

**SPRING BOUQUET**  
By Linda Martin



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**Materials**

Goose egg (Egg.4)  
Short gold stand (SD.150)  
Oval plastic base (BA.5)  
Hinge (H.4)  
1m - White/gold picot braid (BR.1)  
1.5m - Fine gold cord (BR.36)  
1m - Pale green silk ribbon (Rib.4)  
1m - Light peach silk ribbon (Rib.4)  
1m - Medium peach silk ribbon (Rib.4)  
1m - Lemon silk ribbon (Rib.4)  
1m - Lilac silk ribbon (Rib.4)  
Gold-fleck aurora dust (FT.13)  
Lemon panné velvet (Mat.3)  
Matt pale yellow paint (PT. 7)  
Matt black paint (PT.22)  
Pearl paint or pearl medium  
Mod Podge (FT.7) or Art Glitter (FT.1)  
Sewing thread

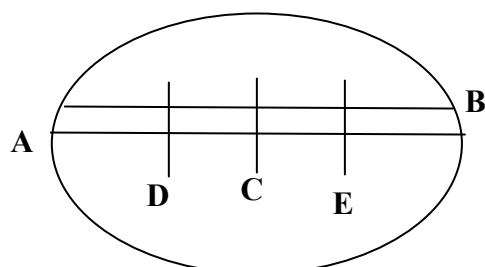
**Equipment**

Jem egg marker  
Drill  
Fine sewing needle with a long eye

One day I was playing around seeing what effects could be achieved using aurora dust over a colour and the gold fleck aurora dust over the top of black paint gave me a real surprise.

Mark the egg with a horizontal line (A) positioned 3mm (1/8") above the half-way point on the egg. Mark a second line (B) approximately 12mm (1/2") above this line.

Mark the centre front and back of the egg (C) over the two horizontal lines. This will give the hinge position at the back and the guideline for the centre of the scallop shape at the front.



Mark in two additional lines (D and E) at equal distances from the centre line at the front of the egg only. This gives the guideline for marking the centre scallop.

Draw in the scallop shape between lines D and E, starting with the top of the scallop on line B and dropping to line A at the lowest point C. The outer scallop shapes run from points D and E down to the base line A as illustrated in the photograph.

Mark in the pattern on the top of the egg, extending the scallop from point D over the top of the egg, ending to the right of the hinge position. The second line extends from point E as shown in the photograph, right, tapering towards the back edge. Add a third line from the left hand side of the egg, tapering down to the first line.



When embroidering through an eggshell, it's best to work out your design on paper first. As a hole has to be drilled at every point where a needle would normally pass through the fabric with conventional embroidery, some holes may be too close together for comfort. Don't worry about closing up the embroidered flowers as you can make simple filler flowers which will bridge any large gaps.

The most commonly used stitches are lazy-daisy, French knots (not used on this design) and a rose which is woven through a stitched pinwheel. As you gain more confidence, you can experiment with creating other flowers using books on ribbon embroidery as inspiration. As in floral art, large blooms (i.e. the roses) work better in odd numbers, so position these over the top of egg as illustrated. Position the centre of the rose with a large dot, surrounded by five smaller holes equally spaced around the centre dot. The centre hole, when drilled, needs to be larger as the silk ribbon needs to pass through this hole, whereas the outer holes will only need to take sewing thread, so they don't have to be so large. Each leaf will be worked in lazy-daisy stitch so will require two holes (both quite large). All the additional flowers are made individually and not stitched through the shell.

Drill the holes for the embroidery first, then cut the egg in half.

**Making sure that you re-emphasise the guidelines between coats of paint, paint the bottom half of the egg with two coats of matt pale yellow paint. Now paint the appropriate parts of the top half of the egg with yellow. Pearlise with two coats of pearl medium or a white pearl paint.**

**Carefully paint the remainder of the egg with matt black paint.**

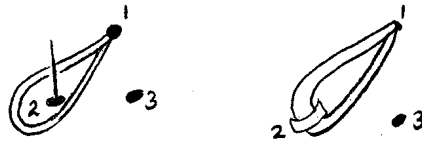
**Using Mod Podge, apply the aurora dust over the black painted areas and on the border below the cut edge on the bottom half of the egg. Before sealing with hairspray, brush away any stray flecks with a soft dry brush.**

**Paint and glitter the base to match.**

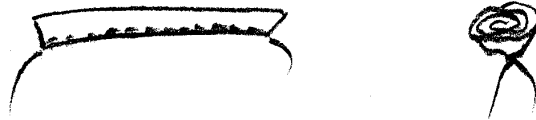
**Work the embroidery over the top half of the egg with silk ribbon following the colour scheme or creating your own. You may need to free the holes if they have become blocked with paint or glitter. Using a needle with a long thin eye and ordinary cotton thread, stitch from the centre hole out to each of the outer holes in turn to create 'spokes'. (As it will not be possible to knot the thread, this must be glued or taped to the underside of the shell). Now change to the silk ribbon (if you find the needle difficult to thread, try cutting the silk at a very severe angle and pushing through just a tiny amount of the ribbon). Securing the ribbon end at the back of the work as with the thread, bring the ribbon up through the larger centre hole. The rose is worked by weaving the silk ribbon through the stitches made earlier. A basket weave is achieved due to the uneven number of spokes. Simply work under one thread, over the next etc etc until the thread is completely covered with silk ribbon. The silk will twist as it is worked making the petal shapes more realistic. The finished rose will be slightly larger than the initial holes drilled as the petals need to overlap and disguise the holes, so bear this in mind when marking out the initial hole positions.**

**Once the stitching is completed, slide the needle under the worked rose to the centre of the flower, draw the needle upwards and then go straight downwards through the centre hole to take the silk to the back of the work to secure the stitching and then glue down the loose end.**





Work the leaves in green silk to create the effect of the leaves coming from behind the flowers. The holes are larger for these as the silk has to thread through the holes at least twice (the size of the eye of the needle actually poses the greatest problem here). The silk is secured against the back of the shell with a dab of glue before being threaded through hole 1. Hold the silk to the left of the work and put the needle back into hole 1, still holding the silk to one side and to the left of hole 2. Bring the needle up through hole 2 and pull the silk gently through until a loop is formed. Secure the loop by putting the needle back into hole 2 and drawing the silk right down. Repeat for the second leaf beginning with hole 1 again. This is known as laisy-daisy stitch and can form the basis for a simple daisy flower as well as the leaf shapes. Finish off the embroidery by glueing the silk down at the back of the shell.



This is a bit of a cheat but eliminates the risk of drilling tiny holes close to each other and having the entire design crumble into one big hole. Cut a length of silk ribbon approximately 4cm long. The ribbon consists of long fibres, held together by a continuous strand of silk which weaves up and down. The idea is to gather a strand of silk from either end of the same edge of the ribbon and gather it up to form a little rosette or flower. If the ribbon starts to pucker at one end, you will have pulled on the wrong thread. The ends of the thread are glued together at the back of the flower and snipped off. This will provide you with tiny filler flowers to create a more unified floral design on the top of your egg.

Using the panne velvet, make a wrinkly bag lining as follows: Measure the distance along the widest parts of each egg half in each direction. For every one inch of each measurement, add one quarter of an inch. If your egg measures five inches by four inches, your final measurement will be six and one quarter inches by five inches. Cut a rectangle of fabric to this size and round off the corners. Using a double thread, run a gathering stitch around half of the fabric (starting in the middle of one short side). Pull up the gathers and ease to fit into one half of the egg. Make a double stitch to secure that half and continue to gather up the remaining fabric. Do not fasten off the thread, but leave it so that you can ease the fabric into the remainder of the shell. Repeat for the other half of the shell.

**Trim the inside cut edges of the egg with the white/gold picot braid, cutting and mitring at every point.**

**Hinge the two halves of the egg together using Micropore tape to hold the halves together while the glue is setting.**

**Complete the cording on the outside of the egg as illustrated, again cutting and mitring at the corners. Cord the base to match.**

**Make some additional filler flowers and add loops of pale green ribbon either side to make hinge covers.**

**Epoxy the stand to the base, then the egg to the stand.**

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