



IDEA OF THE MONTH CLUB SEPTEMBER 1997

USING FOIL PRINTS

With the wide range of foil cards and postcards available almost any theme you can think of is covered. In some newsagents foil cards tend to be available only for special occasions (e.g. Mother's Day, Christmas, Weddings etc) however if you look around, especially in tourist areas, gift shops and some of the big department stores, you will find many other designs including dolphins, landscapes, fairy-tale characters, cats, horses, butterflies, etc. When you are looking for a foil print be sure you choose one that is a true foil, that is, one that can be lifted from the backing card. Once removed from the backing card, the foil is very thin and fragile and resembles a foil chocolate wrapper. These can usually be identified if you look for a card with a frame over the print rather than one that is part of the actual card. A lot of cards which look like a foil are not true foils and cannot be removed by the method outlined below. Foils are also available as postcards. You may wish to use only one print or two prints back to back for Christmas ornaments.

SELECTING THE PRINT

When you are looking for a print, keep in mind that you will lose a certain amount of the print at the top and the bottom as it over-laps to fit the egg, so be sure to take this into account. Where possible choose a vertical print as opposed to a horizontal print unless you are using only portion of the print. Select an egg which is a fairly even shape, that is not too fat around the middle and not too pointy at either end.

REMOVING THE FOIL

The wax like glue holding the foil onto the backing card requires heat to be able to remove the foil. There are a couple of ways in which this can be done.

1. In a dry electric frypan on the lowest heat setting.
2. In an ordinary frypan on the stove with low heat.
2. On a flat tray in a cool oven (100° c)

I prefer to use the electric fry pan as you are able to keep any eye on the print as it is heating. Place the print flat in the frypan with the foil facing up - if the card starts to rise, gently push it down in the middle so that all parts of the card are in contact with the heat source. When the print begins to "bubble" gently lift the corner of the foil and carefully peel it off the backing card. The print must be removed from the backing card whilst the glue is warm - ***do not attempt to pull the foil off the backing card if the glue isn't warm enough as you will tear the print.*** Carefully remove any remaining glue from the back of the print.

As the foil is now very fragile, be very careful how you handle it. If you are not going to use the foil as soon as you have removed it from the backing, it can be stored in a photo album with the lift up plastic sheet which will keep the print flat and protect the surface. Be very careful not to scratch the print with your fingernails.

SHAPING THE PRINT

Decide where you want to position the print on the egg. The easiest way while you are experimenting with the possibilities of foil prints is to divide the egg in half longways and apply the print to the front half of the egg. With the print upright position it on the egg with an even distance between the edge of the print and the centre line drawn on the egg. Depending on the size of the egg, the print may over-lap the centre line - this can be trimmed once the rest of the shaping is complete.

Starting in the centre of the print, carefully press the print down onto the egg. To ease out the creases commence in the middle of the egg and then remove the creases towards the top of the egg using either a pencil or a rounded brush handle. The bowl of a spoon can also be used for this procedure. Continue in this manner until all the print is shaped onto the egg and all creases have been removed. It usually isn't necessary to use any glue to hold the print in place however, if the print doesn't sit properly you can apply a small amount of glue just on the very edge to hold it down.

SEALING THE PRINT

Once all the creases have been removed, use your favourite lacquer to sink the print and cover any ridges which may have resulted from the creases in the foil - this may require several coats of lacquer to achieve a satisfactory result.

NOTE: Be sure to use a couple of coats of water based sealer on the foil before using a solvent based lacquer otherwise you may lose the colour and definition on the print.

TIME OUT FOR DANCING

REQUIREMENTS

- 1 small emu egg
- 1 cm wide velvet ribbon (approx 30cm or 12")
- 1 Strand 2 mm threaded pearls
- 1.5 metres gold cord
- 1 Foil print 14.5 cm x 11 cm (5" x 4")
- 1 Leaf Finding
- ! Small & 1 medium size Duncan porcelain rose
- 1 metre wired ribbon
- 1 Stand
- 5 long gold leaf finding

MARKING THE EGG

1. Divide the egg into halves lengthwise. Remove from marker and draw an inner oval 1.5 cms inside the lengthwise dividing line.
2. Paint the back half of the egg up to the inner oval marking, using a colour to suit your foil print. Seal with matt or gloss varnish. For a high gloss finish use acrylic car lacquer.
3. Place foil print on egg following directions for 'USING FOIL PRINTS' on separate sheet. Trim foil with sharp scissors to fit inner oval marked on egg. If foil lifts around the edges apply a small amount of tacky or super tacky to edge of foil print and allow to dry.

APPLYING THE DECORATIONS

1. Glue a row of gold cord around print the 1 row of 2-mm pearls, followed by another row of gold cord.
2. Glue the velvet ribbon to the egg and follow with gold cord, pearls and cord.
3. Attach egg to stand. I used a stand that had discoloured over the years so I painted it pale pink and then sealed it with gloss varnish.
4. Make a bow with wired ribbon and glue to stand. Position the larger of the two roses to the centre of bow and glue the long leaf findings around the bow, placing some behind the loops and some through the loops to give a balanced and pleasing effect.
5. Lastly, attach a leaf finding to the centre top of your egg. I placed this slightly forward on the edge of the ribbon and pearl decorations. Then glue your smaller rose to the centre of the finding.

Note: The stand that I used had a tilted bowl section and not wanting to risk breaking this, I left it as it was and positioned the egg as vertically as possible. ***For new eggers: Most stands are made from cast metal that breaks very easily and may snap if you try to straighten them.***

Foil prints can be used in a number of ways: as the top of a trinket box, the back of any egg, the door of an upright egg or inside an oval feature to a jewel box lid etc.



Back of the thermometer egg



Thermometer Desk Set