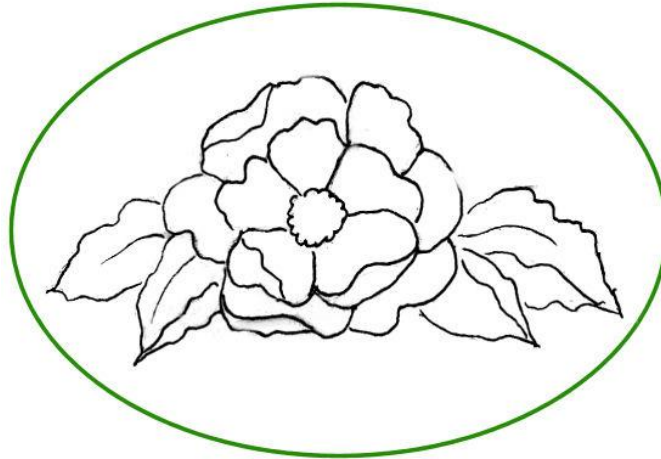


AUSSIE EGGSHELL CARVERS

Briar Rose

Lorna Winch 19.02.2011

This is a very simple design that is a good start for a Beginner. There is not a lot to carve and it can be done in a short period of time.



The burs used:

CB2.314.006 (33 ½)
807.314.014
368.314.023 (diamond football)
CB33.314.009 (699)
801.314.012 (diamond ball – small)
801.314.021 (diamond ball – large)
FR4 Green stone
F4 white stone

The shell should be bleached inside, but this can be done after the carving is completed and this will remove any dirty marks as well.

Mark the egg in quarters and also a centre girth line and spray lightly with hairspray to set the lines. Line the pattern up with the guide line and add a strip of glue up the centre of the pattern and line this with your guide lines. You may have to clip the edges to make it conform to the curve of the shell. Allow to dry thoroughly (you can dry with a hairdryer if you wish).

The paper designs are glued to the shell using either a blue glue stick or brushing on thinned white glue. I prefer to use the white glue and brush it on to the middle section from top to bottom and position this first before adding glue to the rest of the design. It is very easy to tear the wet pattern if you don't get it right first time and so with just a strip of glue up the centre, you have more chance of being able to fix it correctly.

It is most important to make sure there are no spots without glue and you need to be sure to smooth the pattern down properly so there are no bubbles. A bubble under the paper will deflect the bur when you are outlining the design and you could score a line in the wrong place. It is a good idea to have some spares of the printed design and a greyscale print to work from while carving.

Score the outline with the **CB2.006 (33 ½) bur** through the paper to transfer the design to the shell and when finished wash the paper off and dry the shell. It is a good idea to outline everything with fine pencil lines and spray with hairspray to set the lines and prevent them smudging.

Use the **807.014 bur** to go around all parts of the design. The 807 bur will give a deeper sloped cut away from the edges of the design and makes the next step easier to do. The flat end of the 807 bur should be facing the outside of the leaf or petal and you keep moving the shell as you work so that the bur is at right angles to the work.

I usually start at the outside, doing the leaves first and then move in towards the centre, but this is only a matter of preference and not something that has to be done like that. You will develop your own way of doing things.

Check the pattern and make sure you know what will be upper and lower levels where a petal sits above another petal or over a leaf. You may like to shade the working print to remind you where the levels are

Use the **368.023 diamond football bur** to start removing the shell to set up the levels and start to make your flower come to life. An ostrich shell is reasonably thick so you can cut fairly deep, but don't force the bur, let it cut by itself. It is better to cut a bit at a time than try to make the bur cut everything at once.

When scooping the shell out towards the outside of the leaves or petals, there should not be a distinct line around the edges but rather a gentle slope up to the outside. The centre veins in the leaves are cut using the **807.014 bur** down each side and then the **368.023 diamond football bur** is used to give shape to the different parts of the design.

The centre of the Briar Rose is rounded on the edge with the **807.014 bur** and then use the **801.012 (diamond ball)** to stipple all over it.

The border can be left as it is or it can be marked at 1cm intervals to allow marking of scallops

Use the **368.023 diamond football bur** to smooth the shell away from the outside of the flower and leaves out to the border and then use the diamond ball burs, the large one first and stipple all over the area out to the border at least twice, making sure there are no flat spots between the stippling.

The sample egg has been made up as a trinket box to show that you can combine carving and decorating quite effectively together.

After the carving has been finished, the egg should be thoroughly cleaned by scrubbing with creamy kitchen cleanser and a tooth brush or soaking in bleach if this has not been done already. Dry the egg thoroughly and spray with a light coat of matt finish. This is to prepare the shell for colouring with various types of colour. On the sample shell I have used ceramic pastels applied with a small cotton bud.. You can also use Derwent Inktense pencils and a small art brush.

The colours are applied very lightly for best effect, soft pastel colours that just give a hint of colour, look best. When the colouring has been satisfactorily completed the egg should be sprayed with a light coat of clear finish.

Congratulations! You have just completed your first Relief carving project.

