

LIQUID SOAP DISPENSER

by Maureen Williams



The soap dispenser has an empty Soft As Soap pump bottle secured inside the shell but there are many other varying size pump bottles available. The bottle can be refilled with soap or what ever you wish. The basic instructions were originally written for a decorated egg but can be used for a carved design as well. For this I would suggest marking an oval about half an inch out from your carving for your cutting line.

REQUIREMENTS

- Ostrich egg (minimum 16")
- Pump action bottle to fit egg
- Lead shot or sinkers (to weight base)
- ** Water based sealer
- ** Car Lacquer or other waterproof finish
- Fine gold cord or braid
- Small piece of felt.

** For decorated egg -not required for carved design.

MARKING & CUTTING

Note: If you are using a carved egg the carving should be done before cutting out the oval on the front of the egg. An easy way to mark an oval on the front of the egg is to mark an equal distance (say 2 cm or about 3/4") from one of the vertical dividing lines all the way around the shell.

1. Divide the egg into 4 to establish centre top and centre bottom. Mark in a 30 mm (1 3/16") circle on the centre top and a 65 mm (2 7/16") circle on the bottom.
2. Mark a centre girth line. For correct re-alignment of the egg, mark a cross on the centre girth line on the large portion of the egg and the front oval.
3. Cut out and discard the top circle. (This will house the neck of the bottle)
4. Cut out the larger base circle and put to one side, this will be replaced at a later stage.
5. Cut around the oval on the front of the shell (*See note above if using a carved egg*) Pare back the cut edges and remove any loose membrane.
6. Remove the pump from the bottle and check that the neck of the bottle fits neatly into the top hole. If necessary, remove excess shell until it does fit.

ASSEMBLE THE EGG

1. Reinforce the inside of the shell (top and bottom) using strips of calico or paper towel and thin PVA glue. For added strength coat all the inside of the shell. Small pieces of unwanted lace or net can also be used for reinforcing rather than the paper if desired. Allow to dry thoroughly.
2. Add extra reinforcing around the top opening where the neck of the bottle goes.
3. Mix a small amount of 5-minute epoxy and apply a bead of glue to the inside edge of the top piece of shell, where it goes over the neck of the bottle. (This is around the small hole on the inside of the shell)



4. Before putting the bottle into position apply a smear of Vaseline to the inside of the cap and on the screw thread. This will prevent the two pieces sticking together when you screw the pump back onto the bottle. The pump will act like a clamp on the epoxy and ensure the bottle is kept in the correct position while the glue is drying.
5. Allow to dry thoroughly. Turn over and apply a little more epoxy from the inside to ensure a good bond. . Put to one side while you assemble the bottom of the egg.



6. Turn the larger circle of shell over on a piece of waxed paper. Position the bottom of the egg over the shell with the curve inside. On the inside of the shell, apply well-mixed 5-minute epoxy around the edge to secure the circle cut out in place.
7. When dry, check the soap bottle fits neatly inside the bottom of the shell with little or no gap between the bottom of the bottle and the base of the holder. If necessary push a small piece of styrene or foam under the bottle to fill the gap..
8. Use epoxy to glue lead shot (like tiny ball bearings) or fishing sinkers in the bottom of the shell. Make sure they are not in the way of the bottle. Once the bottom is weighted sufficiently match up the markings and epoxy the oval back into position. Use strips of Magic tape to hold the shell together while the epoxy is drying.
9. Fill the reversed hollow in the base with Egg Repair, modelling paste or plaster. Sand smooth when dry.
10. If necessary, fill any gaps in the join between the two pieces with Egg Repair and sand smooth when dry.

DECORATING THE EGG

1. Use cord or braid to disguise the cutting line.
2. Seal with 3-4 coats of gloss Mod Podge. Dry well and finish with 2 coats of car lacquer or other waterproof finish.
3. Pieces of felt glued to the bottom of the soap holder will prevent bench tops being scratched by the shell. Peel and stick felt is available from Spotlight or craft shop.