

SAND PAINTING

A few years ago Carole and I discovered a delightfully different medium to use on eggs. Many of you have probably seen sand paintings before, especially some of the work done by the American Indians.

While experimenting with the sand we discovered a number of ways, some easier than others, to produce a beautiful end result. A different approach to applying the sand is required for eggs as opposed to greeting cards. Where the double-sided Sticker Paper is ideal on card, it is not quite so suitable on the curved surface of the shell. I have tried a number of ways to apply the sand and each has resulted in a beautiful finish.

Try experimenting or maybe combining the techniques suggested to find the way you prefer. Either way, I'm sure you'll like the result.

Jean Jensen from Western Australia has taken sand painting a step further and has introduced 51 beautiful colours, grouped in shades of light, medium and dark for each colour group. This allows some of the subtlest shading effects to be achieved. After seeing this technique used most effectively on cards we decided to investigate what was required to incorporate the effect on eggs.

Basic Requirements

Coloured sand
Glue (Gold Leaf Size, Mod Podge, Zig 2 Way Glue)
Your design
Paints (if desired)

Making the Design Pattern.

Many suitable drawings can be obtained from a variety of sources including children's colouring books, china-painting prints, greeting cards etc.

I copied my design from Jean's book, *The Art of Sand Painting – Volume 1* and reduced the design sufficiently to fit onto the shell.

Next I took a piece of greaseproof paper and lightly traced the outline with a fine pencil. Keep all your markings very light.

Cut out your drawing and use a thin coat of Mod Podge to stick the paper pattern to your egg.



Plate 67 – Sand Gum Nuts

Basic Procedure

To keep the sand from getting all over the egg it is necessary to do each petal and leaf separately, starting with the smallest areas first. Use a fine paint brush to apply a liberal coat of glue to one of the petals. For my design I used Gold Leaf size adhesive, using a heat tool to dry the adhesive for the next step. (Gold Leaf size remains tacky when “dry”)

Start with the darkest shade of your chosen colours and sprinkle the sand onto the adhesive, feathering out into the medium colour area. Next sprinkle the medium shade and finish with the lightest shade.

Use your finger in a circular motion to blend the sand together and ensure a good coverage of sand on each petal or leaf area. Once you have blended the area use a soft brush to remove any excess sand (a cheap makeup brush is ideal for this)

Method 2

You may find this method easier on the smaller shaded areas on the eggshells and there is an added advantage of only needing one shade of each colour, rather than the light, medium and dark sands in each colour.

Paint your egg the background colour of your choice. This results in a more even finish when applying the sand to the egg. Seal with your favourite sealer.

Apply your pattern as detailed above and then paint your pattern, completing any shading you might want to include.

Apply glue (PVA or two-in-one glue pen) and sprinkle with sand while still wet. Gently pat to set the sand into the glue and brush off excess with a soft brush.

Glue & sand the remaining areas of the design. As you have already shaded the areas when you painted the pattern, only a single sand colour is required, allowing the shading to show through.

Allow to dry and gently brush off any excess sand.



Plate 68 – Sand Irises

Hints



Use a sheet of paper under the egg when applying each colour so you can return the excess sand to your container.

The excess sand resulting from the blending can also be kept in a separate container for future use.