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# Chapter 13

## Under the Sea

A  
variation of  
Fairy Splendor  
from  
Tis An Egg Book One

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## FAIRY SPLENDOR



Plate 70 ~ Fairy Splendor

I've also had a lot of requests for the instructions for Fairy Splendor. However, rather than re-do this egg to get the step-by-step photos I have used the same principle to produce a new design "Under the Sea".

As you can see, there is a definite similarity but the end result is vastly different. I hope you like it!

## UNDER THE SEA



Plate 71 ~ Under the Sea

## ABOUT FAIRY SPLENDOR

The original design was inspired by a dream I had of a little girl sitting in the middle of a flower. The gold and crystal candle holder base was a birthday present from my daughter and I wanted to make a very special design to compliment the base.

Fairy Splendor was painted with Duncan Ceramic White Mist and on the underside of the petals I used pink glitter. Each of the petals on the smaller egg were covered with textured material and then stiffened with fabric stiffener. The petals of the two larger eggs were outlined with rose rhinestone chain.

## ABOUT UNDER THE SEA

This design uses the same petal shape (for the coral fronds) and material insertion concept as for Fairy Splendor. Both are my original designs. The Collector, an Aline Becker design featured many years ago in the Eggs periodical, inspired the petal shape of both designs. Only the fronds of the top egg in the design are hinged. The remaining fronds of the two larger eggs are permanently glued in place (as they were in Fairy Splendor).

The ceramic base was originally part of an eagle ornament I bought separately and had fired. Two of the mermaids, Pearl & Shellie were from the same series but the third mermaid, Miranda, was an unpainted ceramic figurine which fortunately was the same size. A new paint job on all the figurines made them look alike.

A selection of lichen (available from model railway shops), seaweed, aquarium pebbles and tiny shells add the finishing touches to this appealing design.

## REQUIREMENTS

- Ostrich egg
- Rhea or large emu egg
- Small emu egg
- Textured evening material
- Fabric Stiffener
- Plaid Gallery Glass Window Color
  - # 16021 White Pearl
  - # 15311 Blue Diamond
- Plaid Folk Art Acrylic Paint
  - # 668 Metallic Plum
  - # 669 Metallic Periwinkle
  - # 670 Metallic Blue Pearl
  - # 651 Metallic Blue Topaz
  - # 659 Metallic White Pearl
- Fine cord
- Mermaid figurines
- Ceramic base
- Small ceramic or wooden stand
- Assorted seaweed, shells, small pebbles and other marine decorations
- Egg Repair

## MARKING THE EGG

Each egg is divided into five equal parts. The same marking and cutting is required for all three eggs.

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The material insertion preparation is required for each of the two larger eggs, while the smaller egg only requires the same painting.

1. Measure across the widest part of one of the panels on each egg. On the computer, copy and paste the petal diagram into a paint program and then resize to fit each egg  
(see “Computer Design for Your Eggs” on page 36)
2. Copy the petal 5 times onto the page and print out. Repeat for each petal size.
3. For the two larger eggs, cut out the areas marked with an “X”. Keep one set of each size of these cut-out paper shapes to use as a template for the material.  
(see “Material Inserts on page 102)

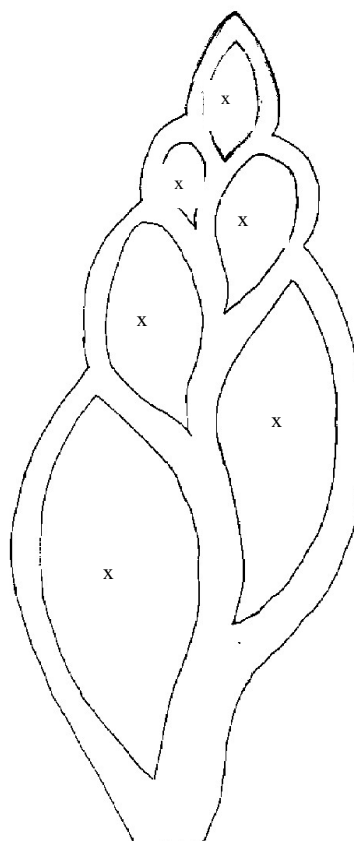


Diagram 25 ~ Petal Diagram



Plate 72 ~ Keep the paper cutouts as a template

4. Use E-Z Design, wallpaper paste or thin PVA to glue each paper cut-out onto a panel on their respective shells.

### CUTTING THE EGGS

1. On the smallest egg mark and cut the hinge pin positions for the 5 hinges, extending the cutting line at least the width of the blade out from the slot.



Plate 73 ~ Marking the egg



Plate 74 ~ Aligning the tops of the petals

2. Score the side of the hinge that will attach to the shell. Apply a small amount of Vaseline (petroleum jelly) to the hinge post and then glue the hinges on the petal side only using 5-minute epoxy.
3. On both the base portion of the smallest egg and each hinge, number the petals to assist with the assembly of the egg at a later stage.
4. Cut out the areas marked with an "X" on the two larger eggs and then cut out the 5 petals on each egg. *Note: on the smaller egg cut around the outline of each petal only as there are no "holes" in these petals.*
5. The base portions of the two larger eggs are not required for this design and may be discarded or used to test paint colours. Be sure to put the base of the smallest egg in a safe place

Once you have cut out the coral fronds handle them with great care as they are extremely fragile.

I must confess to breaking a couple of mine but with some TLC and Zap-A-Gap they were soon back together and with the next step you won't even know the difference.



Plate 5 ~ Coral Fronds from the two larger eggs

## PREPARING THE FRONDS

The material I used for the inserts for both Fairy Splendor & Under the Sea eggs was a textured evening type material. This was glued into the holes and then coated with a fabric stiffener. Any type of fine material could be used but the texture adds to the overall effect in the cut out areas..

## MATERIAL INSERTS

1. The pieces of paper cut out of the petals in step 3 on page 103, are used as a template for the material inserts. Cut out the various sizes of material for each of the cut outs, allowing a border of approximately 5 mm (1/4") all around.
2. Starting with the largest hole, spread a bead of Thick Designer Tacky around the edge.
3. Working from the back of the frond lay the material right side down over the opening.
4. Gently push the material through the opening, securing the edge against the glue. The material should stand above the surface of the shell on the outside, and be level with the shell on the underside of the shell.
5. Use a pair of sharp curved scissors to trim material if necessary.
6. Repeat for all the cut out areas on the frond. Allow the glue to dry thoroughly.
7. Using a brush apply fabric stiffener to the top of each material insert. Turn the frond over and apply more fabric stiffener to the back of the material. This will reshape the material so that it stands above the shell. Repeat for each cut out area.
8. Allow the fabric stiffener to dry completely
9. On the back of the shell use a brush to apply Egg Repair. This will strengthen the shell, cover the edges of the material and simulate coral fronds.
10. Repeat the process on all the petals for the two larger eggs.
11. On the petals of the smallest egg apply Egg Repair same as in step 9.



Plate 76 ~ Egg Repair is added to the inside of the fronds for textural interest

## PAINTING THE FRONDS

Use a narrow flat brush to apply a base coat of white paint to the top of the fronds and a pale blue paint to the underside of the fronds.

Be careful not to get any paint on the stiffened material on the topside of the shell.



Plate 77 ~ Paint a base coat inside and out.



Plate 78 ~ Painting of the fronds is complete

On the underside of the fronds, use the darker to medium colours to shade up from the bottom of the largest fronds.

On the middle sized fronds, use the medium to lighter colours and on the smallest, whole fronds use the lighter colours blending up to white on the inside top of the shell.

Use the same light coloured shadings on the topside of the smallest fronds. When dry, this shading is then covered with the pale blue glass paint.

All the outside edges of the fronds were out-

lined with fine gold cord. I used a blue & gold cord to outline the material inserts on the larger fronds, but a fine gold cord would also be suitable.

Mix a small amount of Blue Diamond Window Color into the White Pearl Window Color to get a pale blue. Be aware that the paint will dry a lot darker than what you see when you mix the paint. Test the colour on a scrap of shell.

Using a squeeze bottle, flood the petal areas with glass paint. Use a toothpick to spread out the paint, making sure you push the paint right up to the cord. The paint should be fairly thick when applied, and the uneven application from the toothpick will allow the base coat on the shell to show through.

Continue until all fronds have been painted in this manner. Allow to dry thoroughly before assembling the eggs

## PREPARING THE BASE

A small stand is epoxied to the base to hold the inner emu egg. Paint the base assembly with the metallic colours, starting with the darker colours at the bottom and shading up to the medium colours on the stand.



Plate 79 ~ The prepared base and the mermaids

## PREPARING THE FIGURINES

The figurines were all repainted to enhance the overall design. The bodies were painted with Duncan's Angel Flesh and the tails with a lemon opaque paint. The tails were highlighted with yellow glass paint. A light dusting of yellow glitter was then applied for added effect.

Glass paint was used to highlight the other elements of each figurine. Long gimp tresses were added as the crowning glory to these cute little mermaids.



## ASSEMBLING THE EGGS

1. Tape the numbered fronds of the smallest egg to the base of shell, making sure to align them with the relevant number on the base.
2. Apply well mixed 5-minute epoxy to the hinge flanges and tape to hold in place.
3. Paint the base of the egg with the darkest colour to blend with the fronds.
4. Attach the egg to a small stand on the prepared base using 5-minute epoxy.
5. Glue the fronds of the middle egg around the stand below the hinged egg, aligning each piece between the fronds of the upper egg. It is best to mix only a small amount of epoxy and glue these in position one at a time.
6. Epoxy the fronds of the largest egg in a random order around the back of the base, with the material side of the shell facing the front of the design.



Plate 80 ~ Back view of Under the Sea

## FINISHING TOUCHES

Glue one of the mermaids into the centre of the hinged egg. Position the other mermaids as desired.



Plate 81 ~ Shellie



Plate 82 ~ Miranda

Add pieces of seaweed and other marine decorations around the base. Use clumps of lichen to disguise the joins of the large fronds to the base.

If the seaweed seems a bit drab highlight with glass paint. (*see back of the design on page 108*)

Spread tacky glue over the base and sprinkle with small aquarium pebbles.

Finish the decoration with some tiny shells.



Plate 83 ~ Pearl