

What Judges Look For

Below is a summary of some of the things judges look for when they are judging your work. These guidelines should not be considered the only criteria adhered to and be aware that in some instances (e.g. visual appeal or the overall impression) it is subjective and depends entirely on the person judging the egg.

While not all these points apply to carved eggs you should still be mindful of the points made in each section and do the very best that you are capable of.

Neatness/Workmanship

This category usually forms the majority of points awarded so it is critical you understand what the judges are looking for or things that they don't want to see.

- Cutting should be neat and not jagged.
- No burn marks from cutting bur
- No loose or ragged membrane showing. *While it is not essential for the membrane to be removed from every design it is wise to ensure it is sealed properly with no chance of it rolling away from the cut edge over time. Soaking the egg in straight fresh bleach will dissolve the membrane. **Bleach will not make the egg disintegrate- however, vinegar (acid) will!***
- No tool marks or double cutting on cut lines
- No brush marks or bubbles in the finish
- No fingermarks on finish
- No dirty marks on paintwork
- No hairs or other foreign items (e.g. glitter) in the finish
- The blow hole should not be obvious. *A small torn circle of paper glued over the hole and painted in with the overall finish is usually enough. Alternatively fill the hole with That White Stuff or Spakfilla – sand smooth when dry and then paint.*
- No excess glue showing around findings, cords, braids or stand
- No frayed cord or braid
- The egg should be straight on stand
- The egg should be adhered to the stand, not just sitting on it. (Not for hanging stands)
- Align the front of stand with the front of egg (ie. seam on stand to side of the egg)
- Cords/braid should be mitred (or butted depending on the circumstances)
- no beads or pearls missing

Beaded Eggs

- Bead lines must flow with design
- No loose beads
- No string showing

Decoupage

- Prints should be properly sunk with no loose edges, bubbles or creases
- The egg should be smooth to the touch

Note: Either gloss or matte finish is acceptable. Personal preference of the judge should not play into the judging.

Hints & Tips: the finish should be appropriate for the picture used. For example glossy finishes with sharper pictures and the matte finishes with Victorian or 'fuzzy' edge pictures because they look softer.

Tip from a judge: *A trick to determine if the finish is smooth is to put a t-shirt (single layer) over your hand and run all over the egg through the t-shirt. You will be shocked at how even small ripples and brush ridges will be easily detected.*

Filigree

- No jagged edges

Originality

Keep in mind – no class, kit or seminar eggs allowed.

- Is this an innovative or creative idea or just a variation on a different design?
- Has an unusual technique been applied with the decoration?
- Is the design a demonstration of original thoughts?

Difficulty

- Normally more intricacy = higher degree of difficulty.
- Look for how technically difficult a design is and how well it's been executed
- Does it require labour or skill to accomplish the result?
- Are the figurines handmade or designed by creator?
- Have commercial figurines been re-worked by the artist??

Visual or Overall Impression

- Is there a WOW factor on first look?
- Is any part of the decoration inappropriate?
- The colours should be harmonious & coordinated
- Does the egg look top heavy?
- The stand should add to the design not detract from it.
- Does the design need a base under the stand to prevent it falling over?
- The egg should be entered in the correct category.
- Prints should be in proportion to the size of the shell.
- Figurines should be in proportion to the size of the shell.
- Do doors open evenly?
- Are there gaps between the top and bottom portions of the shell?

Balance

- All elements of the design should be proportionately compatible – namely egg and stand, egg & figurine and the amount of decoration
- The size of cords & braids should be compatible to the size of the egg.
- A state of harmony should exist between the elements of the design.

CARVING – Additional Points to Consider

Neatness/Workmanship

- Edges should be clean and unchipped
- The neatness of graduation from one level to another.
- Emu eggs - white should be white - no green
- Lines should be clean – either straight or flowing curves, not jagged
- Carved area needs to be smooth and sanded
- Smooth cuts
- Look for areas where the bur has slipped

Originality

- Be creative with borders - something unusual rather than standard dot style stipling
- Is the design inventive or creative?
- No class or kit eggs

Difficulty

- Is the shell intact?
- The more complex the design, the higher the degree of difficulty, keeping in mind a more simple design which is perfectly carved will rate higher than a badly carved intricate design..

Visual or Overall Impression

- Avoid large cut out areas - too much cut out makes the egg look lopsided.
- Look for innovative ideas
- Are original thoughts demonstrated?
- The egg shape should be retained.
- Is overall presentation of egg and stand harmonious?
- Do elements of the design flow well in relationship to each other?
- Is the carving positioned too high or too low on the egg?

Balance

- Is the carving aesthetically pleasing?
- The carving should fit the proportions of the egg.