



**FREE**  
Junior Decorating Booklet  
Create Easy Projects with Ostrich Eggshells

# Creating Art with Ostrich Eggshells



By Egglow

(Front cover)  
Egg Collection African Stall in  
Killawombia

1.1. Ostrich Egg Collection  
African Stall in Killawombia



Egglovs  
Tredarwen House  
Arddleen  
Llanymynech  
Powys  
SY22 6PY  
United Kingdom



[egglovs@gmail.com](mailto:egglovs@gmail.com)



[www.egglovs.co.uk](http://www.egglovs.co.uk)



EGGLOVS

# Contents

<i>About Ostriches</i>	4
<i>Ostrich Eggshell Decorating</i>	4
<i>Ostrich Egg Stands</i>	3
<i>Decorating Your Egg</i>	5
<i>Time To Get Started!</i>	6
<i>A Few Of My Own Creations!</i>	8
<i>Experimenting With Colour</i>	10
<i>Using Your Creative Skills</i>	11



1.3. Typical Ostrich Egg  
Decoration. Private collection



## About Ostriches

You may know about ostriches being very large birds that are native to Africa. They are flightless birds and in the path of danger they cannot simply fly to safety.

However, they do run extremely fast. They average approximately 40 miles per hour, that's about 63.3 kilometres per hour. Contrary to popular belief, ostriches don't bury their heads in the sand, but they do lie down with their heads against the ground when they feel threatened. It only looks like the ostrich has buried its head because its head and neck blend in very well with their surroundings. Their feet are very powerful – a kick from an ostrich is best avoided!

## Ostrich Egg Decorating

Welcome to ostrich eggshell art.

You can enjoy hours of fun creating unique works of art on an egg after reading the booklet.

The easy to follow steps are designed to help create simple or more complex ostrich egg art projects. If you are already proficient in handling and colouring eggs you can skip to another step.

1.1. African **Ostrich** can run up to 40 mph (63.3 Kph)



**Please note:** if you knock against or drop the egg onto a hard surface, like crockery it can crack or break very easily, so be careful until you are confident in handling it. The good news is that broken pieces of ostrich eggshells are not sharp like glass or ceramics. As with hens' eggs, they are cracked and their contents emptied for culinary purposes, widely enjoyed in Africa.

# About Decorating your Egg

First of all decide on what artwork you would like to do. Choose a comfortable position and start by learning how to hold the egg. You will see there is a hole at one end large enough to put your thumb inside. I find this is

the best way of holding the egg. It's a bit like holding a 10-pin bowling ball. When you are comfortable with this, try holding the egg with a chopstick placed in the hole. This is an excellent tool for controlling the rotation of the egg. A long knitting needle is also fine providing it is made of sturdy metal and is used responsibly.

You can learn how to spin the ostrich egg whilst painting all around the outside. When drawing on the surface of

## Egg Stands

Your ostrich egg should be placed upon a base to keep it safe. Three examples are shown here. African art shops usually stock wooden stands. But a used packaging tape works equally well. It is made of strong cardboard and is deep enough to hold and support the egg.



1.1. **Ostrich Holder 1**  
Mahogany with natural rubber inset

1.1. **Ostrich Holder 2**  
Mahogany with natural rubber inset



1.1. **Ostrich Egg Chandelier**  
installed at The Manderin Hotel,  
Las Vegas

## Time to get started!

You should now be confident with carrying and setting your egg down and ready to start decorating.

What you will need:

- Apron
- Plastic sheet for the table
- Wet wipes or kitchen cloth
- Disposable gloves (optional)

- Art materials (paints, brushes, pencils)
- A stand for your egg
- Small cushion
- Chopsticks (highly recommended)
- Lint free cloth or old silk/nylon scarf
- Peg board (illustrated on page 7) or plastic bottles filled with sand
- Sponge (also for applying paint if preferred)
- Wide brush at least 2” (5cm) for fast coating
- Paint retarder (useful for slowing down the drying of paint and special effects)
- Water for cleaning brushes
- Eraser

1.1. **Kids Fun** Organise group activities with your school, or friends at the weekend



## What else?

The art materials depends a lot on what you want to achieve and what you are capable of using.

Deciding upon what paint to use, acrylic or watercolours, or whether you would prefer to use

pen and ink. It is a choice based upon your current skills. Ask a grown up for help if you are very young.

As you progress with your artwork, you will explore the possibilities of using many more materials and mediums.



# A few of my own creations!

You can make many different shapes using a variety of colours. Here are some examples: Marble Design

Using a clean damp cloth or a wet wipe, remove any traces of dust or marks from the ostrich eggshell. Place a chopstick or similar object without any sharp edges on it, into the blown hole of the egg. This way you can apply the paint as it turns around. Disposable gloves are also useful for keeping your work clean.

1.1. Zodiac Ostrich Eggs  
Please contact me for more details



Give the egg two coats of white thinned emulsion using the wide brush, allowing it to dry in between coats. This is very useful if you decide to paint many eggs. To make one like this, I will send you a leaflet on request but first make sure there is a grown up eager to do the job!

## How to do 'marble design'

You can use instead two-litre fizzy drink bottles filled with sand. The sand is used to keep the bottles firmly in place. Push a chopstick or a smooth piece of strong wood similar in size into a bottle. Whilst holding your finished artwork

1.1. Marble 'effect' Ostrich Eggs  
Very easy to achieve, follow my techniques for great results





with a chopstick pushed through the hole of the egg, place your freshly painted egg to rest on another. But practice doing this a few times until you are confident. Make sure your chopstick is extended far enough out of the bottle so that the bottom of the egg does not touch the neck.

After the egg has dried, mix approximately a tablespoon of your favourite colour using acrylic paint with a few drops of paint retarder. Paint the surface fairly quickly using a wide brush or sponge then place your egg on a sheet of plastic large enough to wrap around the egg and press it to the egg with your hands.



Don't worry about keeping it smooth. The rougher the better! Peel it off gently after 30 seconds. The results are stunning! Don't forget to put your egg back onto the peg holder without touching the egg! Leave to dry (drying time varies depending on the type of paint used).

The picture illustrates an ostrich egg pegboard made out of a few pieces of wood.





Finally, when the egg is dry, give the egg a clear wax coating such as bees wax to help preserve the colour and protect the artwork. Polish to a sheen with a lint free cloth. Clear varnish may also be used. (Adult supervision recommended)

## Experimenting with Colour

There are an abundance of ideas ostrich eggshells can be used for. The picture above shows ostrich egg lamps and is only available for responsible adults because it involves some drilling.

*My Ostrich Egg Lamp Booklet is available on request. Please email me at: [eggglows@gmail.com](mailto:eggglows@gmail.com) for further details.*

## Using your creative skills

There are many ways to experiment.

If you enjoy drawing, and find it difficult to centralise your work because the area is not flat, here is one example of how you can control your artwork on a convex object such as an egg.

First, find the centre. Using two large elastic bands wrap one around the centre then another from top to bottom. Make a pencil mark at the cross where the two bands meet. This will be the centre for your artwork. If you want to do another drawing on the other side, just turn the egg round and repeat the action above. Rest your egg on the cushion and start to draw.

When you are happy with your pencilled sketch, using your favourite medium, such as acrylic crayons or pen and ink, trace



over the lines. Take care, as this is difficult to erase. When it is dry you can then rub out the pencil marks.

*Don't forget to protect your painting or drawing with beeswax because this helps to protect your artwork and give it a brighter future.*

1.1. **Image credit** Image description

1.1. (Back cover) **Image credit** Image description



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