

How to Mark Lattice using Channel Scissors

by Maureen Williams

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A great product called **Micro Masking Tape** is available from <http://www.jammydog.com/>
It is available in a number of widths and makes marking lattice and other designs a breeze!
Being able to peel and stick the tape saves you having to cut strips and glue them onto the shell.
If you make a mistake while marking simply peel the tape off and stick it onto some
wax paper or a piece of glass while you adjust your markings and then reapply the tape.

In egg artistry many tools used in other crafts can be adapted to our advantage, making something which can sometimes be a chore into a much easier undertaking.

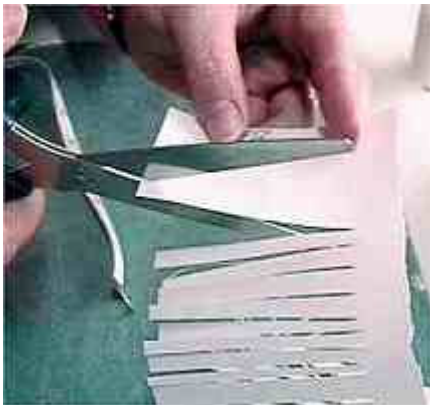
An excellent example of this is the pattern shears used in the lead light industry for cutting even strips of foil and lead. When used on paper, these strips are ideal for marking up lattice on our egg designs. Although I am using the strips cut with these scissors in this class any type of paper strip can be used - e.g. quilling strips or even paper cut with a craft knife.

Note: When marking any design on an egg keep your pencil marks as light as possible. I have made the markings on this egg dark for photographic purposes only.



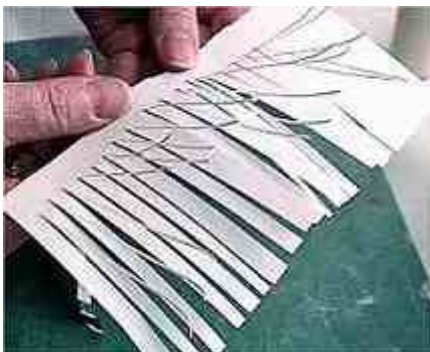
In eggging circles these are referred to as "Channel Scissors", possibly due to their construction. When you look at the scissors they consist of a single blade at the top, which passes through a pair of blades at the bottom.

They come in two widths, a very narrow 1 mm for foil and slightly wider 2 mm for lead, making it easy to select a suitable size for whatever type of egg you are working with.



Cutting paper with the scissors is a bit different to cutting with normal scissors and can take a little bit of practice. If the paper gets caught at the end of the blades, close the scissors to spread the blades and release the paper.

By drawing a pencil line around a plate you can also cut curved strips of paper.



As you cut the paper keep the spacing even and the little strips of paper will flip out the back of the sheet.

If you need longer strips for a larger egg fold a sheet of paper and cut with the fold towards you. This will then give you a double length strip. You can also glue one strip after another.

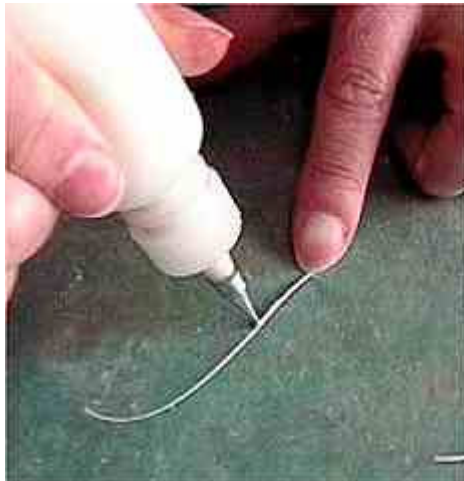


For this class I'm marking an egg which could be used as a horizontal trinket box. The same principle applies to marking lattice on any style egg.

Divide the egg into 4 equal parts and mark in a centre girth line.

Measure across the top of the lid to determine how big you want the lattice area and make a pencil mark. Mine is 1 1/2" either side of the centre line.

Measure the distance from what will be the cutting line to the edge of the lattice area and use this measurement to mark right around the egg, giving you an even oval on the top (lid).



Take one of the strips of paper and apply a thin bead of glue to one side.

A glue bottle is ideal for this. Alternatively, use a toothpick, twisting it and drawing the glue along the length of the paper strip.



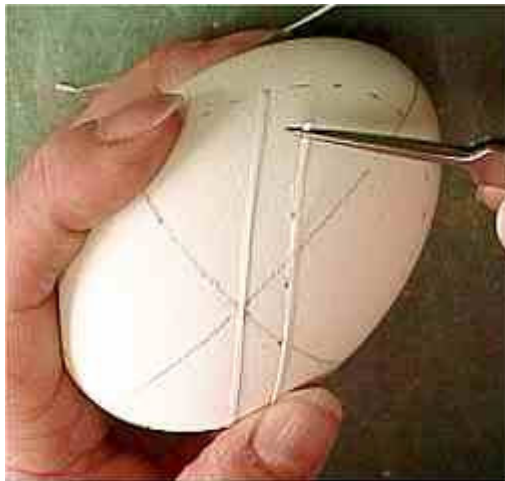
Position the first strip of paper across the top of the egg, at a 45 degree angle, passing through the centre point .

It is important this strip of paper is straight as all markings will be made from here.



Using a flexible tape, measure the width of your cutting blade (mine is 1/4" wide) from the edge of the paper and make a small mark parallel to the paper.

Continue across the shell spacing the marks approximately 1/2" apart.



Apply glue to another strip of paper and position this one up to the marks you have just made.



Continue in this manner to complete the marking in one direction.



Now turn the egg and start with your first strip of paper in opposite direction.

This will form a cross in the centre top of the egg.



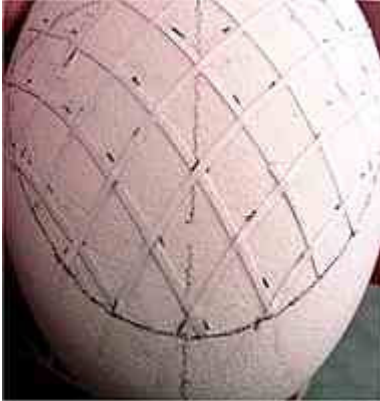
Use a sharp craft knife to trim any excess overlap at the edge of the oval marking.



Continue until all the oval has been marked up

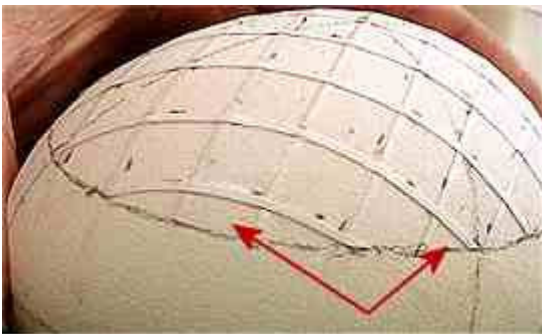
Where the marking curves towards the top and bottom of the egg it is necessary to gently curve the strip of paper. The glue of the paper provides enough moisture to soften the paper.

Important: make sure you keep each strip parallel to the previous one.



You will notice on the ends of the egg, the diamonds will become more elongated as opposed to the smaller squat diamonds on the fattest part of the egg.

This is an ideal place to position flowers, scrolls or other decorating items to visually soften the variation in the shape.



When cutting the lattice, start with the small uneven areas first. Use a twist drill to make a hole in each section and then use a flame drill (shaped like a pencil point) to remove the shell.

For the straight cutting, allow the cutting wheel to sink into the shell a little way from the paper and then push the blade towards the paper, thus sanding the shell away.

I cut along one side of the row of diamonds and then continue with each of the other rows. Turn the egg and repeat along the opposite side of the rows.

Repeat for all four sides of each diamond.

Soak the egg in straight bleach when you have completed the cutting and this will remove the paper and the membrane and also smooth the edges of the shell.

Previously it was recommended that you should neutralize the bleach using Bi-Carb soda however, we have found that leaving an egg in bleach (even full strength bleach) will not harm the shell.

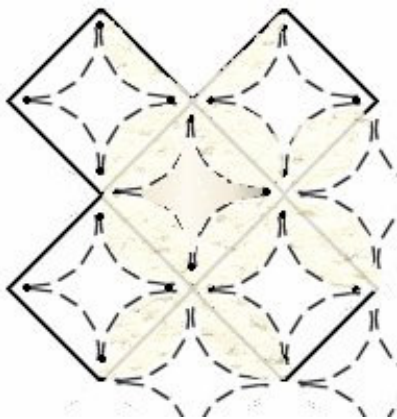
I hope you find these instructions helpful in your egging designs. If you have any problems or queries with this how-to page don't hesitate to [email me](#)

Marking an Emu Egg

Using a paper template on an emu egg makes marking your design much easier. Simply print off your desired outline and glue it onto the shell.

On this egg I have used my offset heart which is a favourite of mine and filled the centre of the design with lattice.

You can see the dotted line on the top and side which indicates where the centre of the lattice will be as per my marking instructions.



Cutting Curved Lattice

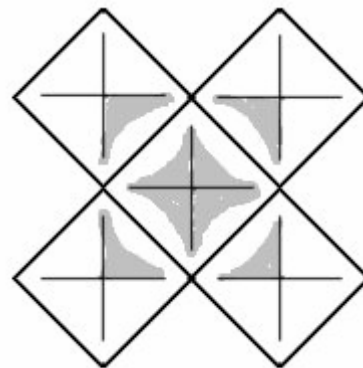
To cut the curving, floral looking lattice use a fine burr or very small drill to carefully drill a hole in each corner of the marked lattice.

Use a flame drill or twist drill to curve from one hole to the next around each marked diamond of the lattice.

Alternative Method for Cutting Lattice

Another method that you may find easier, for cutting the lattice, is to use a small cutting wheel to cut a cross to the points of the diamond.

Now use a flame drill to round off the points, leaving the curved edges the same as the other instructions. Use the paper template as a guide, taking the curve up to the paper



MARKING SCALLOPS

Scallops can be used in many design concepts but accurate marking is essential for aesthetic appeal. By following the basic procedure below you will always get even scallops, regardless of the style you are working with.

Basic Procedure

- Measure the area you wish to scallop. Cut a thin strip of paper approximately 12 mm (1/2") wide by the length of this measurement.
- Determine the number of scallops you require. An uneven number of scallops will put a full scallop in the centre of the design.



- Divide the length of the measurement by the required numbered scallops. For example: the total measurement is 10 cm and the required number of scallops is 5. This will result in each scallop measuring 2 cm.
- Mark the piece of paper into the equivalent number of sections.
- Use a round object (film container, coin, medicine cup etc) to mark an oval, extending from one side of the marked section to the other. Make sure there is sufficient paper at the bottom of the oval to form an adequate bridge.



- Fold the paper, concertina fashion, at each marking.



- Use a pair of scissors or a craft knife to cut around the ovals and then unfold the paper. You should now have a scallop template to mark the egg.

