg soaking in straight bleach will remove the membrane and any remaining marks prior to painting

Points to Remember

- Only permanent mark the lines that will become cutting lines or those that will be covered with cord or braid etc .
- Allow adequate spacing when marking the design for design elements like cord, braid or rhinestone chain. *(I've left the pencil markings around the teardrop to show what I mean about this allowance)*



Handy Tip

I use a gold coloured Sharpie Ultra Fine Permanent Marker for my markings as these tend to blend easier with gold cord or braid if painting the egg doesn't adequately cover the markings. Coloured Sharpies are usually available from the stationery section of Big W or other department stores,