

MAKING IMITATION GLASS

By Maureen Williams

These technique instructions are taken from my book 'Tis An Egg – Book One and are for the use of this class only.

This method of making the simulated glass windows is much easier and less messy than other methods I have used.

The glass can be used in traditional windows or in a variety of ways to add interest to a design. Various types of mesh can be used to achieve this effect depending on the diamond pattern required.

Hat netting can be left the natural colour or painted, gold mesh comes in a variety of sizes and even the plastic mesh bags that some vegetables are purchased in can be used. This can also be painted if desired.

YOU WILL NEED:

Plastic dome or 2 litre plastic Pet soft drink bottle
Gold mesh, hat netting or plastic vegetable bag
Water based high gloss varnish (e.g. Watty Speed Clear, Gloss Mod Podge, Liquitex High Lustre Varnish, Jo Sonja)
5 minute epoxy (e.g. Araldite, Devcon etc.)
Fine line permanent marker

MARKING THE EGG

Mark the egg in the desired style and outline window portion. If the egg is to be hinged, cut the area for the hinge post and attach hinge to one side of the shell only

WINDOW PREPARATION

Plastic domes can be purchased in various sizes but if the area is small (and while you are practicing) the curved portion at the top of the 2 litre Pet soft drink bottle can be used.

Cut off the neck of the bottle using a sharp craft knife or Stanley knife then remove the curved portion, cutting just above the label. The straight part of the bottle can be used to practice on when trying different types of mesh and varnish.

Select the area of the curve which best suits the window. Position the plastic over the window marked on the egg and using a fine permanent marker, mark an oversize outline of the window. Allow approx 5 mm (1/4") all round. This will be trimmed at a later stage.

Cut out the oversize window and try once more over the marked out window on the egg. This should sit more accurately now that the unwanted plastic has been cut away. If necessary, adjust markings for the window.

Apply well mixed epoxy around the edge of the window piece. When glue becomes tacky position mesh over the plastic, pressing carefully onto the glue. Be sure not to get any epoxy on the centre portion of the glass as this will spoil the end result. Check that the mesh is positioned correctly and not pulled out of shape. Allow to dry thoroughly.

APPLYING THE VARNISH

NOTE: Make sure the varnish you are using is water based (e.g. Mod Podge, Liquitex, Jo Sonja etc..) and not spirit based as these may affect the plastic. I use gloss Mod Podge and find this to be very successful and easily obtained from most craft shops.

The easiest way to apply the varnish is using a needle tip plastic bottle as this allows you to control where it goes and how much to use.

NOTE: Do not use too much varnish as this will fill the gap in the mesh and take away the panes of glass look that we are trying to achieve.

Dribble the varnish over the prepared glass and use a toothpick to spread out evenly over the mesh. If necessary apply more varnish as required, making sure you cover out to the edge of the plastic. Pop any bubbles which may appear and then put to one side to allow to dry thoroughly.

Do not be tempted to do anything with the glass until it is completely dry as it is easy to leave finger prints on the surface.

CUTTING THE SHELL

Carefully cut out the window portion of the shell and put to one side - this will be used as a template once the glass has dried. Cut the remainder of the shell and paint if desired

FITTING THE WINDOW

Using the piece of shell which has been cut out for the window as a template, the glass piece can now be cut more accurately and fitted into the window opening. It should be slightly larger than the template to allow for the thickness of the cutting blade. Do not try to force the glass into place or you may crack the shell. Test and trim until a good fit is achieved. Ideally the glass should replace the portion of shell removed (not over-lap) as this makes a neater joint to apply cord and braid. Once glass has been trimmed sufficiently glue in place using 5 minute epoxy.

TROUBLE SHOOTING

FINGER PRINTS ON THE GLASS - brush on another thin coat of Mod Podge and allow to dry thoroughly.

WHITE RESIDUE ON GLASS - If the glass appears cloudy due to the type of glue used, a thin coat of varnish painted over the back of the glass and inside the shell should fix the problem.

Although this technique is not for the faint hearted, patience and perseverance makes it a very versatile design element. I hope you find these instructions helpful in your egging designs. If you have any problems or queries with this how-to page don't hesitate to [email me](#).