

Decorating ideas for eggs including home-made cord and other 'hanging' ideas



These ideas are for decorating eggs, but don't forget to look at the 'egg-less decorations' sheet for other great Easter ideas without using any eggs.

Adding colour



Permanent marker



Calligraphy ink/felt pen



Part of my chalk pen kit

Felt tips are good. Permanent markers are better on brown eggs although you can paint an egg with a pale background (if you haven't died it already) to help felt pen colour stand out

I am the Queen of Chalk Pens from xxl to super-fine. They make a great, vibrant colours but also help your colour stand out. Fine chalk pens and even white gel pens make a great line for decorating. White drawing or calligraphy ink is great- especially if you have it!
I know it isn't autumn but chalk pens are great for drawing or writing on autumn leaves- hold on to the idea!



Paint is great- experiment with whatever paint you have. Dribble paint, sponge, paint on designs like spots or stripes.
Explore!



Drawing ink



Food colouring strawberry patch

Inks & Food colouring

Both are good to explore with – you may like the end product or need to add several layers, but why not go for more detail and paint a tiny picture 'in the round'?

Marbling

If you know how to marble, why not try treating the egg as you would paper and roll across the design.

DIY with home items- try squirting shaving foam onto a flat tray and make it flat. Drip food colouring or thin paint on to the surface. With a skewer, trail across the surface of the paint in one direction. Put the skewer in to the foam just above the line but go across the surface in the opposite direction. In a line above, go across in the first direction and so on. Roll eggs across the surface then leave to dry



Traditional marbling on an egg. Sadly, I dropped it so I tried to hide the hole with a shop-bought chic!



Wax relief and other designs can be created before the dyeing stage. Why not read the 'How to blow and dye eggs' sheet for more ideas?

Hanging ideas.....

Make a traditional style of cord

Cord has been very important for centuries and been made in hundreds of different ways. Clothing, for example, would have been secured with cord as we might use buttons, Velcro or a zip.

This type of cord I learned to make from Judith on the 'Elizabethan Walnuts' course at the Museum. It is a really useful technique for all sorts of crafts and even small gift-wrapping.

This cord uses four lengths of embroidery thread but why not experiment with other threads which bring out the colours of your design?



A



B



C

D



E



F



G



H

I



J



- A- Cut four or more lengths of your thread longer than you think you'll need, mine are about 90cm long
- B- Tie the ends together at one end and then attach them to something like a pair of scissors. You'll twist the cord using the object- it's easier than just using your hands
- C- I straighten out my lengths of thread so that they're even and then tie them to a hook but you could tie them to the back of a chair or a door handle
- D- I start twisting the threads round and round in the same direction, you'll see them twist together
- E- Although twisting nicely, when I let the tension drop, the cord just hangs. You want it to start to kink back up on to itself (F)
- F- When it is twisting together nicely, I un twist the cord, line up the two ends and gently let the twist coil up from the centre of the length so that I have an evenly twisted length of cord
- G- A few more twists may be necessary to get the optimum finished product
- H- Tie the 'scissors and hook ends together to make one bit. Tie tightly before cutting off the hook or scissors otherwise all your hard work will unravel
- I- After tying but before detaching from the scissors
- J- Tie a knot at one end and then gently feed it in to the hold at the top of your egg. Drop a strong liquid glue onto the knot through the hole and gently pull the cord to seal the hole. Leave it for several hours to dry.

You may like to decorate the holes at the top and bottom by making a tassel (see below)

Make a tassel



Tassels are wonderfully decorative and add a touch of glamour to projects; they also draw the eye down (if it is hanging from the bottom of an object) or away from imperfections or joins (such as around the hole of the egg)

I

II

III

IV

V

I Wrap about 4x1m of thread around your fingers (but not so tightly that you can't get them off!)

II Gently pull off the ring of threads

III With three new shorter bits of thread, tie the centre first and then either end tightly with a knot. DO NOT trim as these ends will be what you will use to connect your tassel to whatever you want it for

IV The centre thread has been a stabilising tie. Cut through the centre of this then discard any bits

V Attach your tassel to your object. I tied mine to the cord at the top and tied a small knot, popped it and glued it in the hole at the bottom. You can see that I used a glass to let the egg rest on whilst the glue was drying

Hanging with ribbon



If you have squirrelled away ribbon from Christmas or birthdays, you may have a supply that you can draw on. Another good source is the ribbon that comes inside clothes to stop them slipping off hangers. Carefully trim them off and you have lots of colours to use.

Other ideas:

Embroidery thread

Ordinary sewing thread twisted together (like the cord above perhaps?)

Garden string

Natural twine (eg: plaited grasses)

Knitting or crochet wool

Gift wrapping ribbon

Disasters - holes and cracks

Sometimes accidents happen and you smash an egg or break a hole in the shell or just crack it.

You can simply glue it and ignore the fix, stick something on top (see the pink marbled egg with the hot pink chick glued on)- it may look ridiculous or it may work

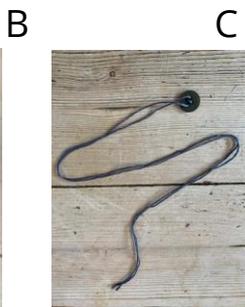
You could add something 'whacky' for example:

Problem:

A. Terrible hole at the top of my dyed/felt tipped/ food colouring - painted stormy sea-scene egg

B Threaded embroidery thread through a button which I glued and dropped inside the egg, securing it to the base

C & D I added stormy-cloud-coloured fleece and wire 'bolts of lightning' to the top of the egg and thread. I glued around the top edge of the egg to stop it from breaking further and to secure the fleece. Once the glue had dried, the egg was 'fixed'



Some design gallery ideas to consider

One thing that I have learned over the years is that someone's hideous is someone's joy. Try things out and take the looks you like and leave the ones you don't!



Pom-poms



Dried flowers



Felt pen and rose



J



K



L

M





N



O



P

- J Calligraphy ink embellished with felt pen
- K Chalk pen on a dyed egg
- L Countryside scene with fine white gel pen and a shop bought 'rose' top
- M Chalk pen and a shop bought daisy
- N Felt pen zig zags brought alive with edging and highlights in chalk pen and a small pom-pom
- O Dyed eggs with calligraphy ink outlines of (left) a countryside scene and (right) the shape of a carrot and other root vegetables ready for painting with a fine brush and drawing ink
- P Under the sea scene - dyed egg with felt pen and food colouring highlights

Have fun and don't forget to share your creations with us on social media

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