

Decorating Easter Eggs

By Barbara Schmidt

A bunny and a bear might make a mess dyeing Easter eggs, but they're mighty cute as they're doing it!



What You'll Need

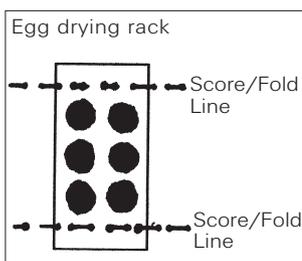
- Miniature stuffed bunny and/or bear (available at crafts store)
- 3 miniature sections of newsprint (or use full-scale newsprint column, smallest print you can find)
- 6 Chrysnbon tea cups (or white pony beads from a crafts store)
- 6 Chrysnbon teaspoons
- Sculpey® in pastel colors (pink, yellow, orange, blue, green, lavender, white)
- Ceramic tile
- 2 - 1" wood bowls (crafts store)
- Wood stain marker, Golden Oak
- Pink cardstock
- 1/8" hole punch
- White cardstock (if using white pony beads as cups)
- 1/4" hole punch (if using pony beads as cups)
- Glass stain in pink, yellow, orange, blue, green, lavender (found in the kids' sun-catcher section at crafts store)

1. Pinch off small (1/2") ball of one pastel color of Sculpey. Roll back and forth on a flat surface to make a thin snake. Cut equal sections of the snake about 1/8" long. Roll each section into an egg shape, making a ball first, then slightly elongating one end by rolling it gently between thumb and forefinger. Make sure eggs are small enough to fit inside teacups. Set eggs on a ceramic tile. Make 15 to 20 eggs of different colors. Make another 12 or so eggs with white Sculpey. Bake on tile as directed on package. Let cool.

2. Using stain marker, stain

inside and outside of both bowls, or paint them with acrylic paint. Let dry.

3. For egg rack, cut a piece of cardstock 1/2" x 1". Create tabs



along short edges by measuring 1/8" in from each end. Score along the lines and fold these 1/8" tabs down, forming legs. Using a 1/8" hole punch, punch out six holes, evenly spaced, in the top.

4. Cut out three sections of miniature newsprint wallpaper or cut a small section of a column from your newspaper (reduce it on computer if desired). Fold newsprint to look like a normal newspaper. Unfold and lay it out as if it were protecting a table from egg dye. Arrange papers at different angles, not in a perfect row. Glue bunny in a sitting position at one corner. Glue the two stained bowls onto the newsprint in any arrangement that you like. Glue each of the six teacups wherever you like. (If using pony beads as teacups, punch out a circle of cardstock for each and glue to the bottom to seal them. Paint the inside bottom with clear glue so that glass stain won't bleed through.) Glue the egg rack wherever you like. Arrange all accessories to look like the egg decorating is in progress. Let glue dry so that teacups will not move around when you

add the eggs and colored glass stain.

5. Coordinate a colored Sculpey egg with the colors of egg dye (glass stain). Place a yellow egg inside a teacup; add yellow glass stain, one small drop at a time, using a toothpick. The egg will look as if it is being dyed.

6. Do the same for six teacups, using different color eggs and glass stain. Place a teaspoon beside or inside teacup. Using toothpicks, place a few drips of glass stain on the newsprint and/or teaspoons. Egg dye always ends up on the newsprint no matter how careful you are. This messiness will make your egg decorating scene look more realistic.

7. Glue remaining colored eggs on top of the egg drying rack or inside one of the bowls. Glue white eggs inside the other bowl.

Option: Use a small stuffed teddy bear instead of a stuffed bunny. Make "rabbit ears" for him using white and pink felt. Glue a strip of felt to the bear's head for headband; add the ears for a very cute variation. ■

Barbara Schmidt started collecting miniatures when she was about 7 years old. She teaches workshops and is a Florida State Representative for the National Association of Miniature Enthusiasts.

Miniature Collector will pay \$50 for projects selected for "Kids' Corner." Send a sample project and instructions to: "Kids' Corner," Scott Publications, 801 W. Norton Avenue, Suite 200, Muskegon, MI 49441-4155. Include SASE if you want materials returned.