

Book 1

Ukrainian Design Book



UKRAINIAN DESIGN BOOK

BOOK 1

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This Was the Day, A Ukrainian Easter Story, 1981

Ukrainian Embroidery, 1984

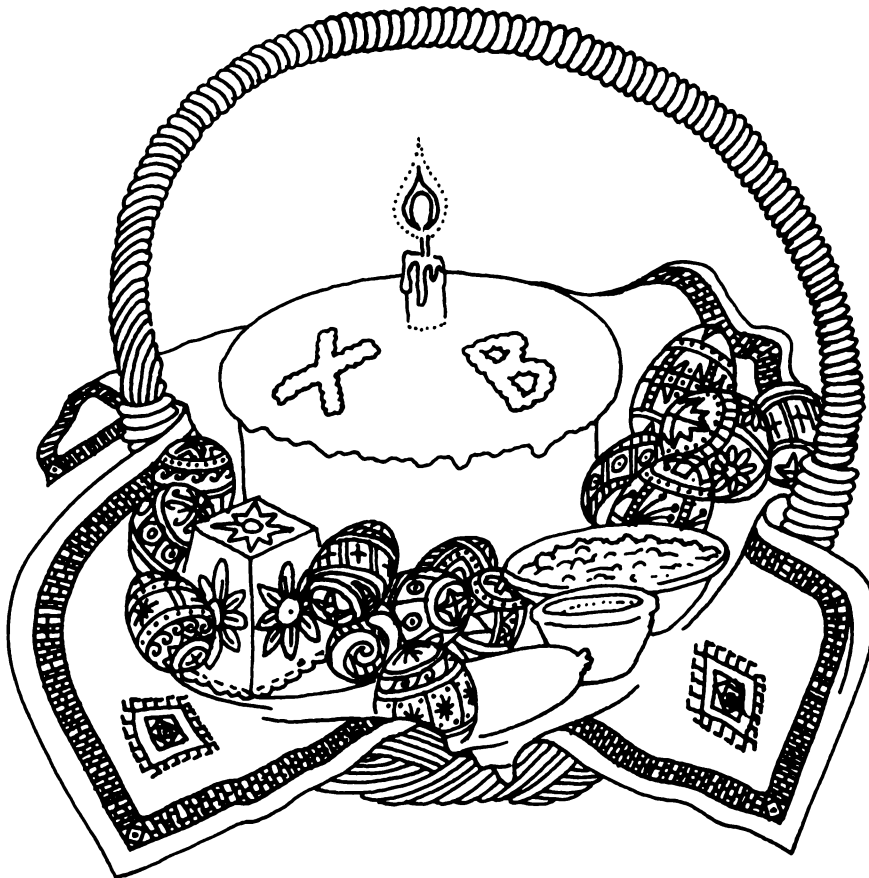
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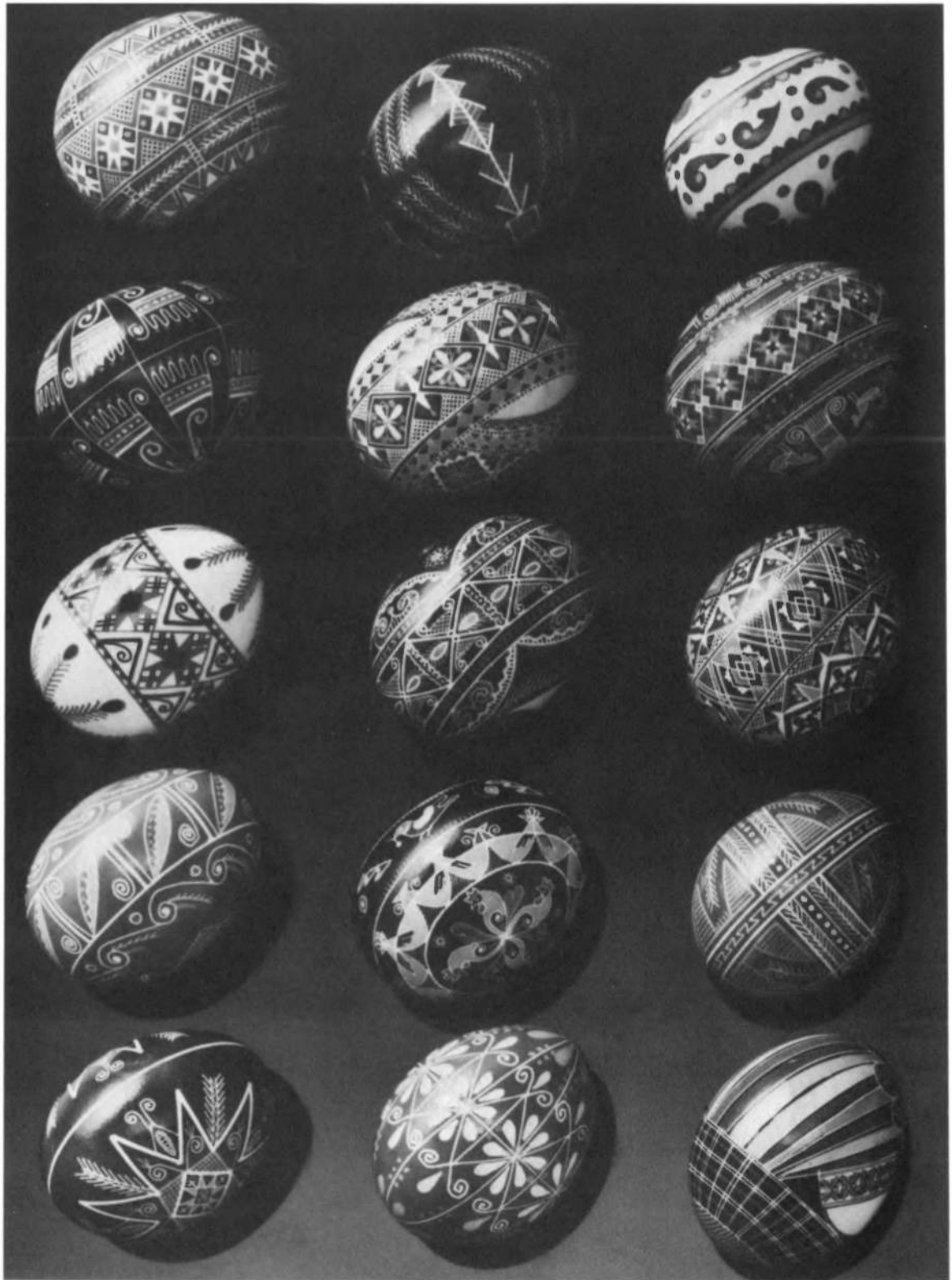
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Introduction

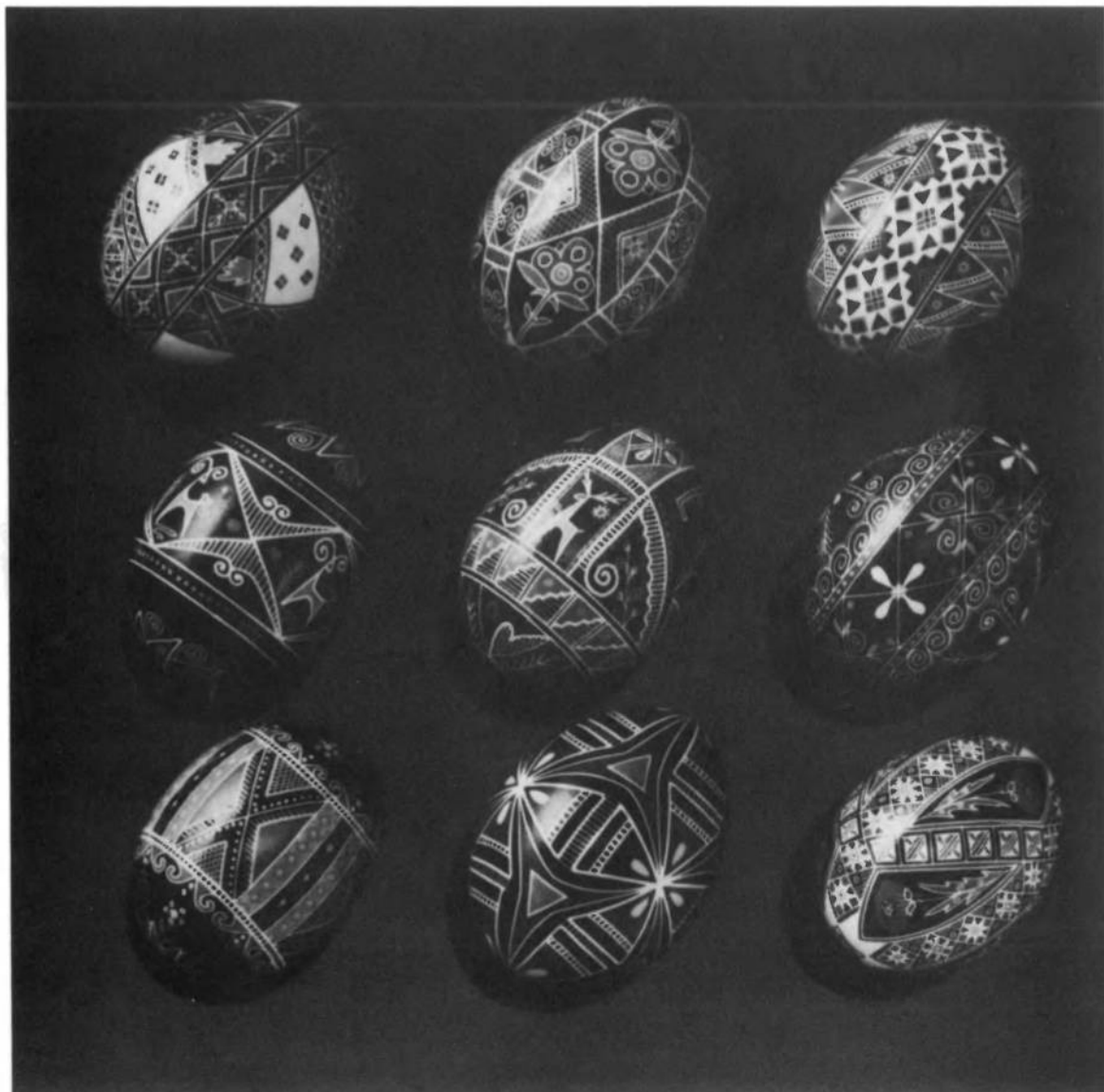
Pysanky (Ukrainian Easter Eggs) are hand decorated eggs which are made with an ancient wax resist process. Ukrainians have been decorating beautiful eggs for centuries. As the tools and dyes have become more refined, the eggs have become more intense and delicate. Making pysanky has been a lifelong love of our family and this collection of 24 eggs has been chosen for their originality and traditional impact.

This is the first book of a planned series of previously unpublished patterns for the reader to recreate and enjoy. By breaking the design down to its simplest form, you will discover that you can create very complicated and magnificent patterns. As we describe each egg from beginning pencil lines to the final dye bath, the symbolism and color meanings will be explained briefly.





This photograph and the one on the opposite page were taken with the eggs turned so you can see how the designs progress around the egg. Some of the designs are complicated and two views will assist you in your work.



Because the eggs on the cover are arranged in a random pattern, we have made a corresponding chart and numbered the eggs so they can be identified and referred to for your understanding.

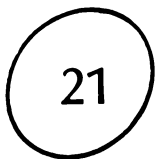
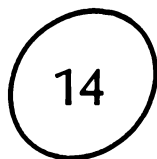
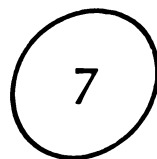
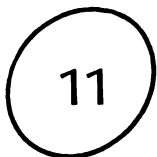
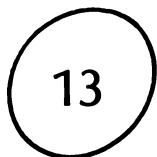
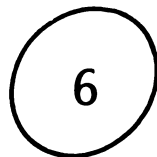
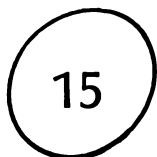
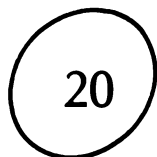
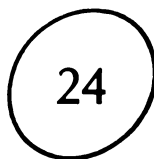
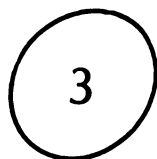
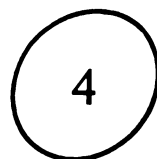
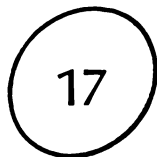
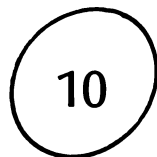
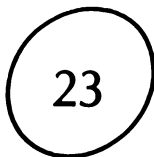
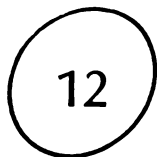
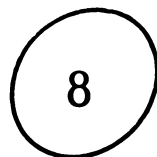
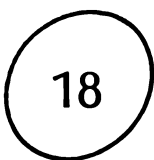
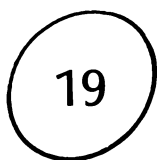
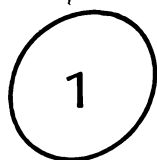
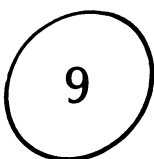
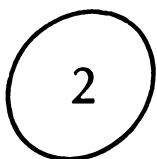
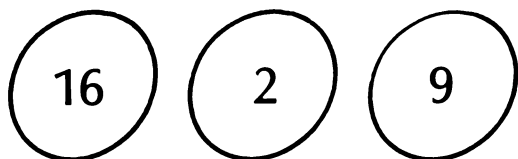


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BOOK 1

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Chapter One

Working Area

Protect the work table with a few layers of newspaper. To cushion the area where you work, place a few sheets of paper towels in a small stack in front of you.

Set up a good source of light so you see well. Avoid having shadows on the egg.

If you work for long periods of time, you will be more comfortable if you sit up straight with both feet on the floor. Rest your arms on the table.

Chapter Two

Essential Materials

Eggs

When shopping for eggs suitable for pysanky, the best source is to get unwashed eggs from a farm. If they are just laid, let them stand 4 or 5 days before decorating. Some eggs purchased at stores do not take the dyes well because they were washed with a strong solution that is not compatible with the dye. If farm eggs are not available, shop at a few stores until you find a good source.

When selecting eggs, use raw white eggs with good shells without cracks or weak spots. Jumbo and extra large eggs tend to have weaker shells, therefore, use medium or large eggs for decorating. Old eggs will float, making dying difficult. **When ready to decorate eggs, allow them to come to room temperature.**

If washing is necessary, rinse carefully without rubbing in a solution of 2 tablespoons white vinegar and one quart of tepid water. Blot the egg dry. Do not use detergent or soap. Chicken eggs are decorated most commonly although duck, goose and ostrich eggs are also popular.

It has generally been Ukrainian tradition to allow the decorated pysanky to remain whole. The inner egg was not disturbed because it was considered alive. Traditionally blown eggs were for good luck and protection from the evil eye.

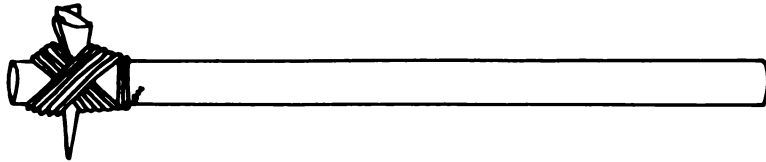
Eggs may be blown either before or after decorating. If you decide to blow your eggs first, the holes in the shell must be sealed before dying. More information on blowing and working on empty eggs can be found in Chapter Six.

Kistka or stylus

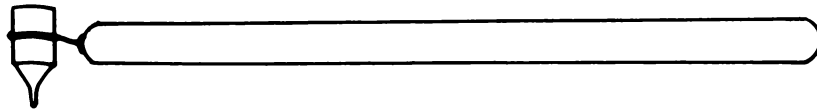
The kistka (writing tool) comes in a variety of styles and sizes. Some are handmade and some are made by machine. Basically, a kistka is a funnel attached to a stick. Wax is scooped into the funnel, heated and then the tool is drawn across the egg. There are two main kinds of kistky (plural of kistka), the ones which are heated with a candle and the electric ones.

I. Candle heated kistky

1. Traditional kistka; handmade, comes in fine, medium and heavy sizes. This stylus has been used for many years. It has a brass funnel wound with copper wire and a wooden handle.

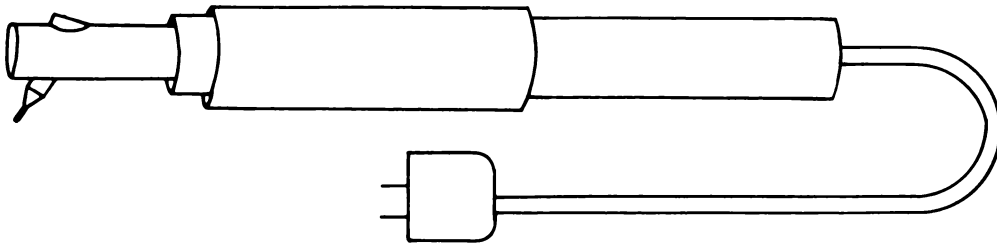


2. Brass kistka; precision tooled, available in fine, medium and heavy sizes. It has a brass tip and a delrin handle.

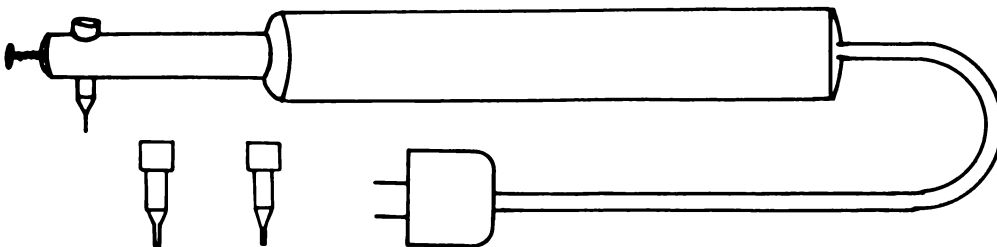


II. Electric kistky

1. Stationary tip kistky; comes in sizes extra-fine, fine, medium, heavy and extra-heavy. The tips are not removable except for repair or replacement.



2. Interchangeable kistka; comes with three tips, fine, medium and heavy. An extra-fine and extra-heavy tip can be purchased separately.



To make the eggs in this book, you will need at least three sizes of kistka; fine, medium and heavy. For the more intricate eggs, you may also use an extra-fine kistka.

Dyes

Non-edible analine dyes are superb in quality and durability so we use them exclusively in decorating the pysanky. They come in the following colors: yellow, orange, bright red, light blue, light green, black, dark red, royal blue, brick, dark green, pink, purple, and turquoise. Once they are mixed in solution with boiling water, the dyes can be kept about a year in a sealed jar. **Note: The dyes will last longer and remain fresher if they are made with distilled water.**

Dyes should be made in advance so they can be used at room temperature. To prevent cracking of the jars, warm them with a little hot water before putting in the dye and boiling water. A further precaution is to place the jars in the sink while making the dyes. Find clean widemouth jars so it will be easy to dip the eggs in and out of the dyes. Keep the dyes covered when not in use to avoid evaporation. Follow the directions on each color packet. Vinegar evaporates with time, so one or two tablespoons of white vinegar may be added every few weeks if the dyes appear weak. This helps the egg to take the dye better.

We have developed some helpful techniques in regards to specific dying processes and control of color intensity on the eggs.

Small accents of blue or green: For covering small areas with blue or green color, it is not necessary to dip the egg into these dyes. If you wish a light blue accent in your design, after the white egg has been completed with the wax process, dab on some light blue dye with a cotton swab in the areas desired, pat dry and cover with wax. Then dip into yellow as the next step. For green accents, dab the areas with light blue dye over the yellow egg, pat dry and cover with wax.

You do not have to be too concerned about applying the dye with the swab. Any area not covered with wax will dissolve in the orange dye.

Orange Wash: Have an extra orange dye and use it only to rinse out darker colors. Orange can rinse out greens, blues, reds and brick. After using the orange rinse, you can go to a different color scheme.

Diluted blue: For a beautiful blue, follow this recipe; To one cup of water, add 1 tablespoon of vinegar and 2 tablespoons of prepared light blue dye. Use this dye for dipping the egg to get a lighter, brighter blue.

Bleaching; If a white background is desired, a different sequence of color is used on the egg. For example, the egg is first dipped into a dye (yellow, orange, red or brick) and then the basic design is drawn in that color. Afterwards, the egg goes into lighter or darker colors, depending on the desired effect.

For a white background, gently wash the egg in a solution of 2 tablespoons bleach in one cup of cool water. After the uncovered shell has become completely white, rinse the bleached egg under cool running water. When the egg no longer feels slippery, wipe with a tissue. Important: allow the egg to air dry at least ½ hour before melting the wax from the shell.

Beeswax

Pure beeswax is the only type of wax used with this egg dying process. Regular light beeswax is used with kistky which are heated in the candle flame. This wax will gradually turn black from the carbon in the flame. For the electric kistky, darkened beeswax is available and is needed in order to see the design on the egg.

Candle

A candle on a secure holder is needed to heat the traditional or brass kistky. We suggest using shorter candles so the reach is easier. (Candle wax is not used for decorating the egg.) The candle is also used to melt the wax from the egg at the end of the process.

Pencil

When dividing the egg at the beginning, use a #2 or #3 pencil. The pencil lines will not show later if they are drawn lightly. They help to create a balanced design. The most experienced egg makers use pencil lines for their divisions. Do not erase pencil lines or the dye will not take to the shell in that area.

Spoons

Use stainless steel tablespoons for dipping the eggs in and out of the dyes. Here is something we have been doing: On the table, have a jar with plain water in it and let the spoons sit in the water when they are not in use. This keeps the spoons clean at all times and it is easier to cover the jars of dyes.

Cotton swabs or small paintbrush

A cotton swab or a small paintbrush are used to add touches of blue or green to the design. Cotton swabs, dipped into cleaning fluid, are also used to remove unwanted wax.

Soft cloth and paper towels

Paper towels are used to pat the eggs dry when they come out of the dye. Paper towels are also used to cushion the egg on the table while working. Soft cloths are used to wipe the melted wax from the egg in the final step.

White vinegar

White vinegar is used to add to most of the dyes to keep them strong. Also if the eggs need washing, we use a solution of vinegar and water to rinse them.

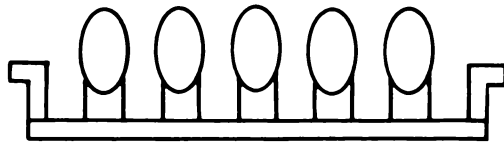
Varnish and hand soap.

Purchase a small can of clear gloss varnish. We recommend polyurethane or plastic finish. Do not use water soluble varnish. It will cause the dyes to run.

Waterless hand cleaner takes the varnish off your hands easily and gently. Both of these products may be purchased at your local hardware store.

Drying Rack

The drying rack is a small board with nails pounded through it so that it will hold several eggs. It is used when melting wax from the eggs in the oven and also to allow the eggs to dry after varnishing.



Chapter Three

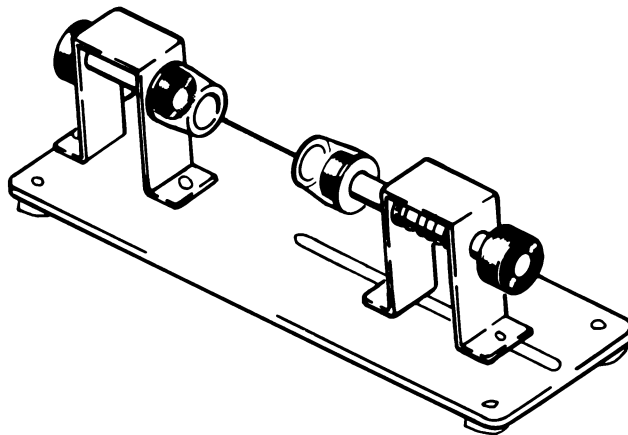
Optional Materials

The following supplies are optional, but very useful in decorating pysanky.

Egg Lathe

The egg lathe is a device used to draw perfect horizontal lines around the egg. The lathe can be used for goose eggs, chicken eggs and most pullet eggs. It adjusts to four positions.

There are several eggs in this book which were made using the lathe: 3, 6, 7, 8, 14 and 15.



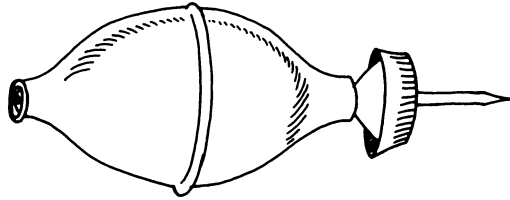
Cleaning Fluid

Use cleaning fluid to remove an unwanted drip of wax from the shell. First, scrape the wax drip with your finger nail and then slightly dampen with a cotton swab which has been dipped into cleaning fluid, rub gently and remove the spot with a roll and lift motion. Keep the cotton swab damp and not soaked with cleaning fluid so it doesn't run into the rest of the design.

Also, after melting the eggs, you may remove carbon and traces of beeswax from the shell with a soft cloth which has been dampened with cleaning fluid. Do not rub. Wipe gently.

Egg Blower

The egg blower is a specially designed rubber bulb used for emptying the contents of the egg. The egg can either be blown with one or two holes.



Findings

A finding is a gold colored metal hanger which is glued to the top of a blown egg. After applying a drop of glue to the top of the egg, we place the finding on it and allow it to dry. Then, string a cord or fine ribbon through the loop in the finding for ease in hanging.



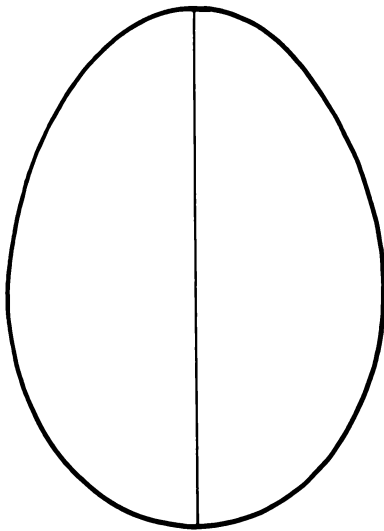
Chapter Four

Basic Pencil Divisions

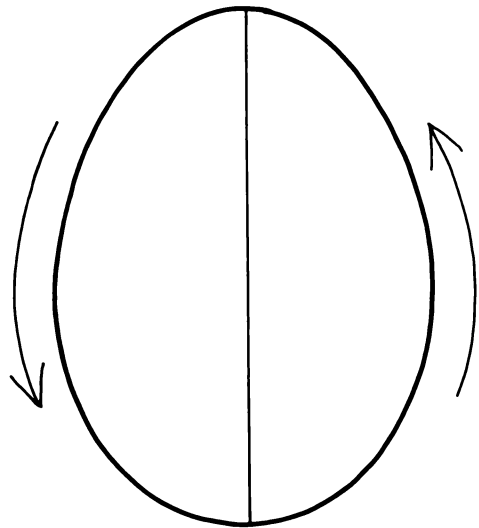
Before applying wax lines, draw the basic divisions on the egg with pencil lines. These will be guide lines and will not show later if they are drawn lightly. It is better to make long smooth lines, do not erase.

The following division is used on more designs than any other. Practice it on eating eggs until you are comfortable with it.

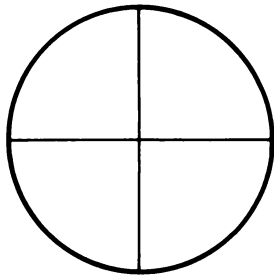
Basic Pencil Division A



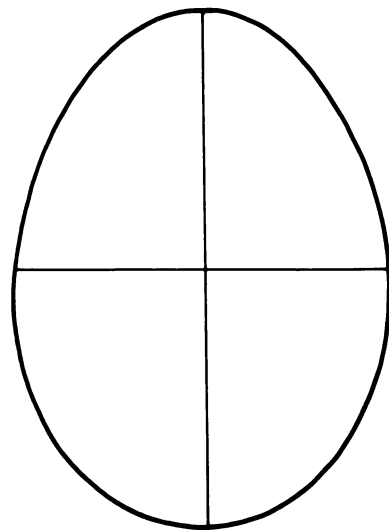
1. With pencil, lightly draw a line around the egg vertically, dividing the egg in half.



2. Now draw another line dividing the egg into fourths vertically.

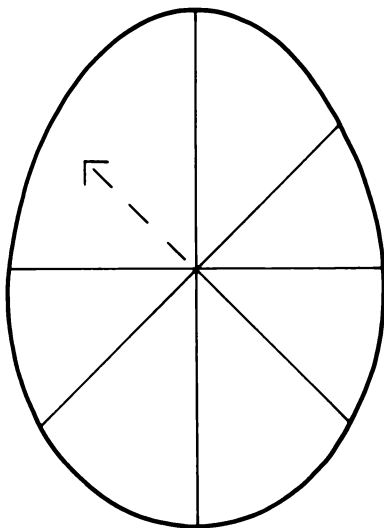


3. Top view of egg when step 2 is completed.



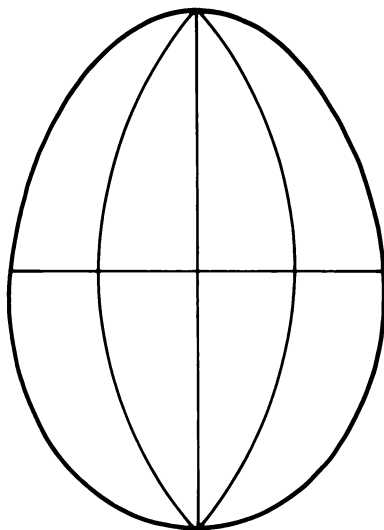
4. Divide the egg horizontally with pencil line.

Basic Division B

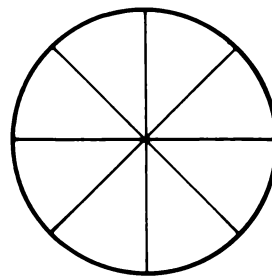


Start with basic division A and then at the center point, draw lines dividing the egg into 16 equal parts. It should look the same on both sides.

Basic Division C



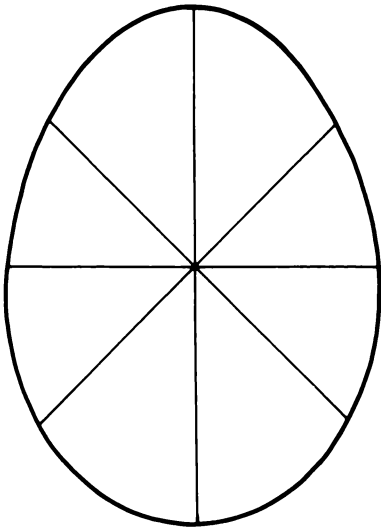
Start with basic division A and then at the TOP of the egg, divide the egg into 16 sections with 2 additional vertical lines. The egg will look the same on both sides. Top view of egg.



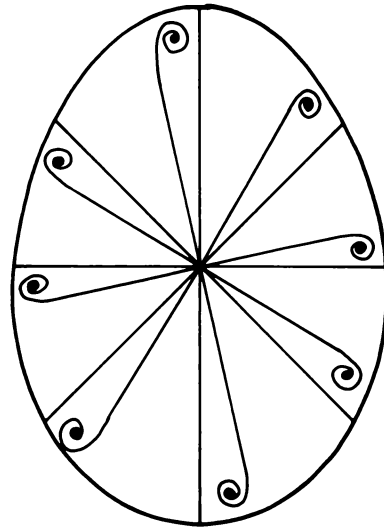
Top view of egg.

Chapter Five

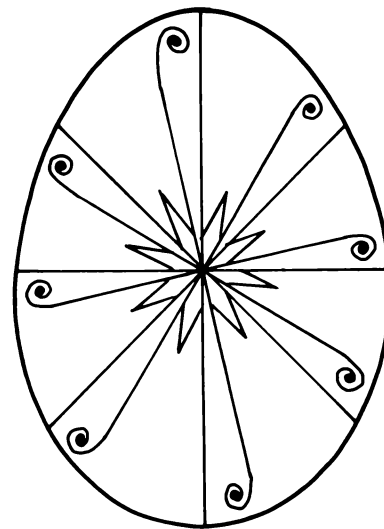
How to Make Egg Number 1



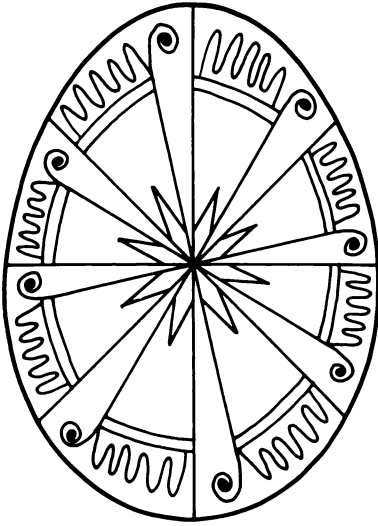
1. Draw the basic B division lines in pencil dividing the egg into 16 equal parts, 8 sections on each side. Now you are ready to use the kistka and wax. Heat the fine kistka in the flame, scoop a small amount of wax into the funnel and apply to the egg in the same sequence you drew the pencil lines originally. Wherever you see white on the final egg, this is where you will apply wax to the white egg.



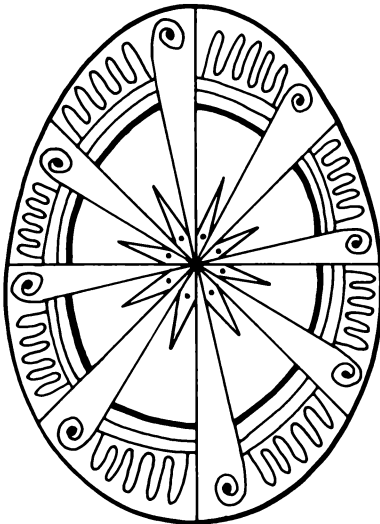
2. When the dividing lines are finished in wax, write the next part of the division as shown.



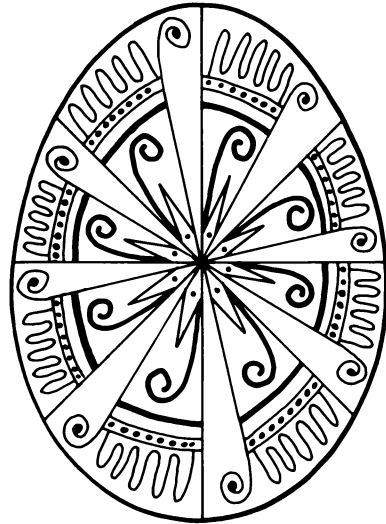
3. Next, write in the star pattern with the fine kistka.



4. Draw in 2 straight parallel lines and a wavy line to complete the fine lines in the white drawing.

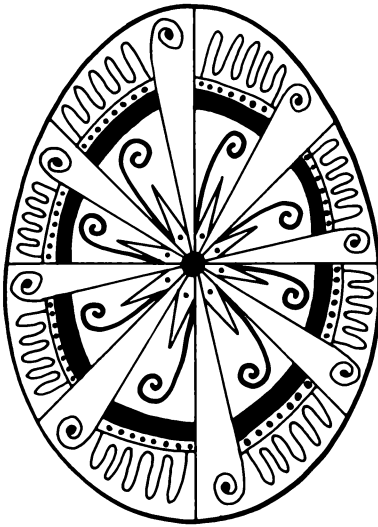


5. With a heavy kistka, add the finishing lines and dots.

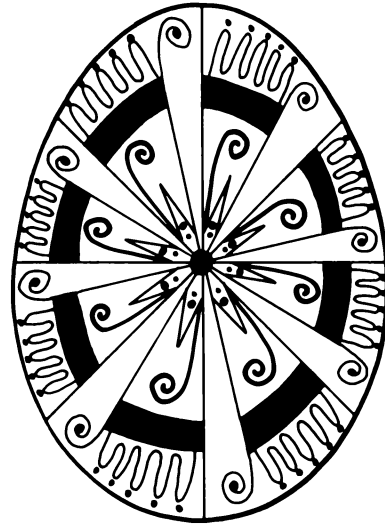


6. Check your work to see if you haven't missed any lines, then dip the egg into the yellow dye. In 5-10 minutes, remove the egg and pat dry with a paper towel. Wherever you see yellow in the final design, this is where you will put wax over the yellow egg.

With a heavy kistka, draw the curved lines and dots as shown.



7. To apply green color to the design, dip a cotton swab in the light blue dye and dab it over the sections which are green in the finished egg. Pat dry with tissue and cover evenly with the heavy kistka.



8. Dip the egg into the orange dye. This dye bath will remove the residue from the blue dye. Since the design uses no orange color, proceed to dip the egg into the red dye. Apply dots and fill in areas as shown with wax.

Dip the egg into the black dye, the final color. Dry thoroughly with a paper towel. Allow the egg to dry about 15 minutes before removing the wax.

CURLS

Signify defense or protection.



DOTS

Represent stars in heaven or the tears of Mary at the crucifixion of Christ.

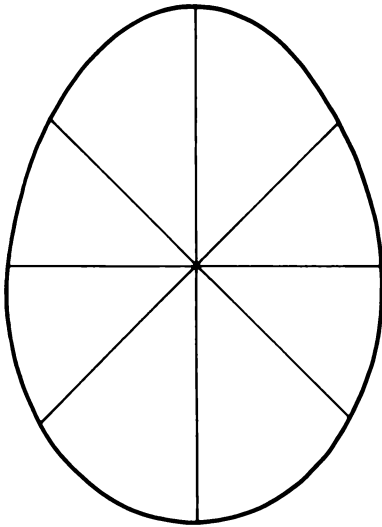


BLACK

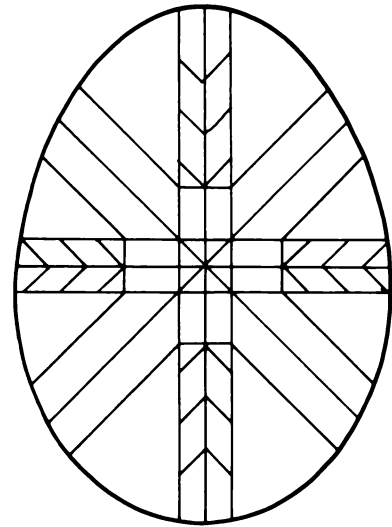
Eternity, darkest time before dawn.

Egg Number 2

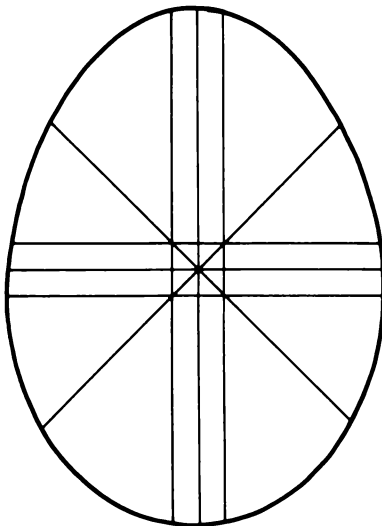
Pencil:



1. Lightly divide the egg into sixteenths using the basic B division lines.

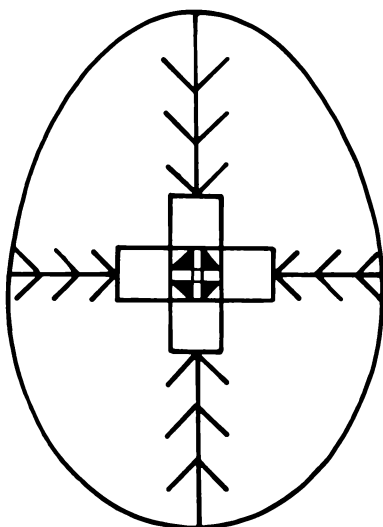


3. Add additional guide lines.



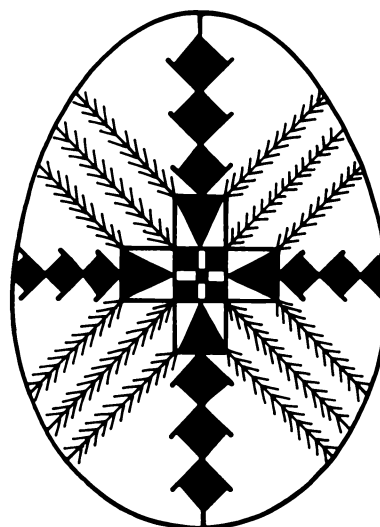
2. Draw parallel lines to the main dividing lines as shown.

Kistka:



WHITE

1. With the heavy or medium kistka, whichever you prefer, draw the "white" lines on the egg. The central design in the cross is written in with the fine kistka.

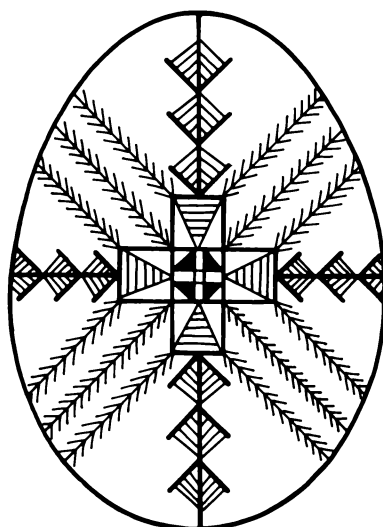


RED

3. Use the heavy or medium kistka to fill in the red areas.

PURPLE

4. Last color.

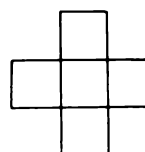


YELLOW

2. Use fine kistka for all the yellow lines.

CROSS

Signifies the four corners of the world, also the resurrection of the Savior.



PINE NEEDLES

Long life, youth, health.

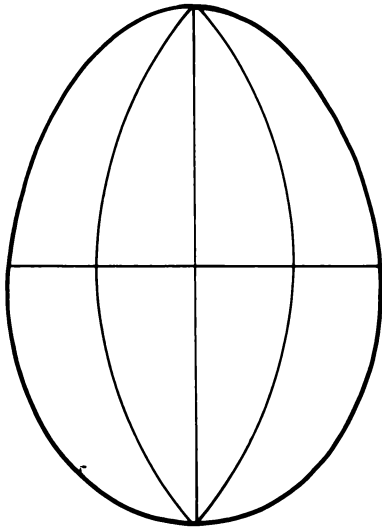


PURPLE

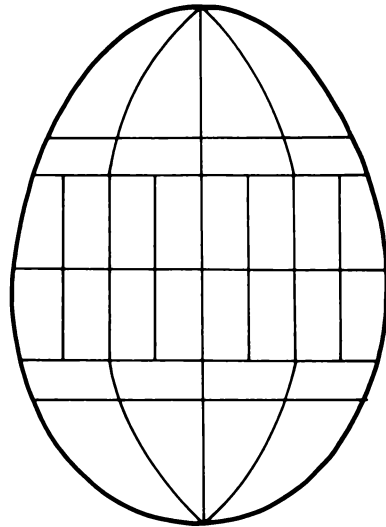
Fasting, faith, patience and trust.

Egg Number 3

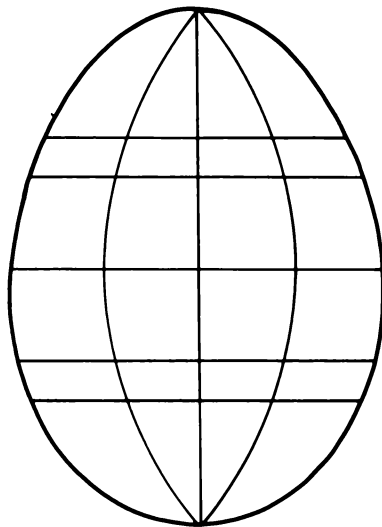
Pencil:



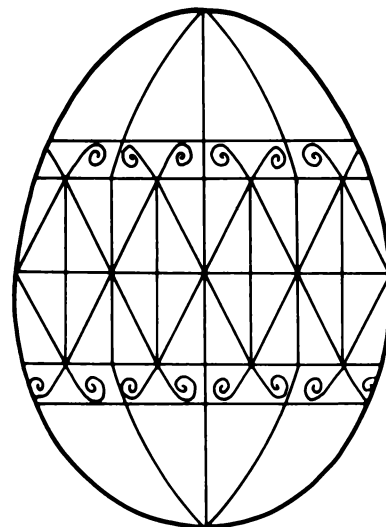
1. Divide the egg into sixteenths using the C division.



3. Divide the eight sections in half with a vertical line.



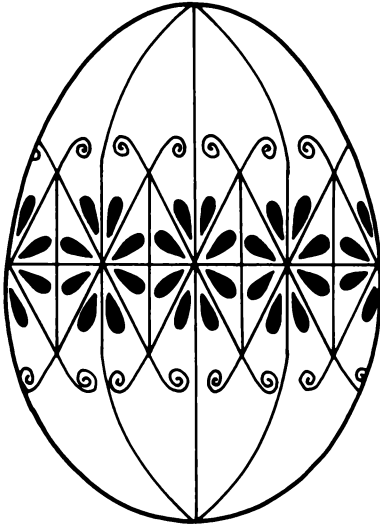
2. Add horizontal parallel guide lines.



4. Add the connecting lines to form the diamond shapes going around the egg and draw the ram's horns, using the pencil line as a guide to make them even.

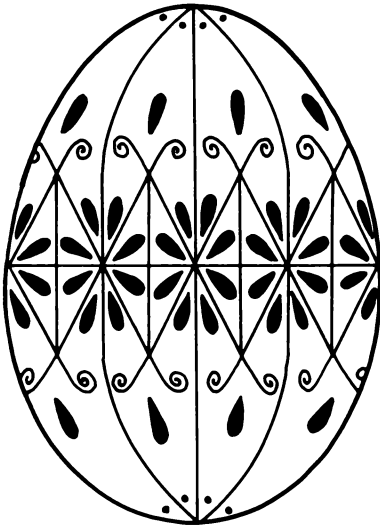
Kistka:

1. This entire egg will be written with the medium kistka.



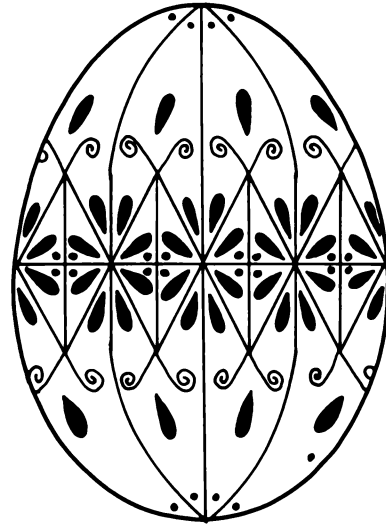
WHITE

2. Write the lines as shown including the flower petal design. Dip into the yellow dye.



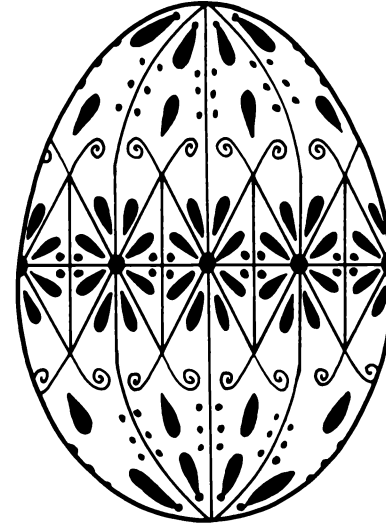
YELLOW

3. Apply the yellow part of the design.



GREEN

4. With a cotton swab, add the green dots and cover with wax.



ORANGE

5. Complete the orange part of the pattern.

RED

6. Final color.

FLOWER

Life, growth, love and charity.



RAM'S HORN

Suggest strength and leadership.

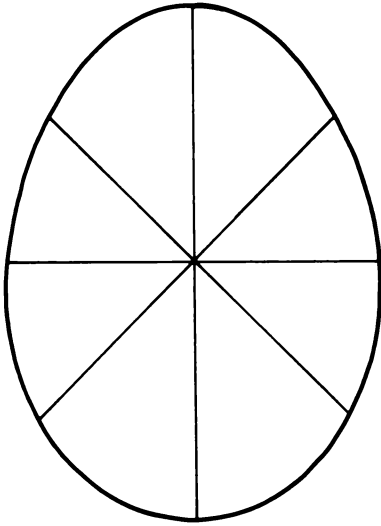


RED

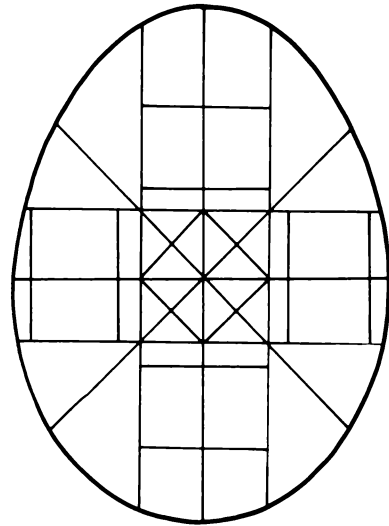
Happiness, hope or passion.

Egg Number 4

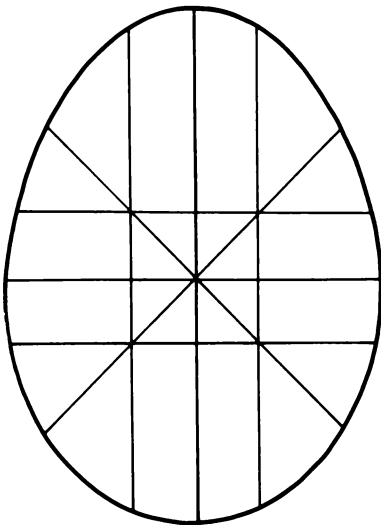
Pencil:



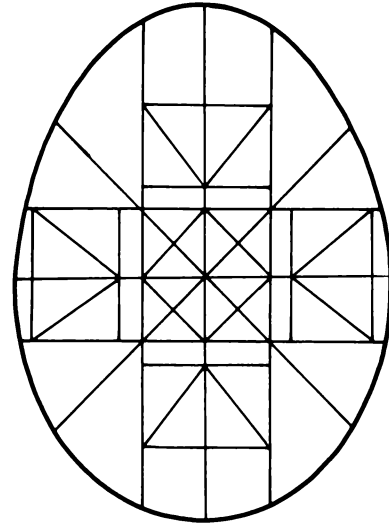
1. Divide the egg into sixteenths, using the B division.



3. Add further guide lines as shown including central diamond shape.

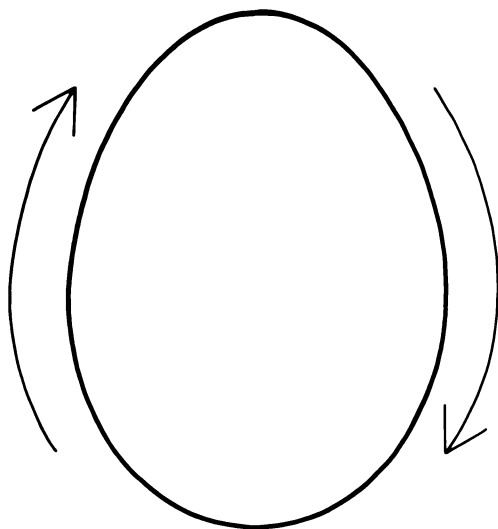


2. Draw parallel lines to main dividing lines.



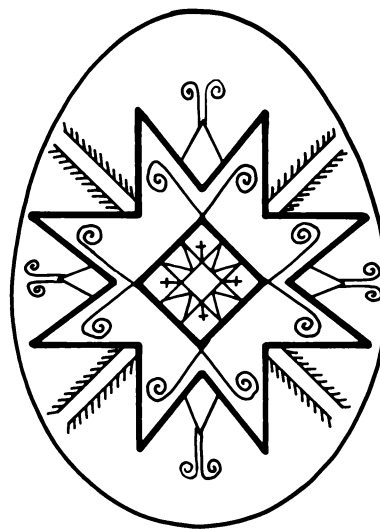
4. Draw in star points.

Kistka:



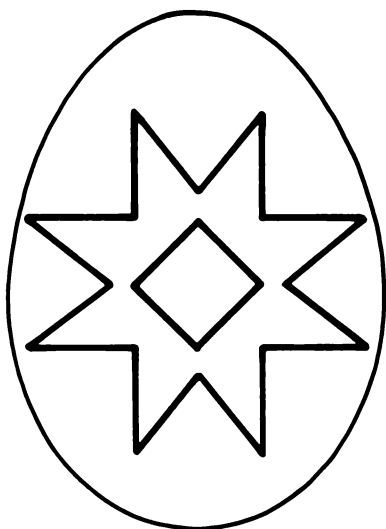
WHITE

1. With the heavy kistka, divide the egg in half with one line.

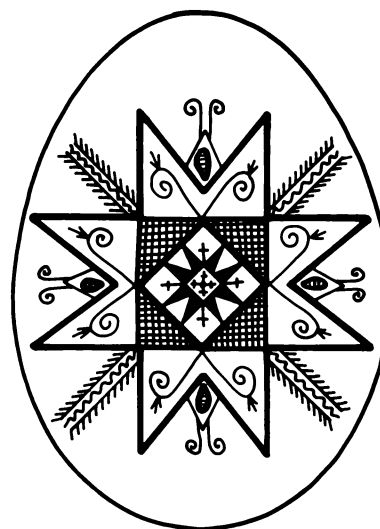


YELLOW

3. Use a fine kistka and copy the design as shown.



2. With heavy kistka, write in the central diamond shape first, then the outline of the star.

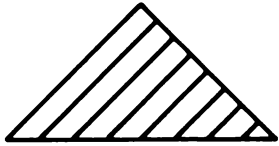


ORANGE

4. With heavy kistka, draw the outlines of triangles and petals.

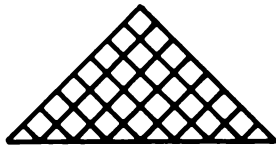
5. To draw in the net pattern first fill in the triangle shape with parallel lines which are even with the main outside line (a).

(a)



Next, at right angles, draw in the lines of the opposite direction. These will cross the first lines at right angles, creating the net (b).

(b)

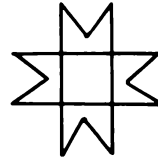


DARK GREEN

6. Dip the egg into dark green, the final color.

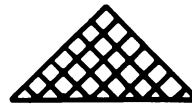
STAR

Represents God's love toward man, purity and life.



FISH NET

Mesh pattern which represents the fisherman's net. Christ asked his apostles to be fishers of men.



CROSSES

Christ's great gift to mankind, his crucifixion and resurrection.

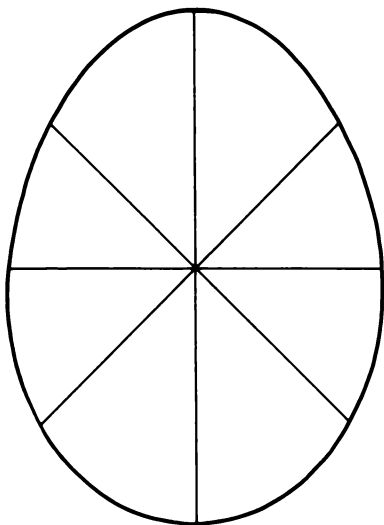


DARK GREEN

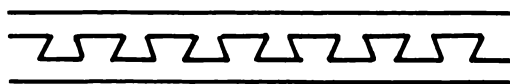
Bountifulness, hope and the victory of life after death.

Egg Number 5

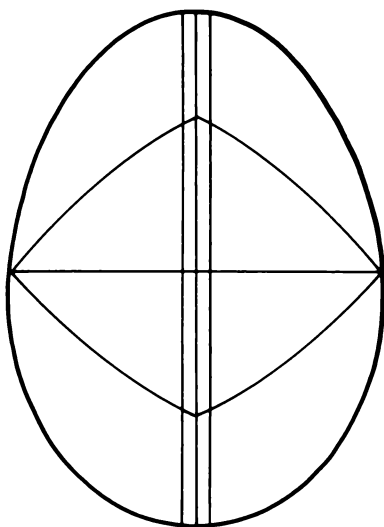
Pencil:



1. Divide the egg into sixteenths using the B division.

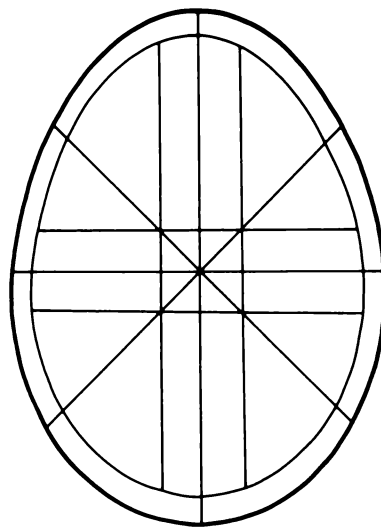


3. Now draw in the geometric meander line in the border.



SIDE VIEW

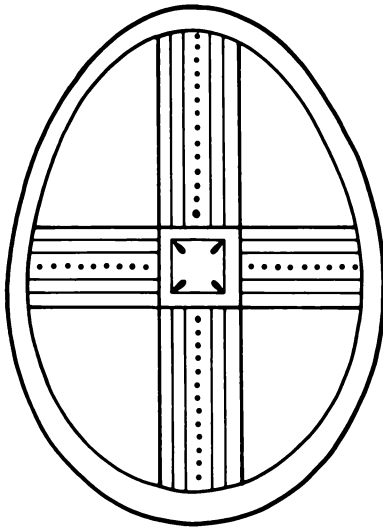
2. Lightly draw in the parallel lines to form the border.



FRONT VIEW

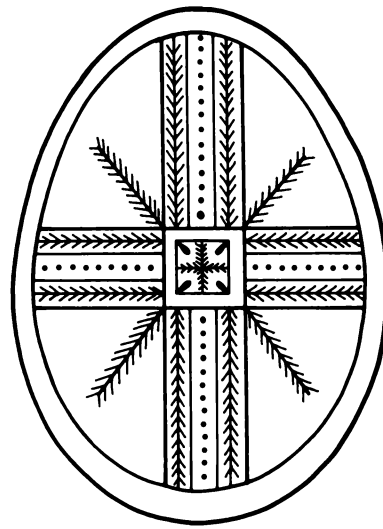
4. Draw the lines parallel to the main dividing lines.

Kistka:



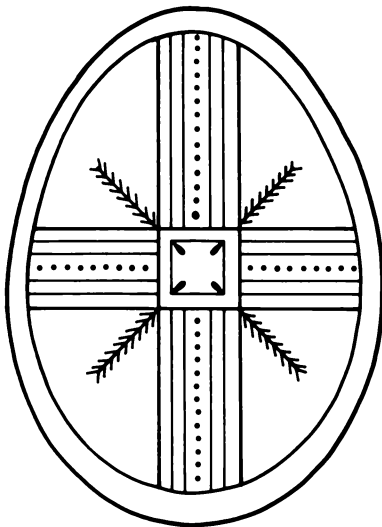
WHITE

1. Apply the wax on white using the medium and fine kistky.



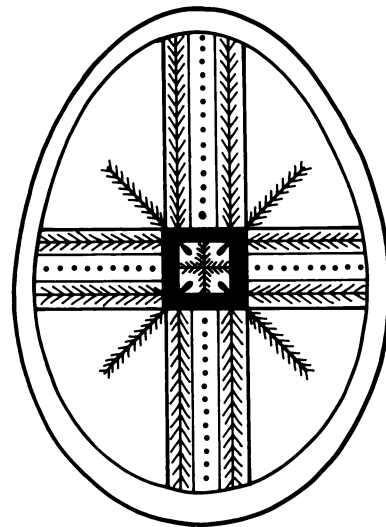
YELLOW

3. Use the fine kistka to write in the border strip and the pine needles.



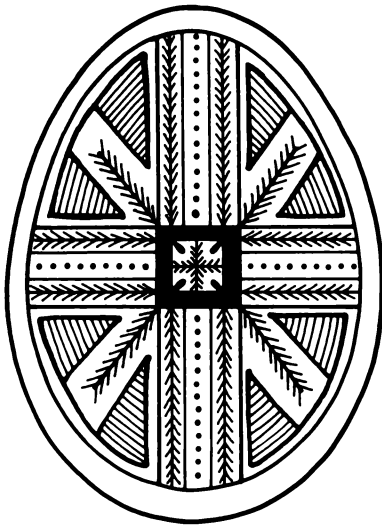
BLUE

2. With the cotton swab, dipped into the light blue dye, apply color for the pine needle design. Dab dry, then with the medium kistka, draw the long center stem line. With the fine kistka, write in the needles.



GREEN

4. Over the yellow egg, swab on the light blue dye in the central square, pat dry and cover with wax.



ORANGE

5. The heavy and fine kistky are used to complete the design.

RED

6. Final Color.

PINE NEEDLES

Health, stamina and eternal youth.



MEANDER LINE

Means life following life, over and over again, endless line and eternity.

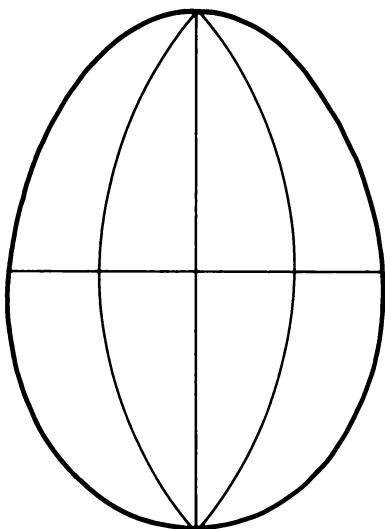


BLUE

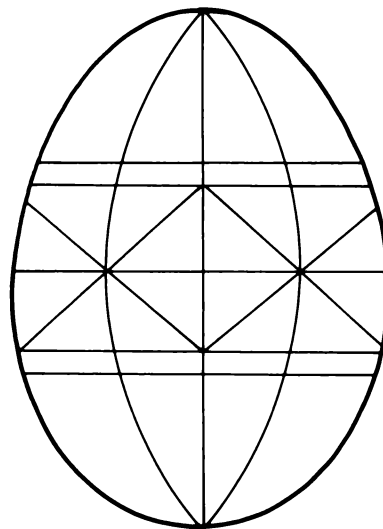
Used in small quantities with other colors, blue indicates wishes for good health.

Egg Number 6

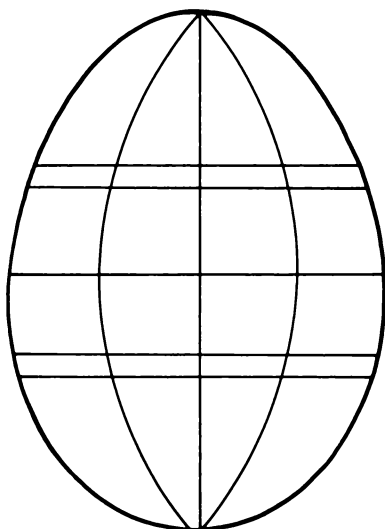
Pencil:



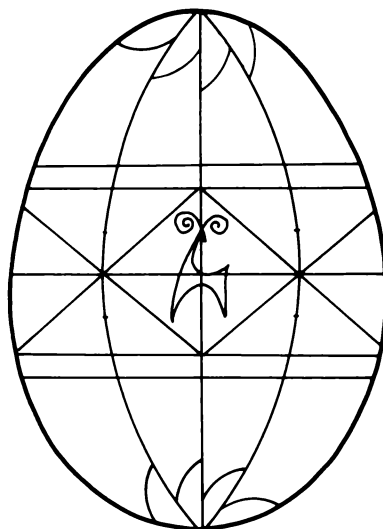
1. Divide the egg into sixteenths using the C division.



3. There are four main sections to the pattern. Connect the dividing lines diagonally as shown.

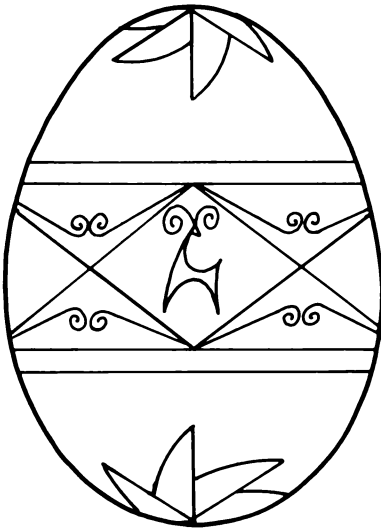


2. Draw horizontal parallel lines.



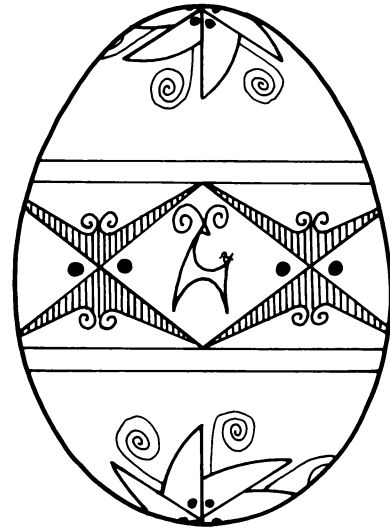
4. Lightly draw in the deer and the top and bottom flowers, also in the triangle, make a pencil mark for a guide.

Kistka:



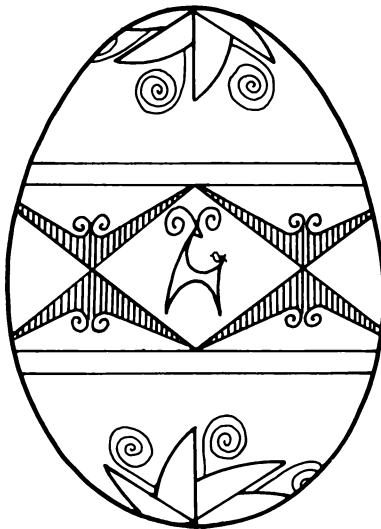
WHITE

1. Write with the medium kistka as shown.



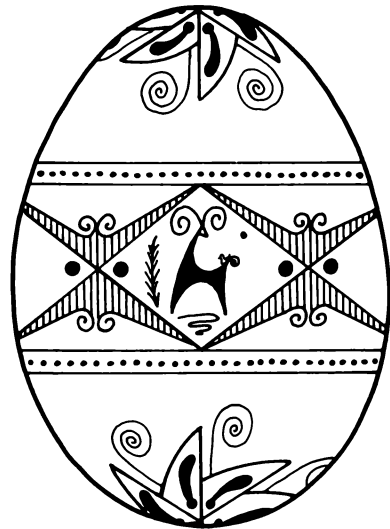
GREEN

3. Dab on green dots with light blue dye, cover with wax.



YELLOW

2. Use fine kistka for all yellow lines.



ORANGE

4. Medium kistka.

GREEN

5. Last color.

RAMS

Strength, dignity and perseverance.



FLOWER

Life, growth, love and charity.

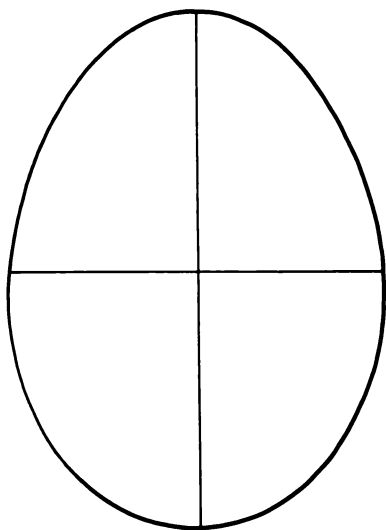


LIGHTER GREEN

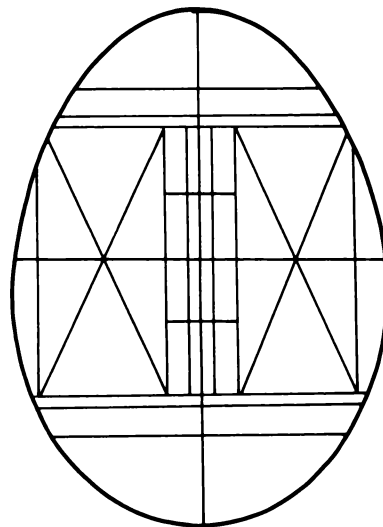
Spring, new growth and hope.

Egg Number 7

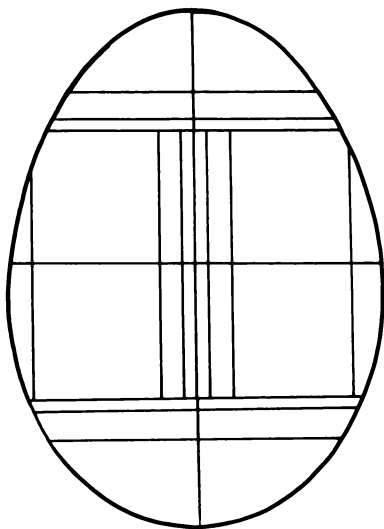
Pencil:



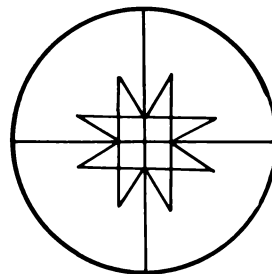
1. Divide the egg into eighths using the A division.



3. Draw in the criss cross lines in the four main sections of the design.



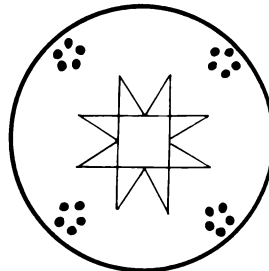
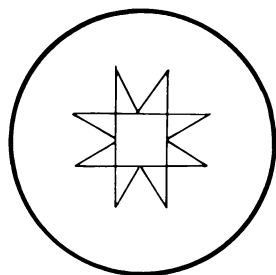
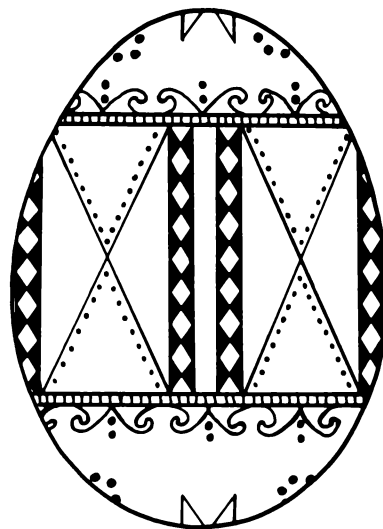
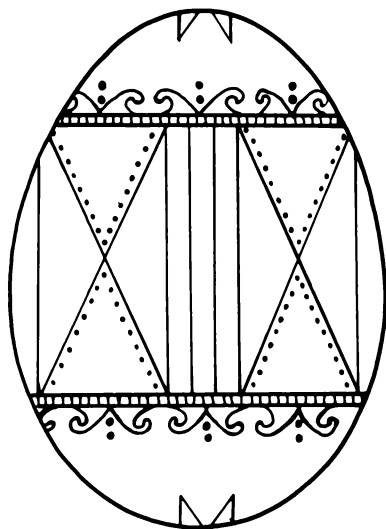
2. Draw parallel lines to main lines.



TOP VIEW

4. Draw outline of the star on the top and bottom of the egg.

Kistka:

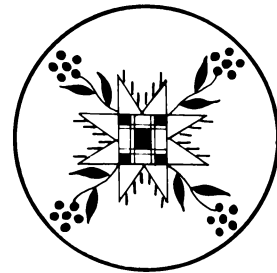
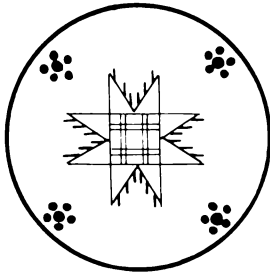
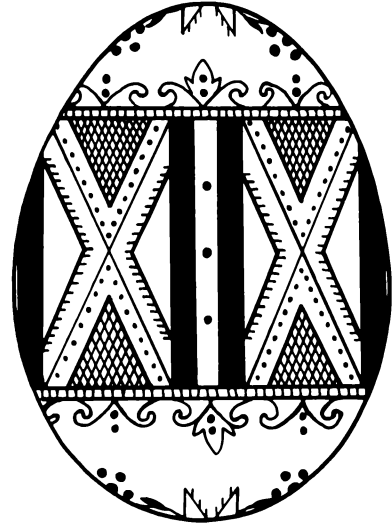
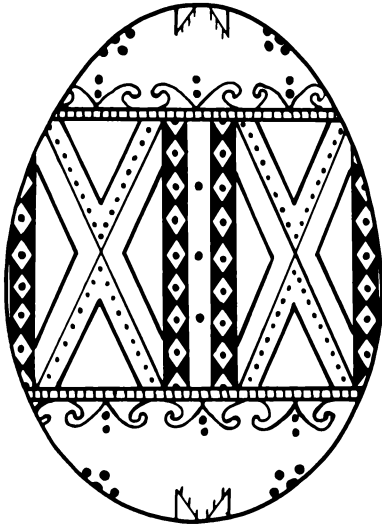


WHITE

1. With medium kistka, draw parallel lines. Use the fine kistka for the rest of the lines. Write the star on the top and bottom of the egg.

BLUE

2. Cover area to be blue on the white egg with a stroke of the cotton swab. Write in the diamond design with the fine kistka. Also put in the blue petals of the flowers on both ends.

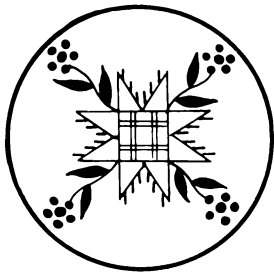


YELLOW

3. Use medium kistka for lines and dots, fine kistka for top inner lines of star.

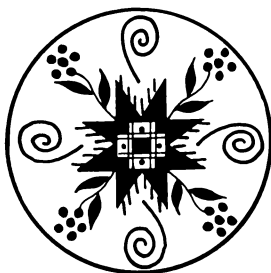
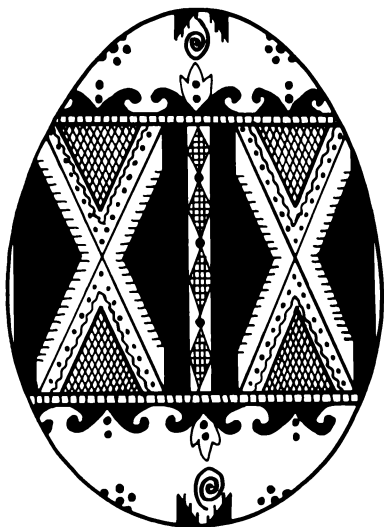
ORANGE

5. Fine kistka, top and bottom.



GREEN

4. Use the fine kistka on the stems and leaves on the ends of the egg.



RED

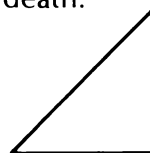
6. The fine, medium and heavy kistky are used on the red.

DARK GREEN

7. Final color.

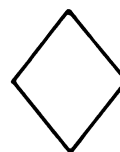
TRIANGLES

Geometric symbol for groups of three: the holy trinity; father, mother and child; birth, life and death.



DIAMOND

Geometric symbol used in profusion on pysanky, indicates knowledge.



DARK GREEN

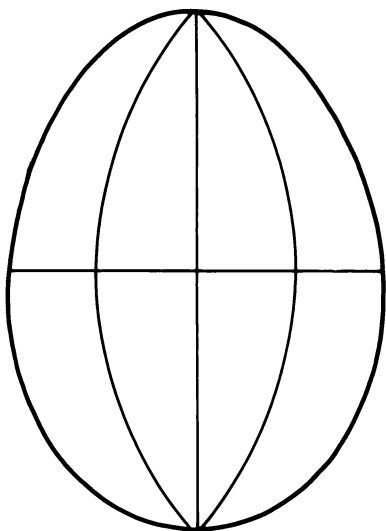
Bountifulness, hope and the victory of life after death.

Egg Number 8

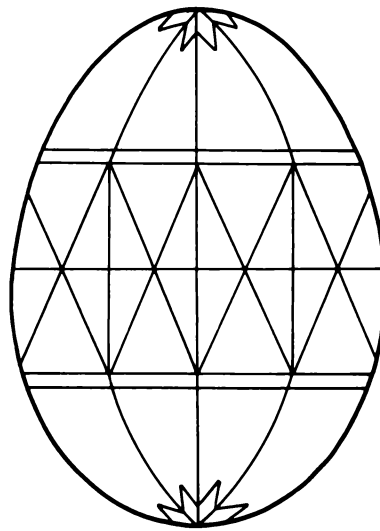
RED

Dip egg into red dye first.

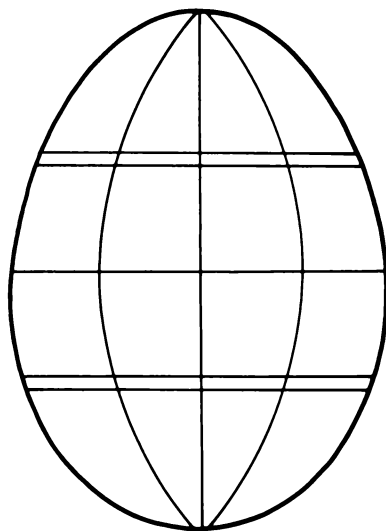
Pencil:



1. Divide the egg vertically into sixteenths, C division.

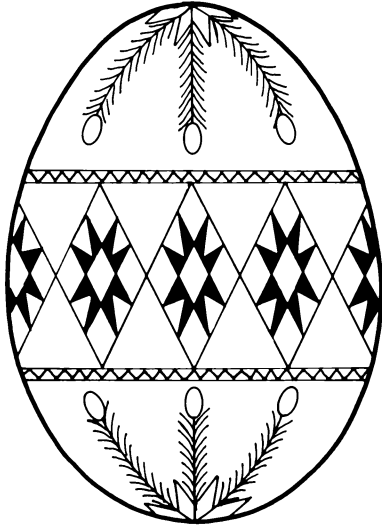


3. Connect the dividing lines diagonally and sketch in the stars on the top and bottom.



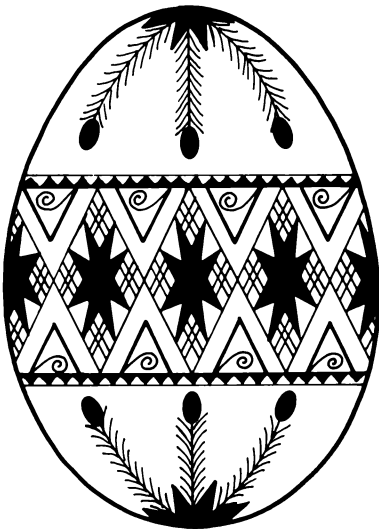
2. Draw parallel lines horizontally.

Kistka:



RED

1. With the medium kistka, write the design as shown.



BLACK

2. Dip the egg into the black dye, write lines with heavy and fine kistky to complete the design. You will be working with dark wax on the black egg, so proceed with the design carefully. Have a good light.

BLEACHING

3. Explained on page 3, Chapter Two.

MEANDER

One of many repetitive designs which circle the egg meaning eternity.



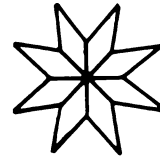
PINE NEEDLES

Health, stamina, eternal youth.



EMPTY ROSE

Beauty and wisdom.



WHITE

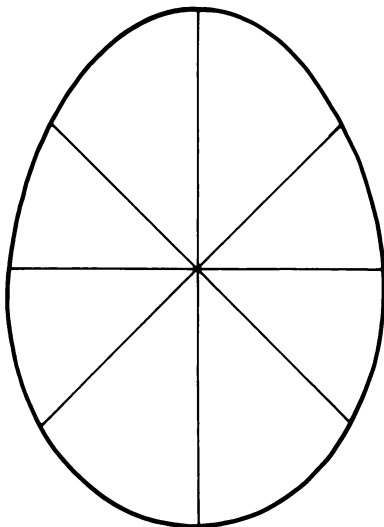
Purity, innocence and birth.

Egg Number 9

BRICK

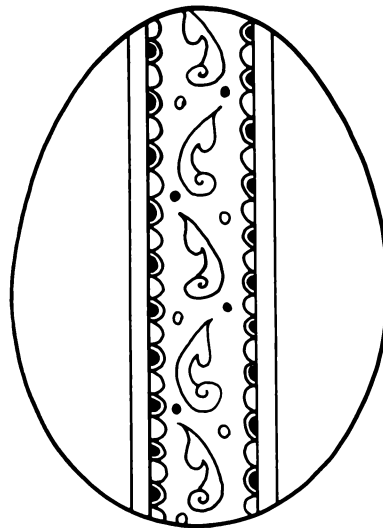
Dip egg into brick dye first.

Pencil:



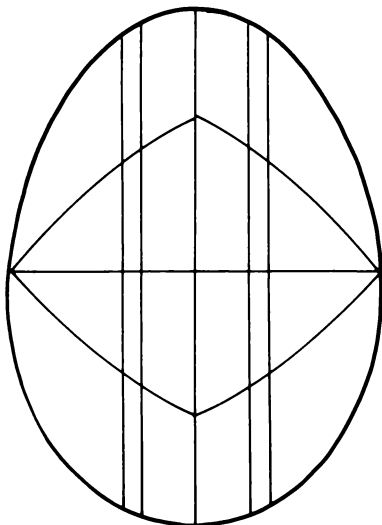
1. Divide the egg into sixteenths, B division.

Kistka:



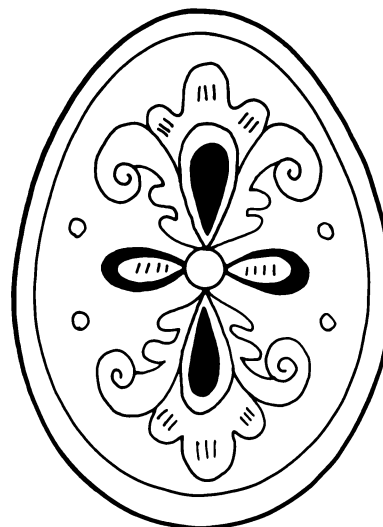
SIDE VIEW

1. With medium kistka, draw border lines and design.



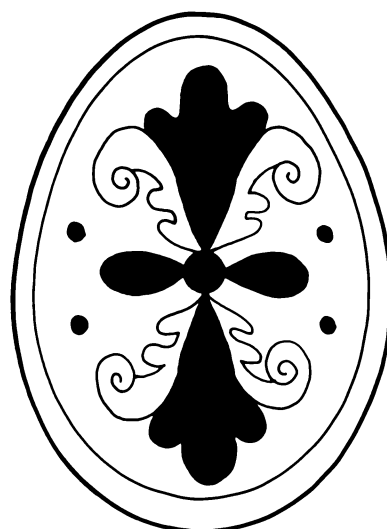
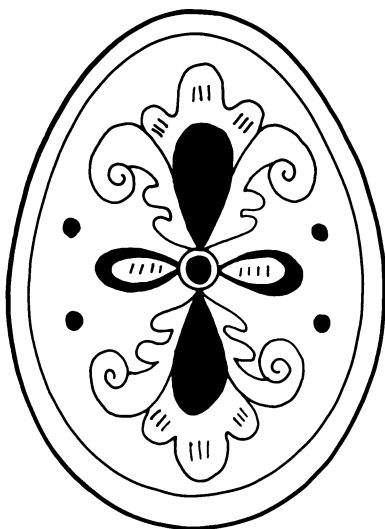
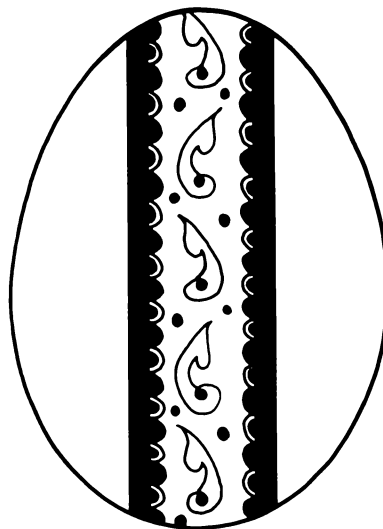
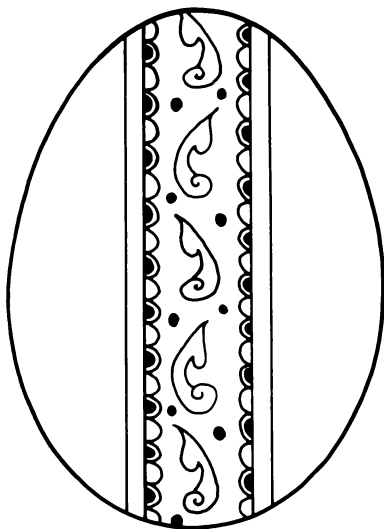
SIDE VIEW

2. Draw lines parallel to basic dividing lines.



FRONT VIEW

2. At center, write circle with fine kistka, then continue rest of brick design on front and sides.

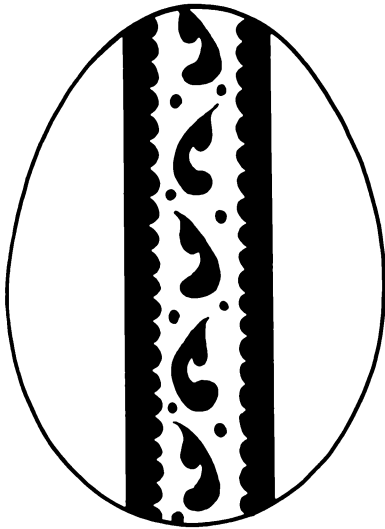


ORANGE

3. With medium kistka, fill in areas as shown.

YELLOW

4. Medium kistka.



BLEACHING

6. Explained on page 3, Chapter Two.

FLORAL MOTIF WITH SPIRALS

Represents continuity.

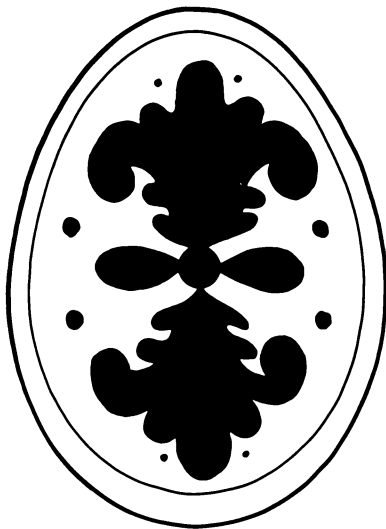


WHITE

Purity, innocence and birth.

EXPLANATION

This design is a departure from the traditional approach. The color and design are more typical of the style of Ukrainian ceramics.

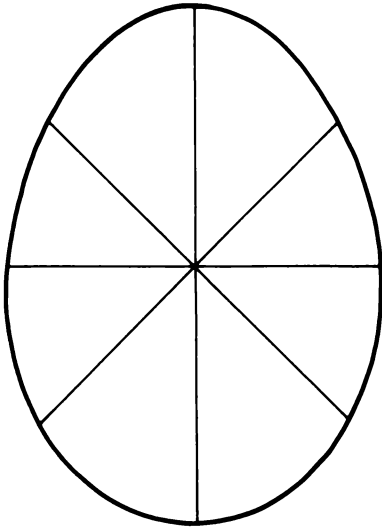


GREEN

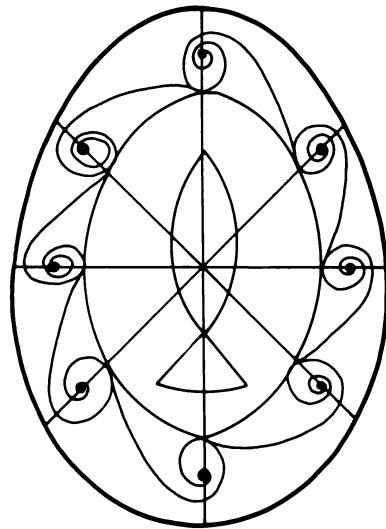
5. Medium kistka.

Egg Number 10

Pencil:

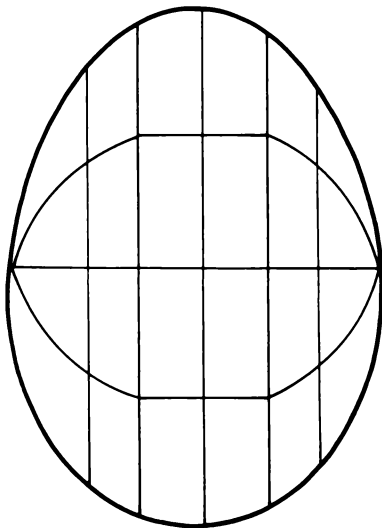


1. Divide the egg into sixteenths, B division.



FRONT VIEW

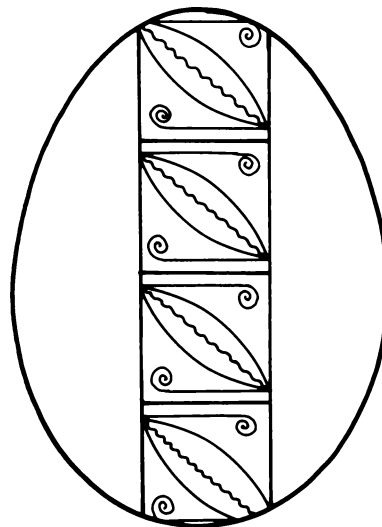
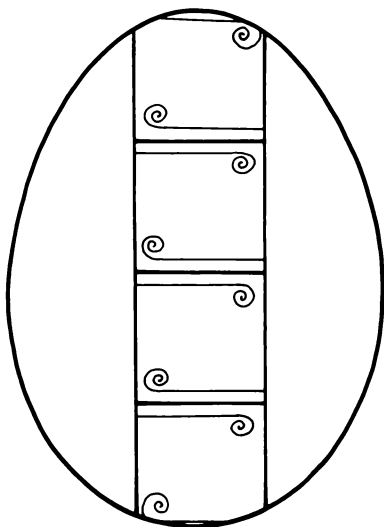
3. Lightly draw in the fish and spiral meander lines using the guide lines already drawn.



BORDER DESIGN

2. Draw in 4 lines parallel to the main dividing line. The three inner lines will create the border and the two outer lines are a guide for the spiral meander design.

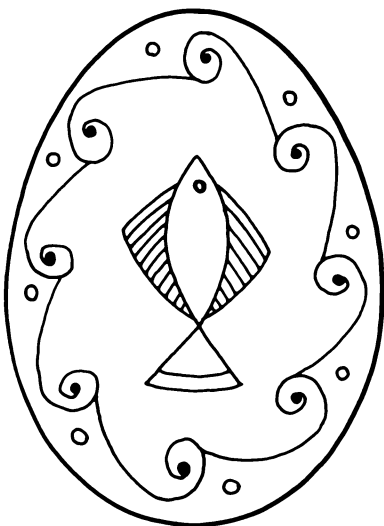
Kistka:



WHITE

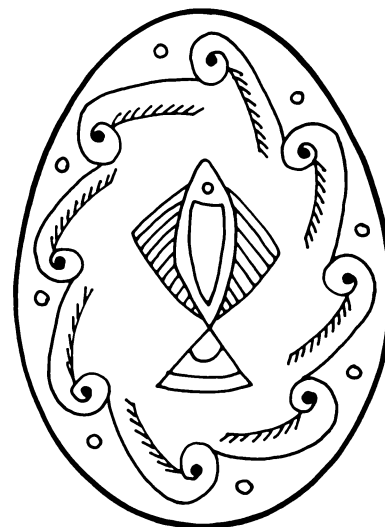
1. BORDER DESIGN

Write in main lines with heavy kistka, draw in the rest with the fine kistka.



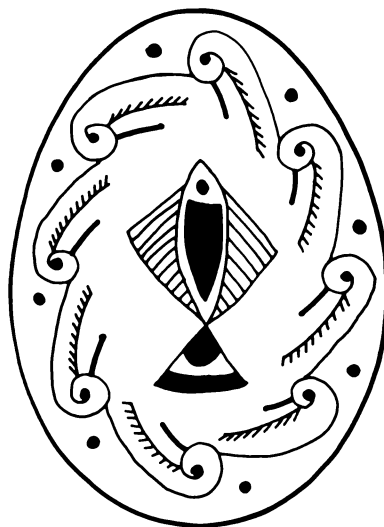
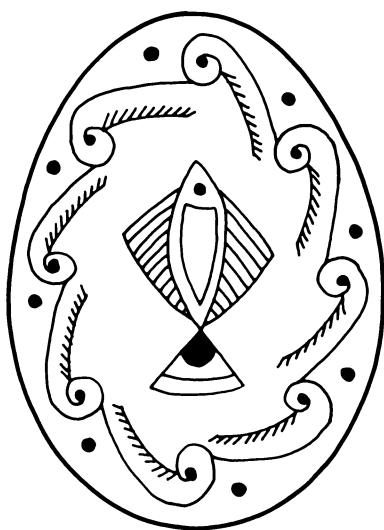
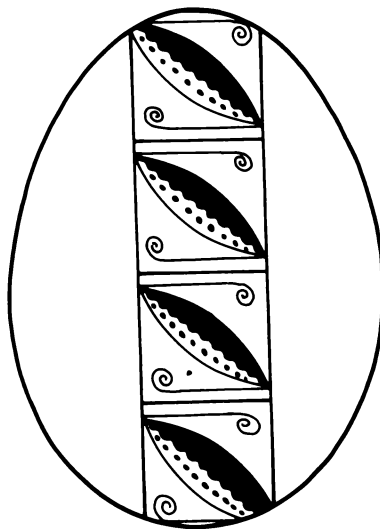
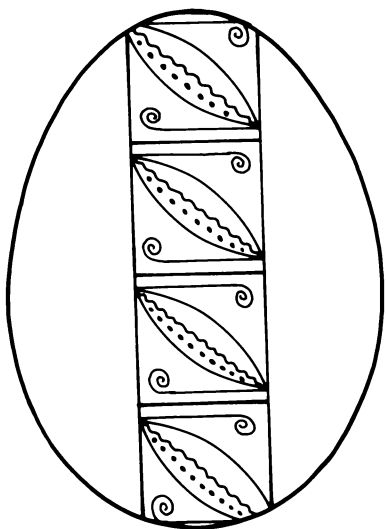
FRONT VIEW

2. Write in the fish and meander line and circle with the medium kistka.



YELLOW

3. Fine kistka.



GREEN

4. Medium kistka.

ORANGE

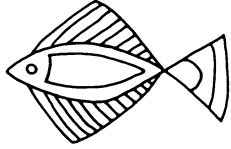
5. Heavy kistka.

RED

6. Final color.

FISH

Ancient symbol for Christ.



MEANDER

Repeating spiral design means harmony, immortality and infinity.



PODS

Plant symbol for fertility and hope for a fruitful harvest.

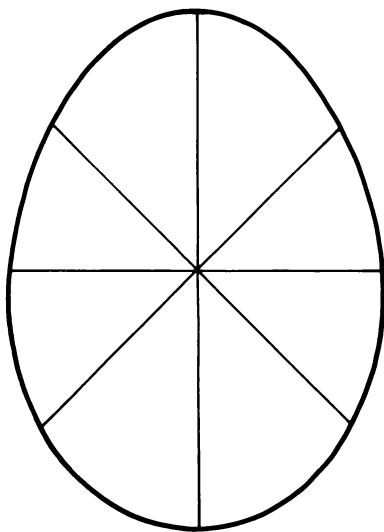


RED

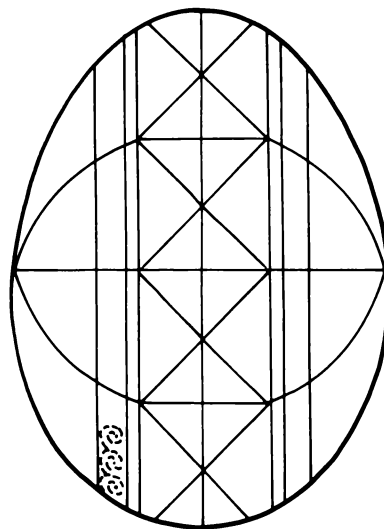
Sun, happiness in life, hope and passion.

Egg Number 11

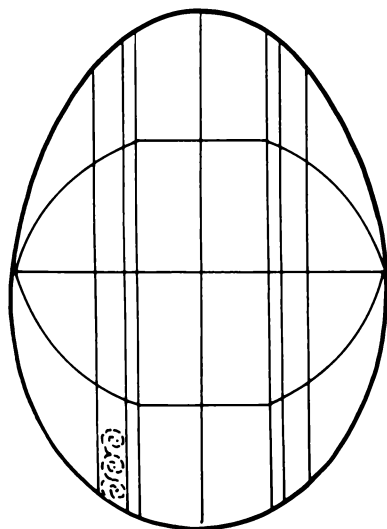
Pencil:



1. Divide the egg into sixteenths using the B division.

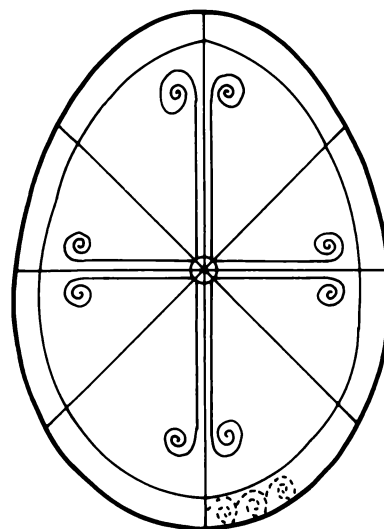


3. Draw in the criss cross lines to form the diamond pattern.



SIDE VIEW

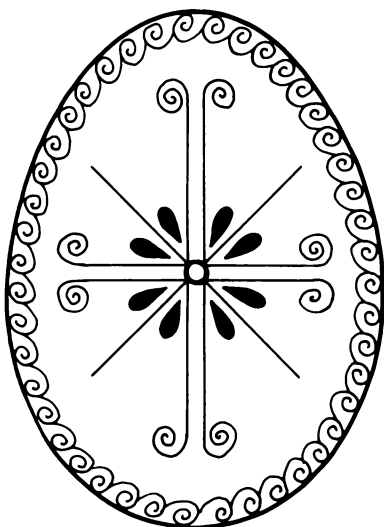
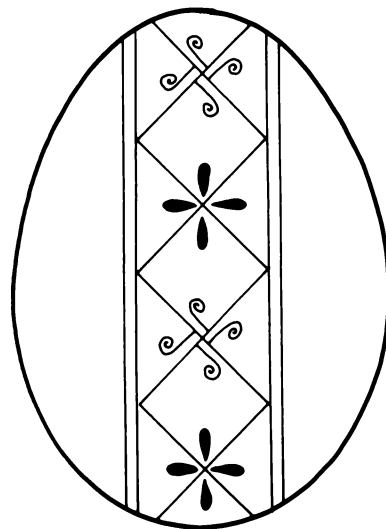
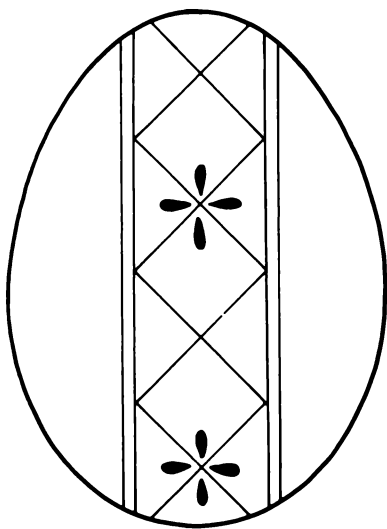
2. Draw six lines parallel to the center line, dividing the parallel lines into eight sections, four on each side. This also gives a guide line for the border meander design.



FRONT VIEW

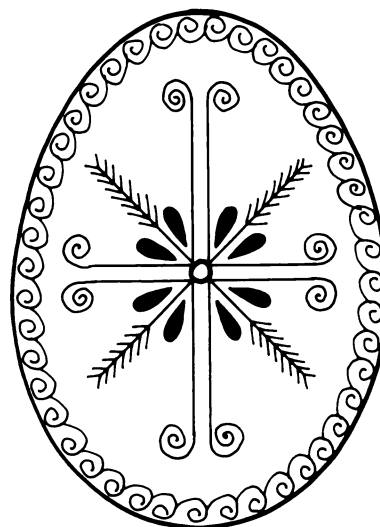
4. Draw a circle in the center, add the spiral lines radiating in four directions.

Kistka:



WHITE

1. Fine kistka for entire white design.

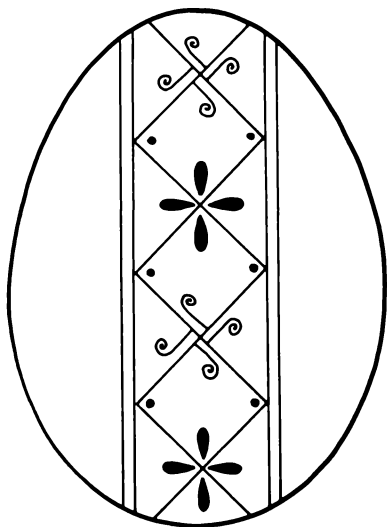


YELLOW

2. Fine kistka.

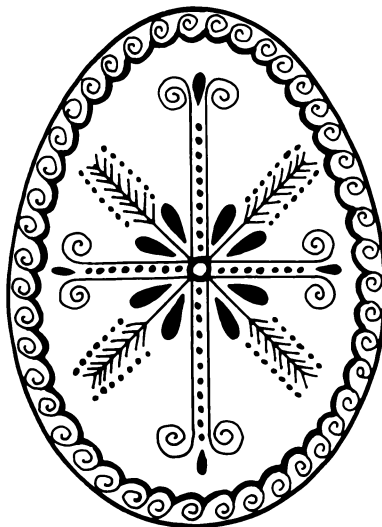


CENTER CIRCLE



GREEN

3. Dab center circle, draw in netting lines, also dots in the border.

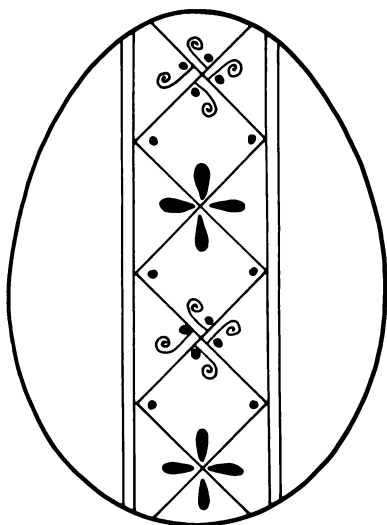


RED

4.b. Heavy and medium kistky.

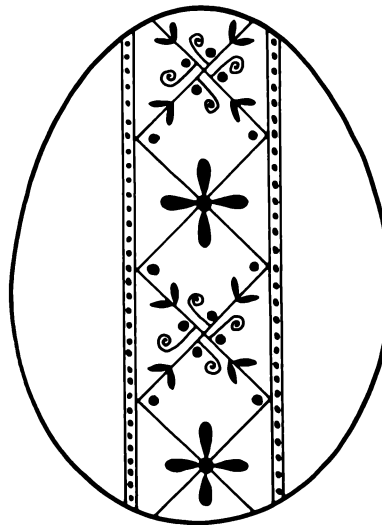


CENTER CIRCLE



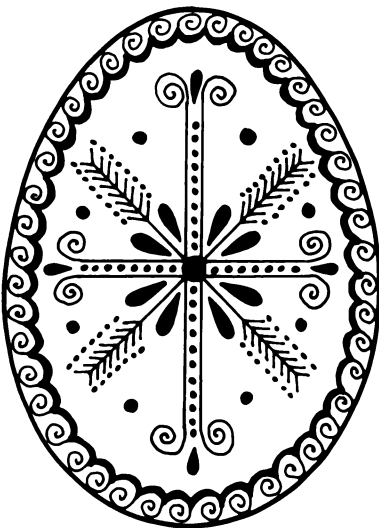
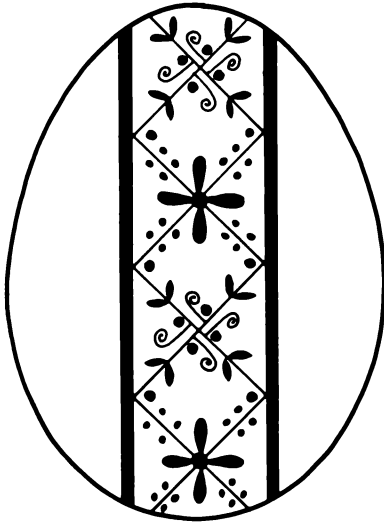
RED

4.a. Heavy kistka.



ORANGE

5. Medium kistka.



BLUE

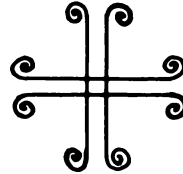
6. Heavy kistka.

BLACK

7. Final color.

CROSS

Ancient symbol for good luck, also the four corners of the world. This cross especially symbolizes the paska or braided Easter bread.



FLOWER

Wisdom, beauty and humility.



MEANDER

Immortality.

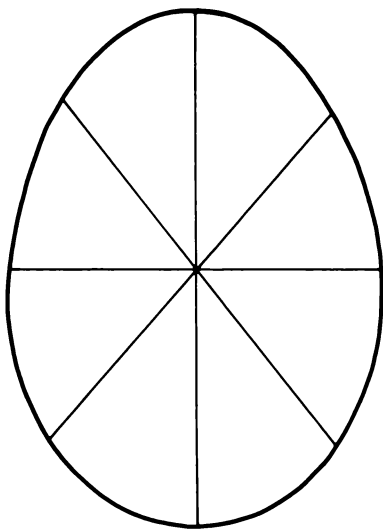


BLACK

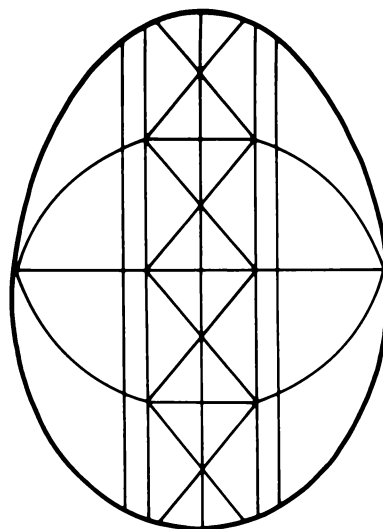
Eternity, darkest time before dawn.

Egg Number 12

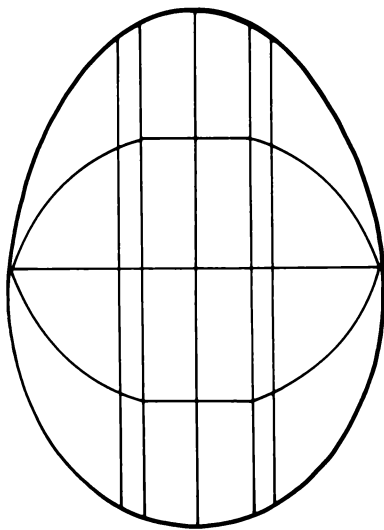
Pencil:



1. Divide the egg into sixteenths, B division.

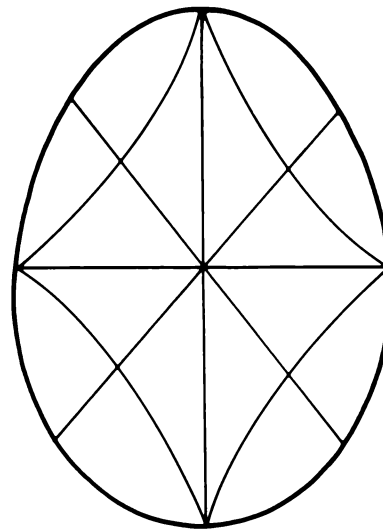


3. Draw in criss cross lines to form diamond design.



BORDER

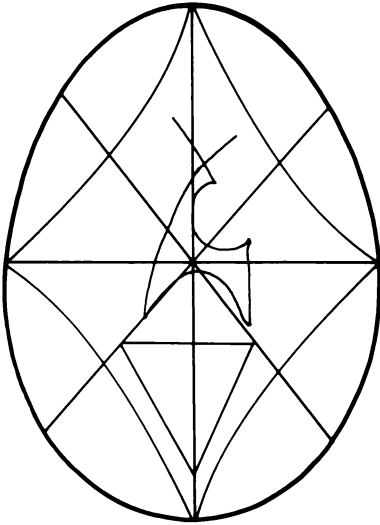
2. Draw four lines parallel to the center line, dividing the parallel designs into eight sections, four on each side.



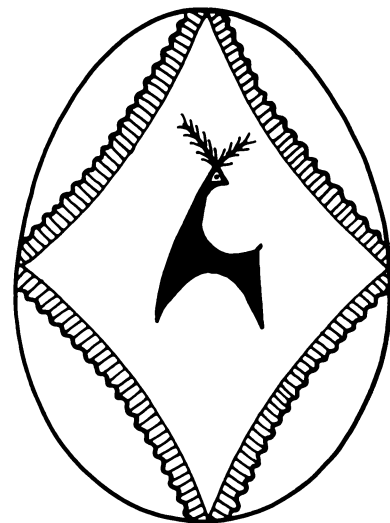
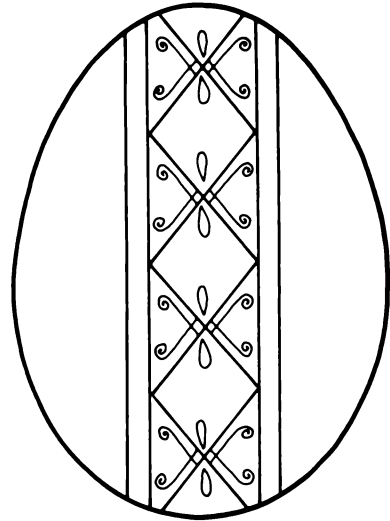
FRONT VIEW

4. Draw lines of diamonds with a slight curve.

Kistka:

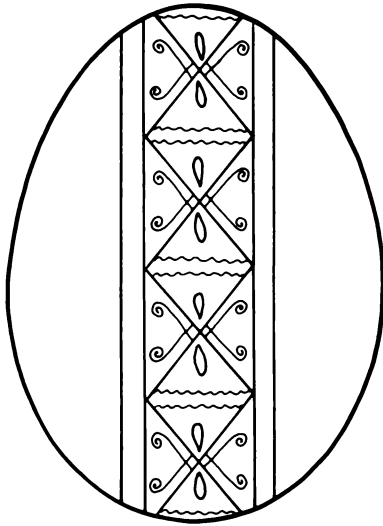


5. Sketch in deer and triangle shape.

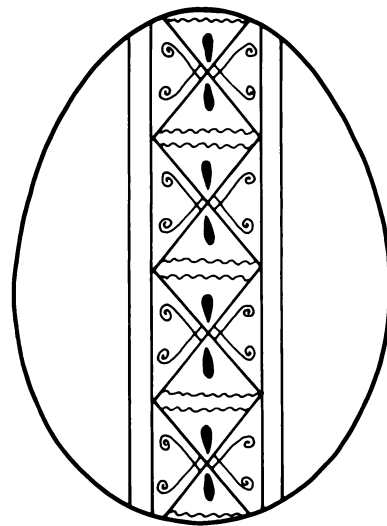


WHITE

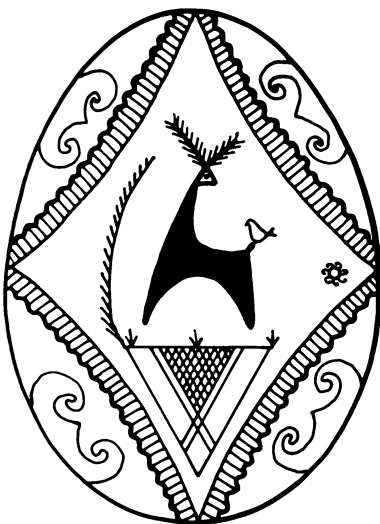
1. Medium, fine and heavy kistky.



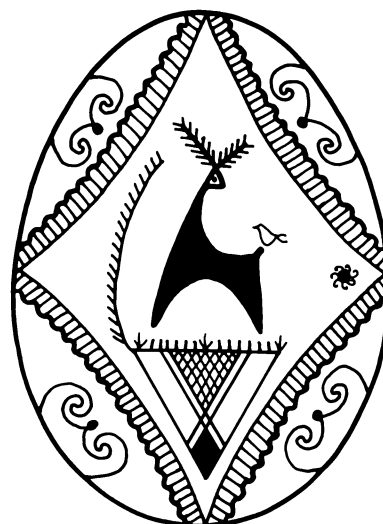
YELLOW
2. Fine kistka.



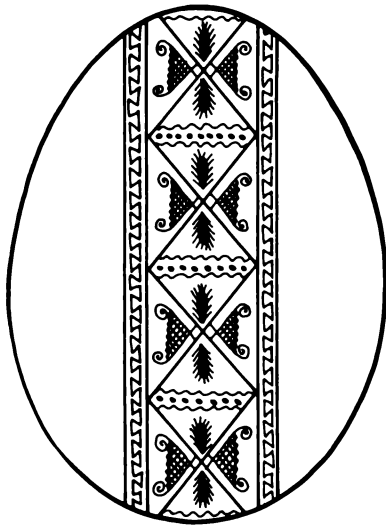
GREEN
3. Fine kistka.



YELLOW
2. Fine kistka.



GREEN
3. Fine kistka.



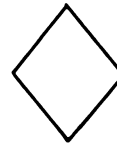
ORANGE
4. Fine kistka.

PURPLE
5. Last color.

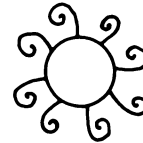
DEER
Wealth, prosperity and leadership.



DIAMOND
Can mean knowledge.



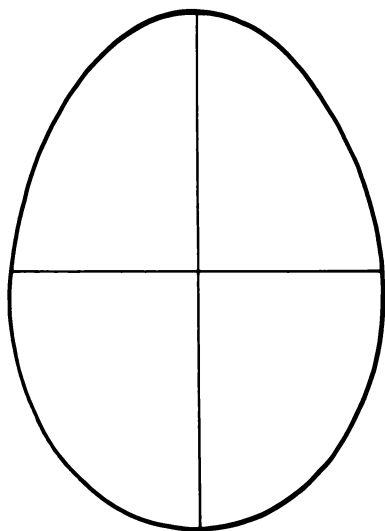
LITTLE SPIDERS
Patience.



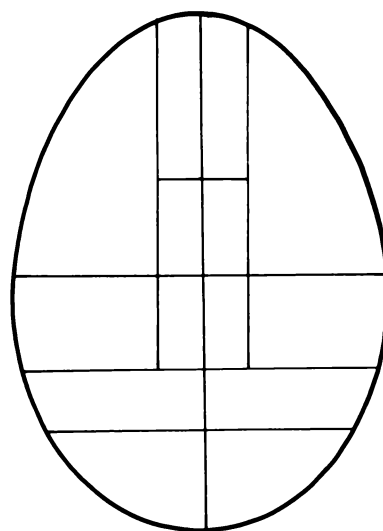
PURPLE
Fasting, faith, patience and trust.

Egg Number 13

Pencil:

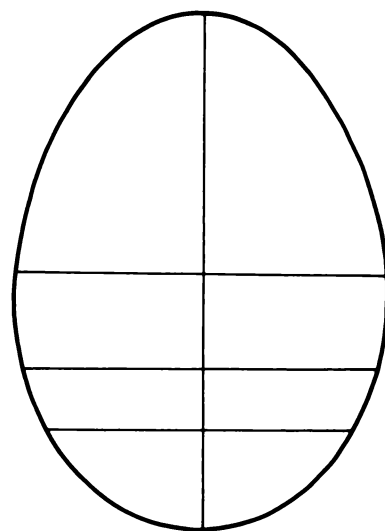


1. Divide the egg into eighths, A division.



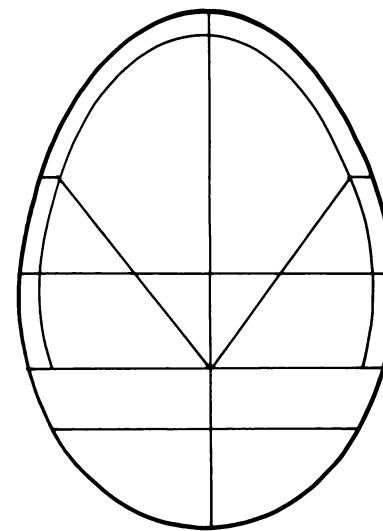
SIDE VIEW

3. Draw parallel lines going over the top of the egg and also the dividing lines for the border.



FRONT VIEW

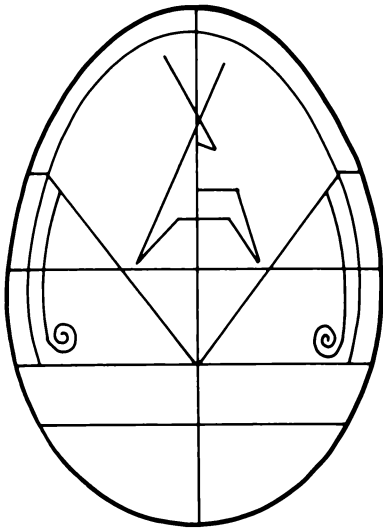
2. Draw parallel lines around the egg.



FRONT VIEW

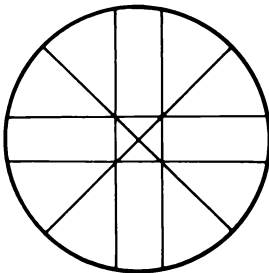
4. Begin creating the design with diagonal lines.

Kistka:



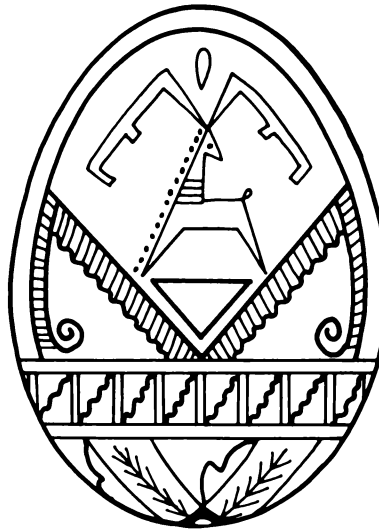
FRONT VIEW

5. Draw in deer shape and spirals.

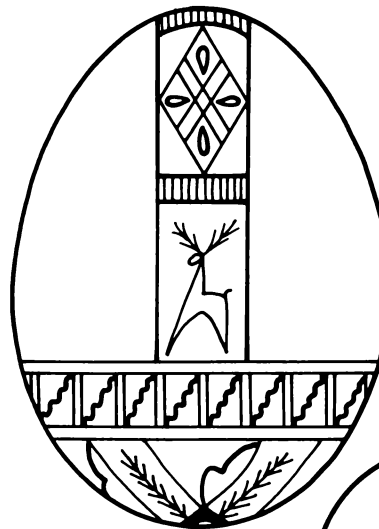


BOTTOM VIEW

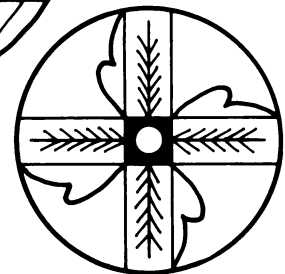
6. Draw criss cross parallel lines on the bottom of the egg. It will look like this.



FRONT VIEW



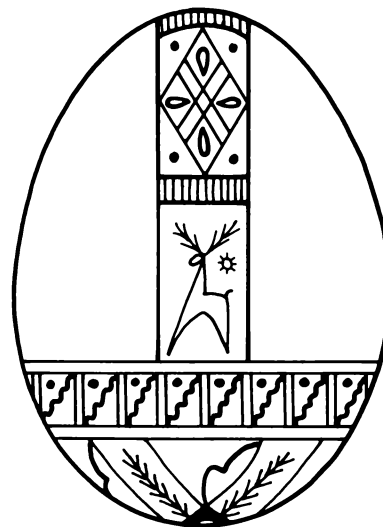
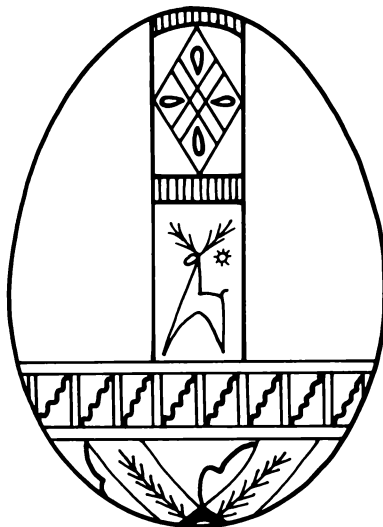
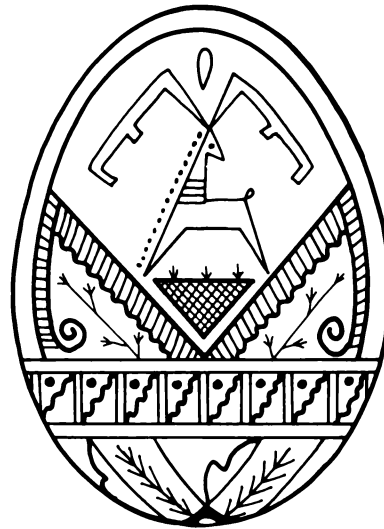
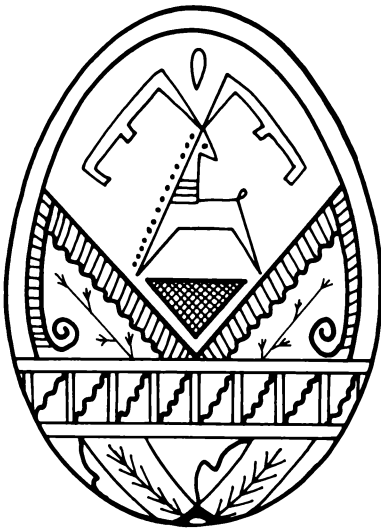
SIDE VIEW



BOTTOM VIEW

WHITE

1. Using medium kistka, start by writing parallel lines around the bottom of the egg. Use fine, medium and heavy kistky to complete the design.

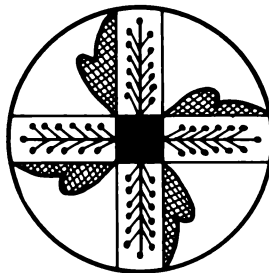
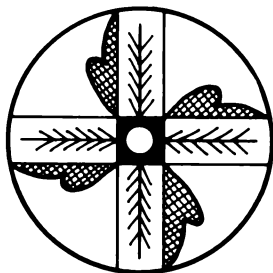
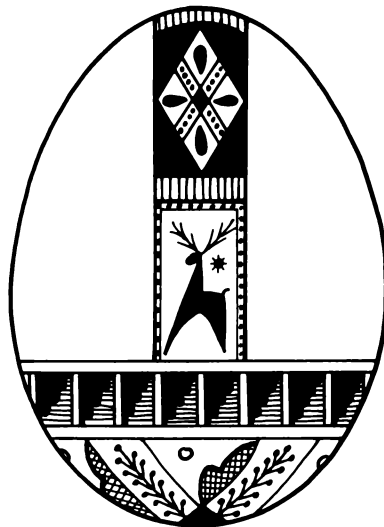
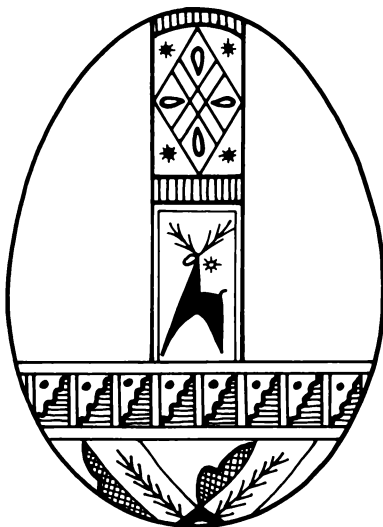
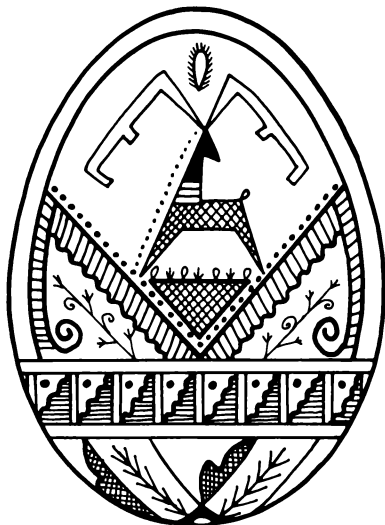


YELLOW

2. Use the fine kistka.

GREEN

3. Dab on green color, cover with fine and heavy kistky.



ORANGE
4. Fine kistka.

RED
5. Heavy kistka.

ROYAL BLUE

6. Last color.

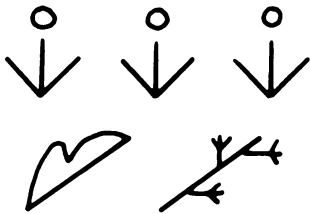
DEER

Wealth, prosperity and leadership.



MANY PLANT SYMBOLS

New life, happiness, growth and plentiful harvest.



LADDERS

Prayers and getting to heaven.

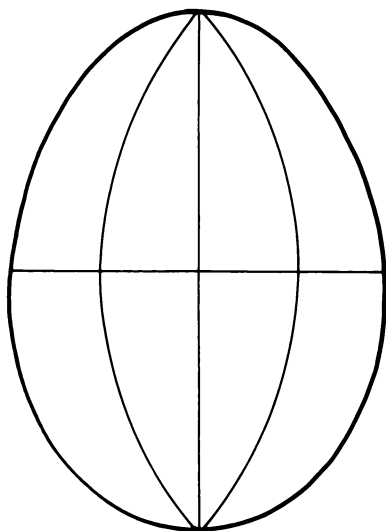


ROYAL BLUE

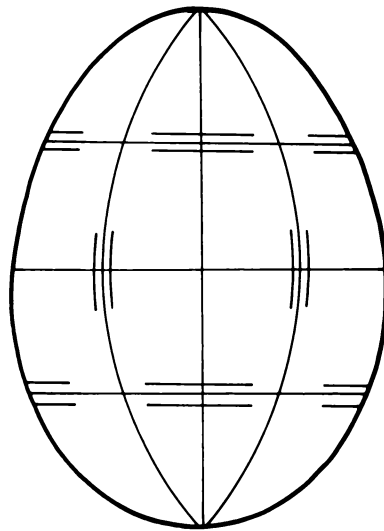
Royal color, higher life and trust.

Egg Number 14

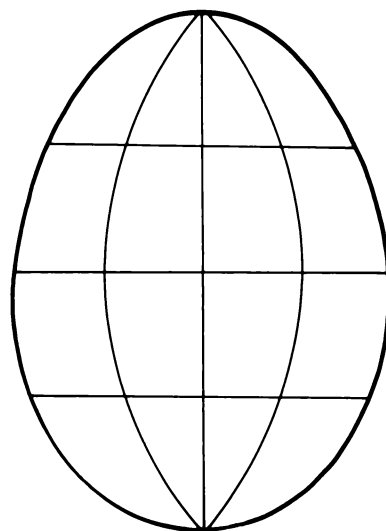
Pencil:



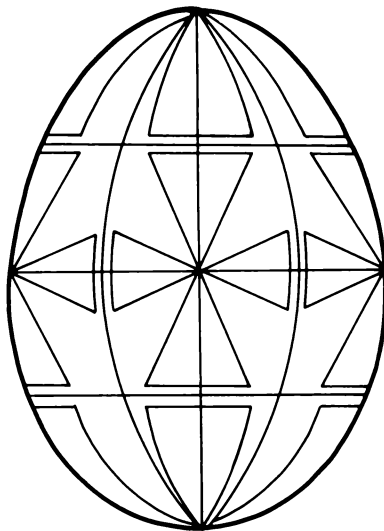
1. Divide the egg into sixteenths, the C division.



3. Sketch parallel lines as shown.

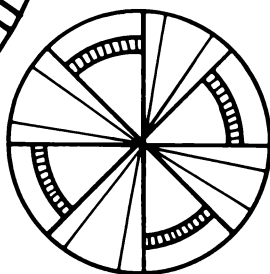
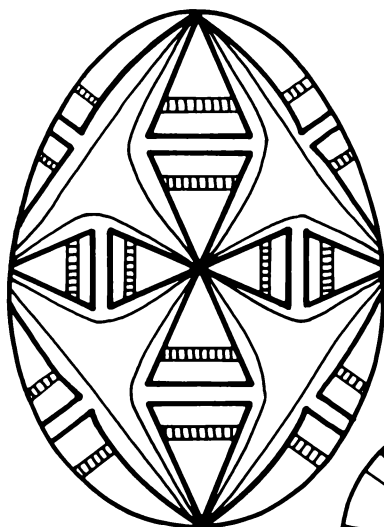


2. Draw parallel lines.



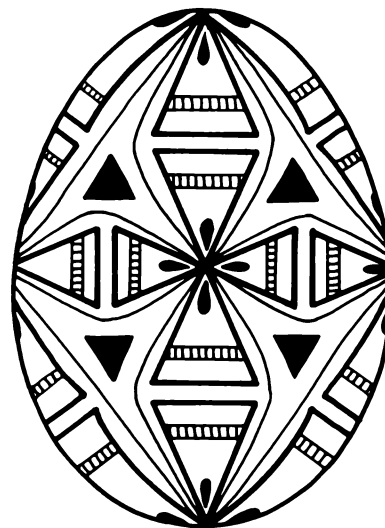
4. Connect the lines to form the cross design.

Kistka:



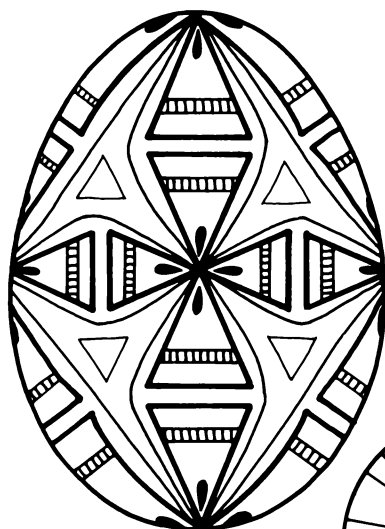
WHITE

1. Use the heavy and the medium or fine kistka.



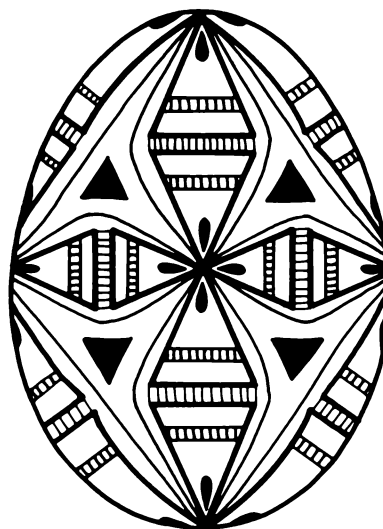
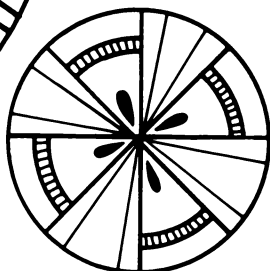
GREEN

3. Medium kistka.



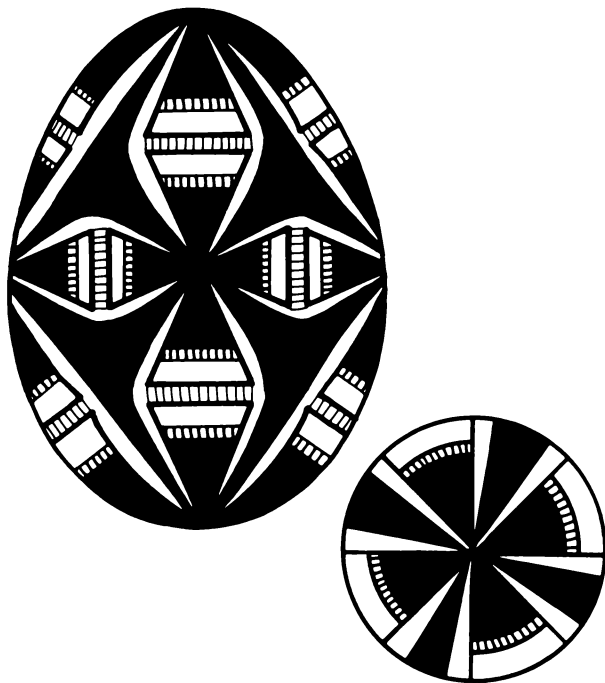
YELLOW

2. Fine kistka.



ORANGE

4. Fine kistka.

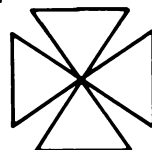


BRICK
5. Heavy kistka.

BLACK
6. Final color.

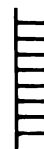
CROSS

Another of the many variations of crosses representing the suffering of Christ for our salvation.



LADDERS

Usually used in combination with other designs, symbol of ascent into heaven and prayers.



TRIANGLES

Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

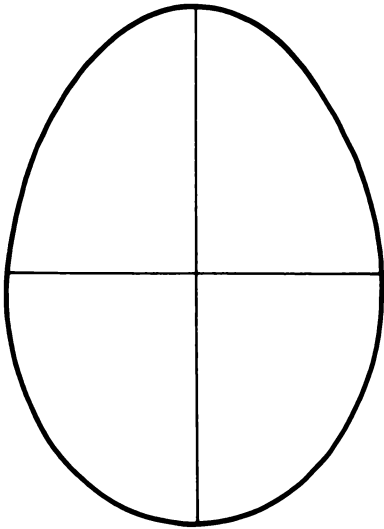


BROWN COLOR

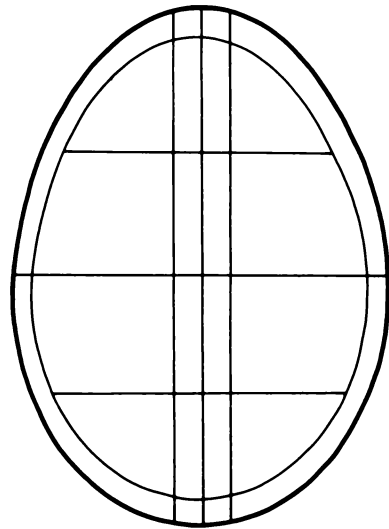
Mother earth and her gifts, also a color of the harvest.

Egg Number 15

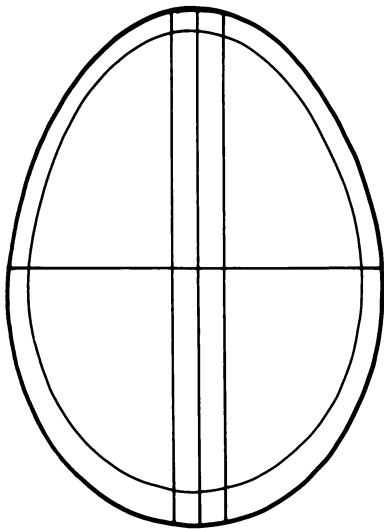
Pencil:



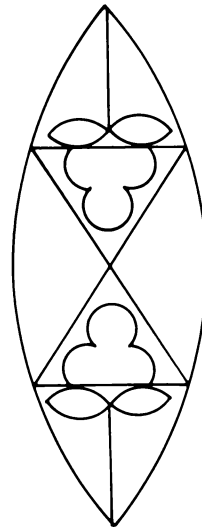
1. Divide the egg into eighths, using the A division.



3. Add two parallel lines for a guide.

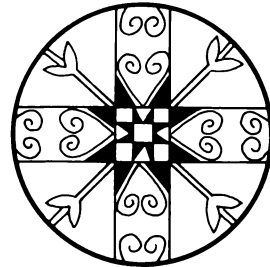
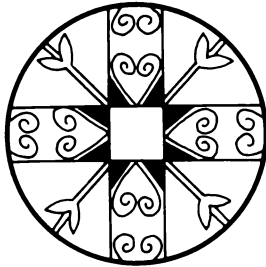
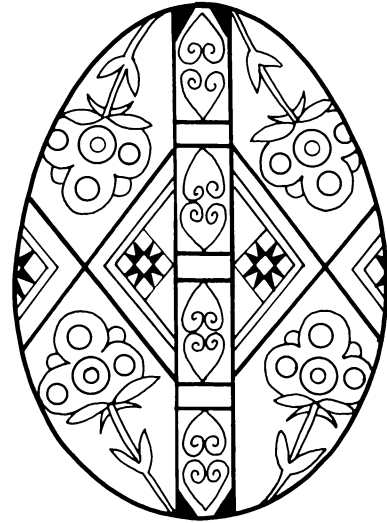
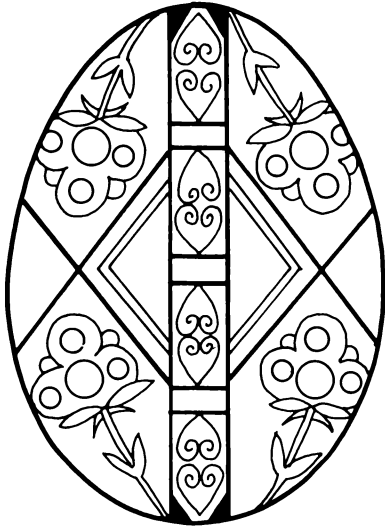


2. Draw two sets of parallel lines dividing the egg into four equal parts.



4. In each of the four sections, draw as shown.

Kistka:

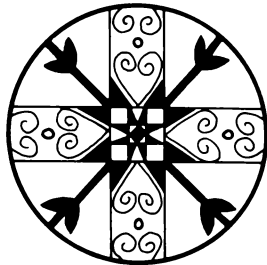
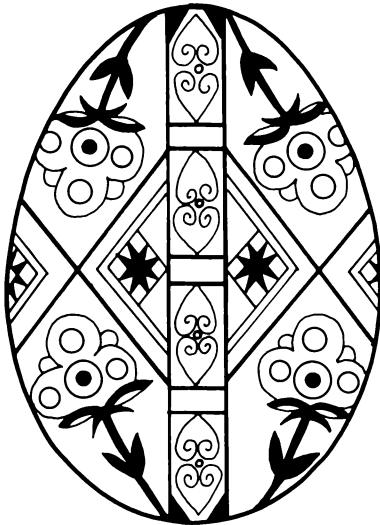


WHITE

1. Use medium and fine kistky.

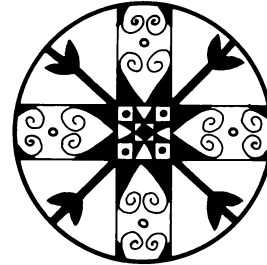
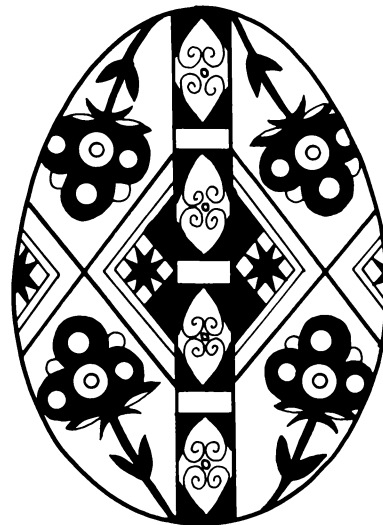
YELLOW

2. Fine kistka.



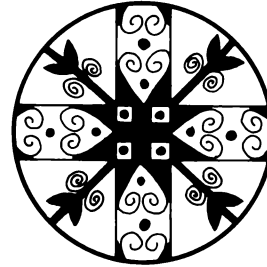
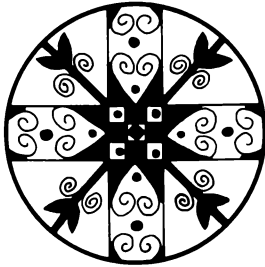
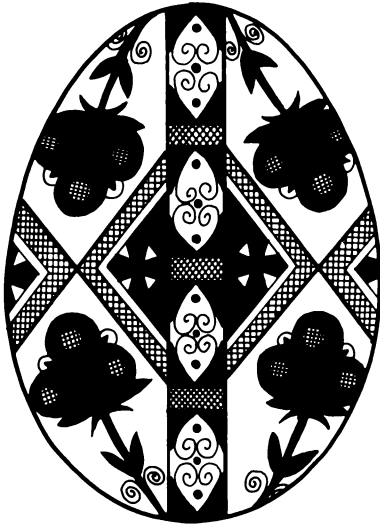
LIGHT GREEN

3. Dip egg in and out of the dye quickly, watch it so the green remains light and even. Use the medium kistka for filling, use fine kistka for circles and border.



BLUE

4. To a cup of water add 1 tablespoon of vinegar and 2 tablespoons of prepared light blue dye. Dip the egg into solution until desired shade is reached. Because the design is fine, cover the blue areas with the medium kistka.



ORANGE RINSE

5. Dip egg into orange dye to wash away as much blue dye as possible.

ORANGE

6. Fine and medium kistky.

RED

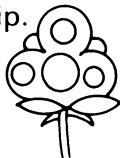
7. Medium kistka.

DARK RED

8. Last color.

GRAPES

Christian symbol of the growing church, wine of holy communion and good fellowship.



TRIANGLES

Father, Son and Holy Ghost.



BLUE

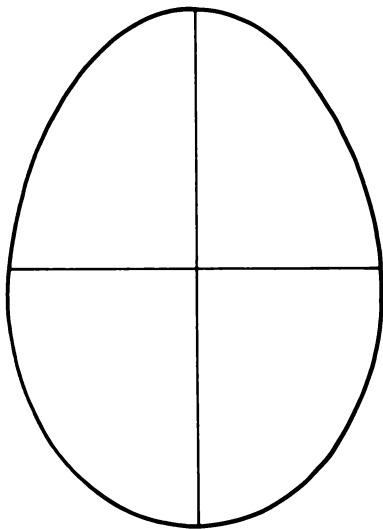
(used sparingly)
good health.

DARK RED

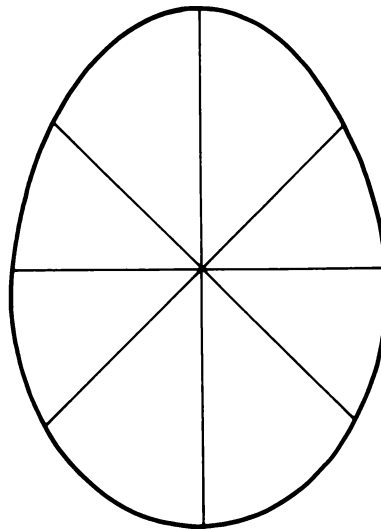
Harvest color, denotes the gathering of the fruit in the fall.

Egg Number 16

Pencil:

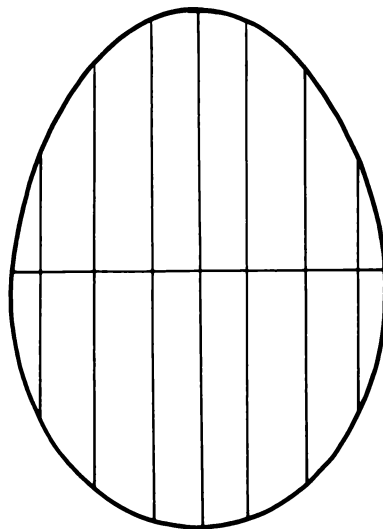


1. Divide the egg into eighths using the A division.



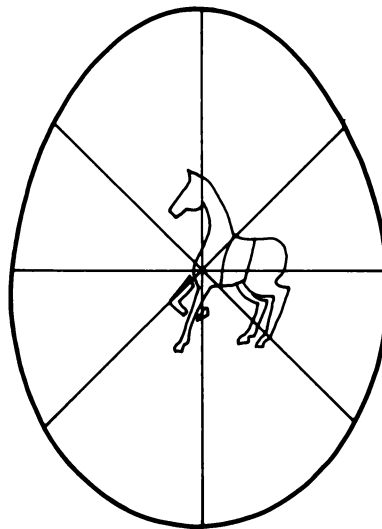
FRONT

3. Divide the front part of the egg into eighths. Pencil lines are drawn to the border.



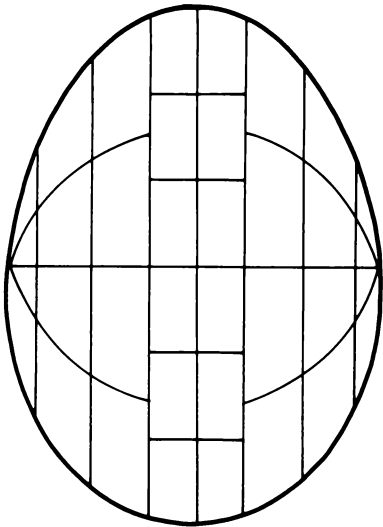
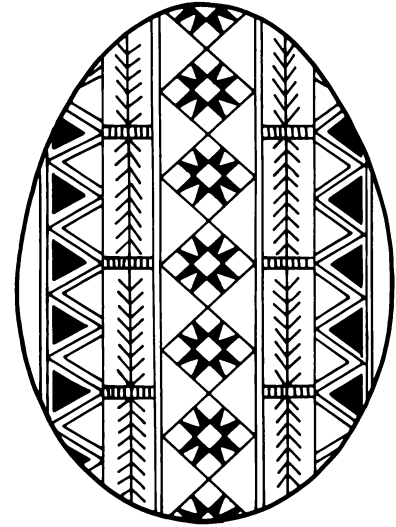
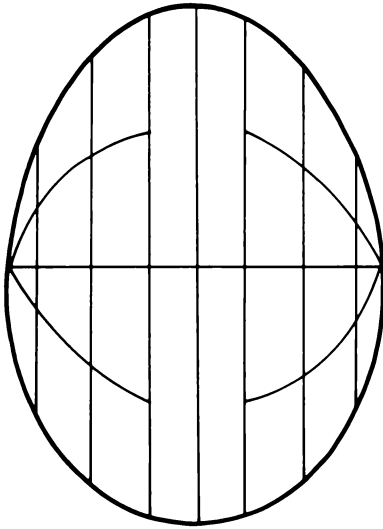
BORDER

2. Draw in parallel lines as shown for border.

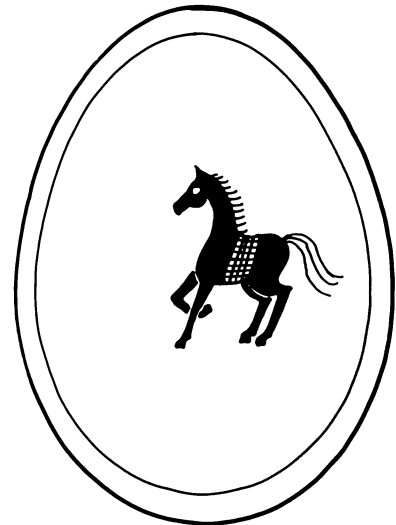


Sketch in the horse.

Kistka:

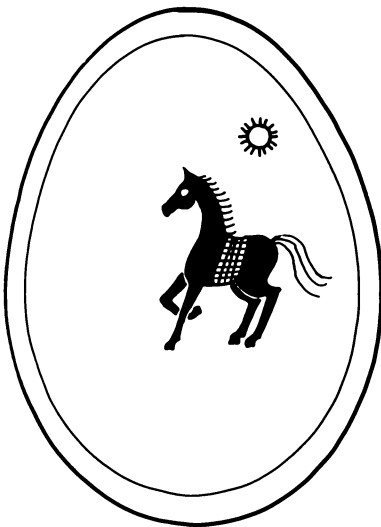
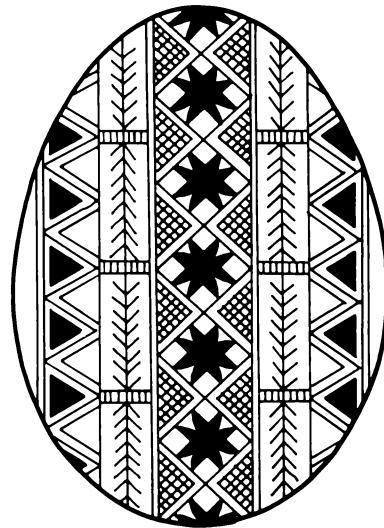
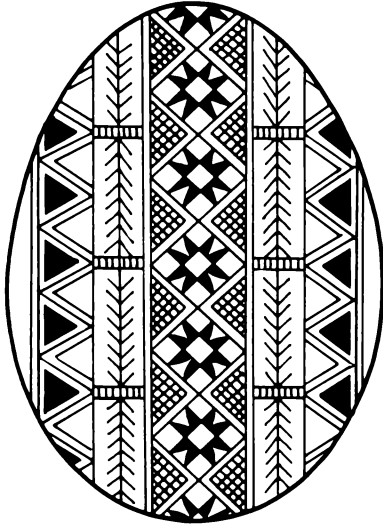


4. Up to now, the main border design is divided into four equal parts around the egg. Each quarter will now be divided into thirds. This is done by drawing in two lines in each quarter. We will now have twelve equal divisions.

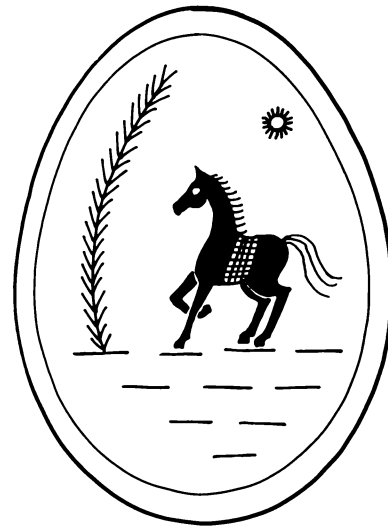


WHITE

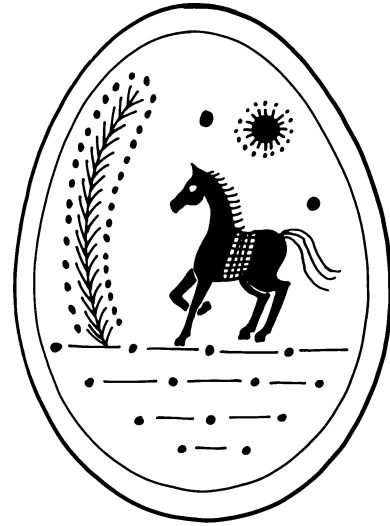
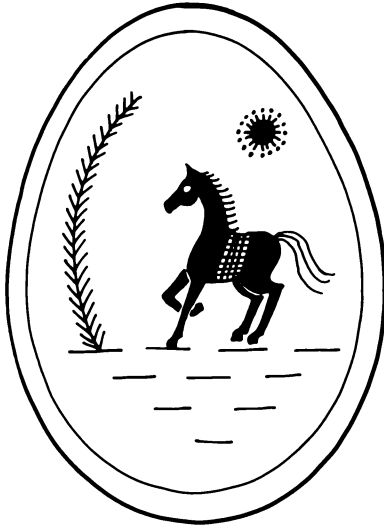
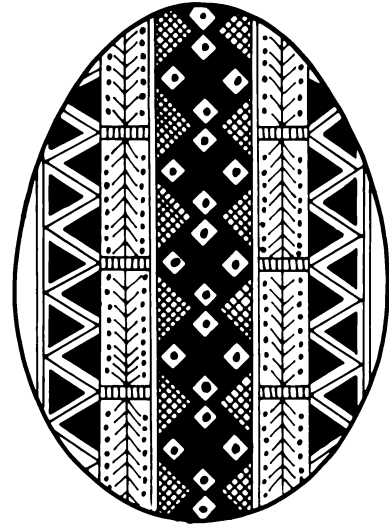
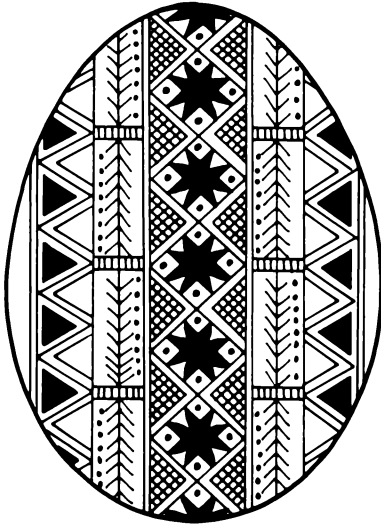
1. Fine kistka.



YELLOW
2. Fine kistka.



GREEN
3. Fine and medium kistky.



ORANGE
4. Fine kistka.

PINK
5. Medium and heavy kistky.

PURPLE
6. Last color.

HORSE
Wealth and prosperity.



SAW
A common line variation
indicating fire as the sym-
bol of life giving heat.



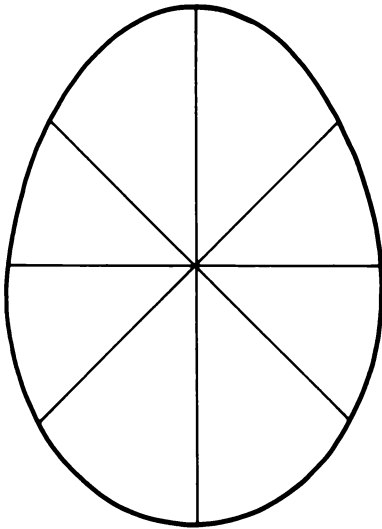
EVERGREEN
Health, stamina and
eternal youth.



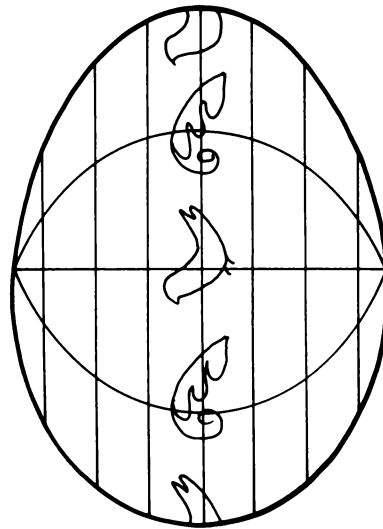
PURPLE
Fasting, faith, patience and
trust.

Egg Number 17

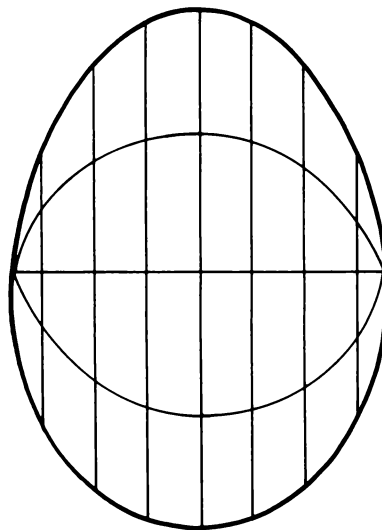
Pencil:



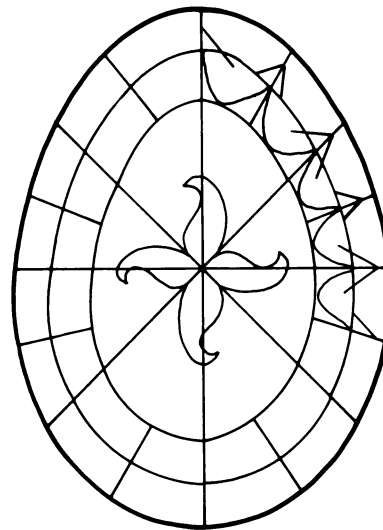
1. Divide the egg into sixteenths, B division.



3. Place birds and leaves on border as shown.



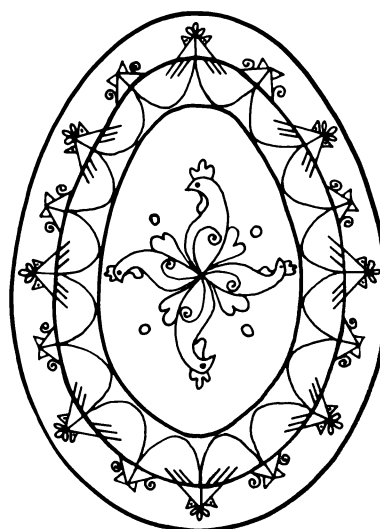
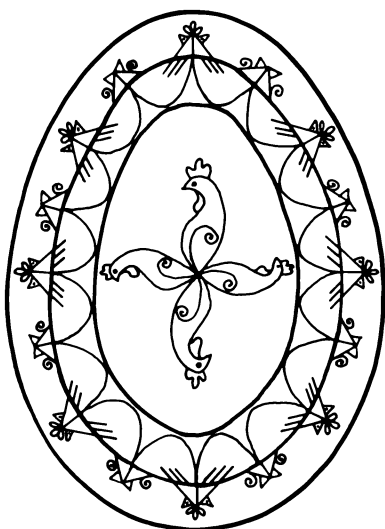
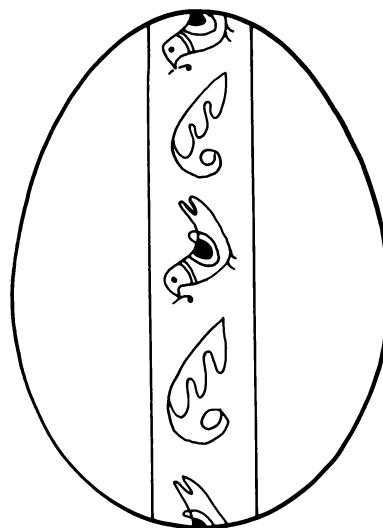
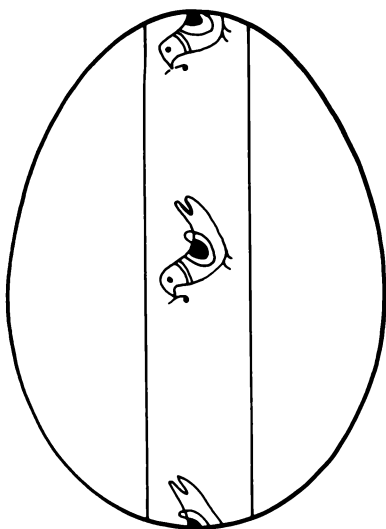
2. Draw parallel lines to form border and guide lines.



FRONT VIEW

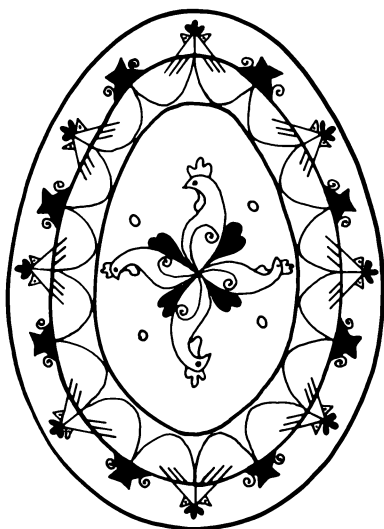
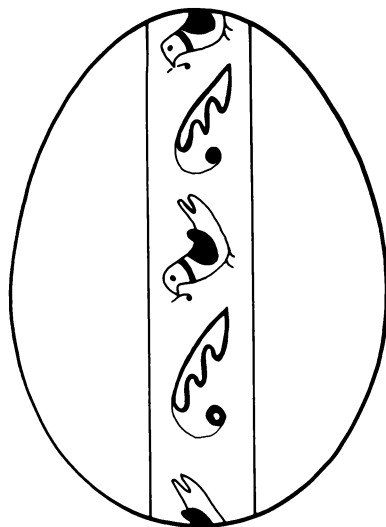
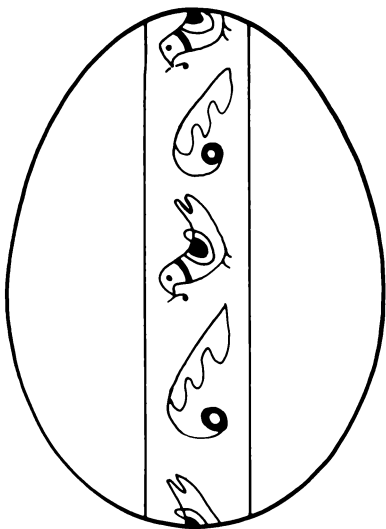
4. Divide each section in half again.
5. Sketch in scalloped lines which will form the continuous bird design. Also sketch in center bird-windmill pattern.

Kistka:

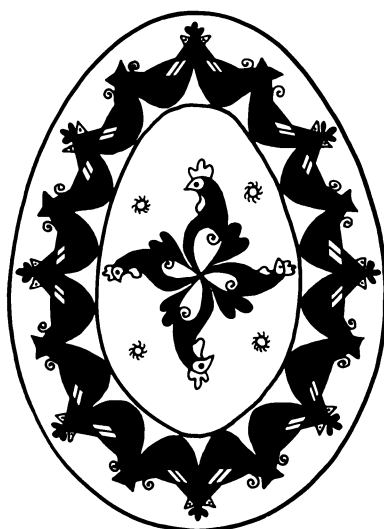


WHITE
1. Fine kistka.

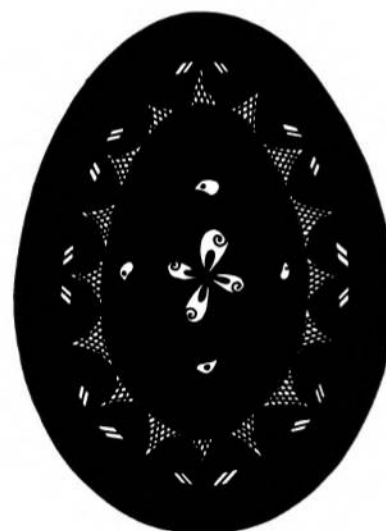
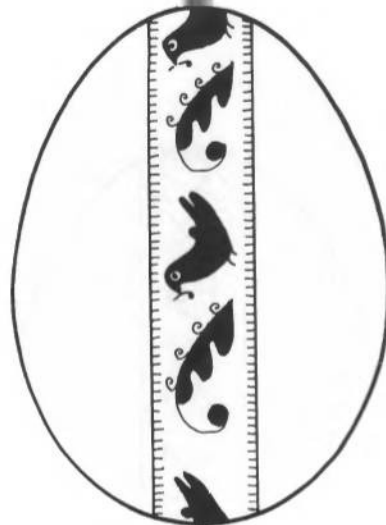
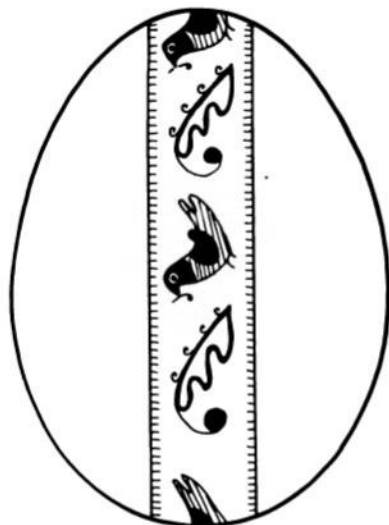
YELLOW
2. Fine kistka.



GREEN
3. Medium kistka.



ORANGE
4. Medium kistka.



RED

5. Fine kistka for net line, heavy kistka for filling in larger areas.

DARK RED

6. Heavy kistka.

BLACK

7. Final color.

ROOSTER

Stylized form, almost always shown at rest; symbolizes a rich married life with the blessing of many children.



HEN

Fertility.

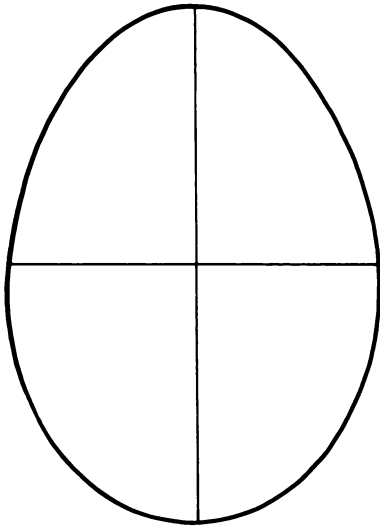


ORANGE COLOR

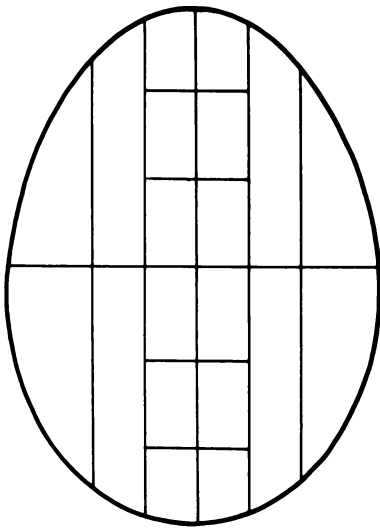
Strength and endurance.

Egg Number 18

Pencil:

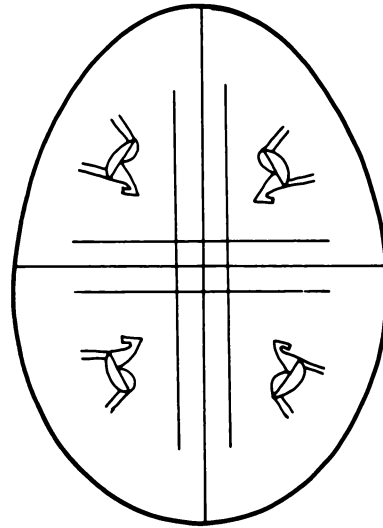


1. Divide the egg into eighths, A division.



BORDER

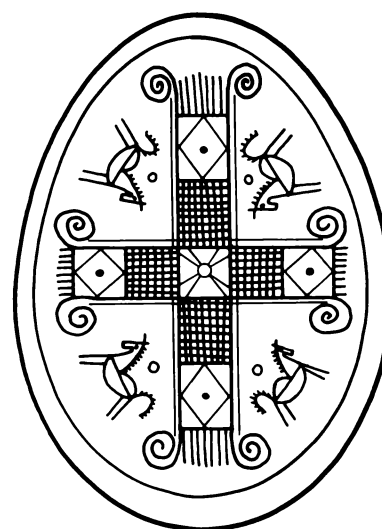
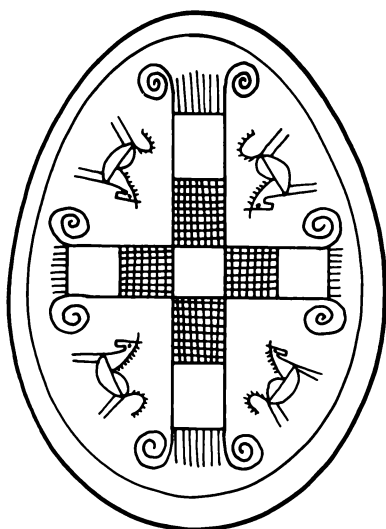
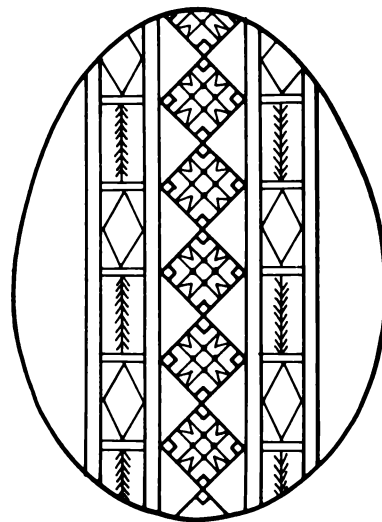
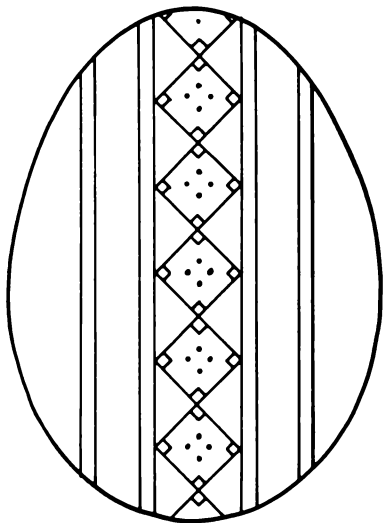
2. Draw four lines parallel to the center line and divide each quarter into thirds. Draw in two lines in each section of the border. This will give twelve equal divisions to the border design.



FRONT VIEW

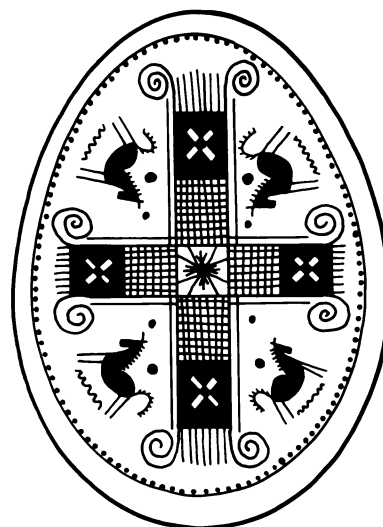
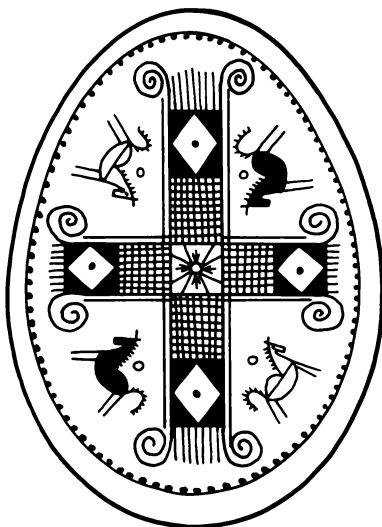
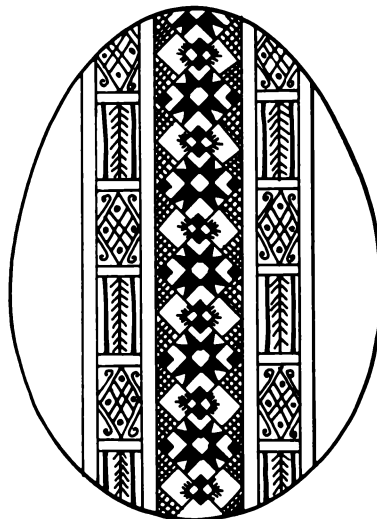
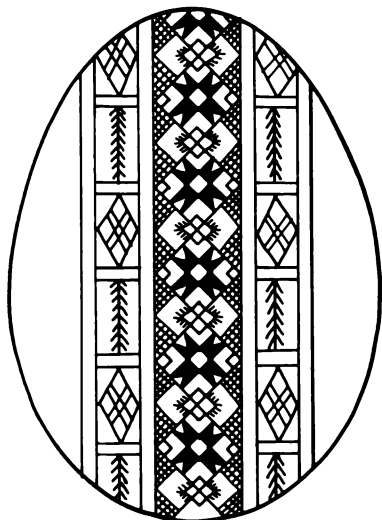
3. Draw in double parallel lines to form a cross. Pencil in horse patterns.

Kistka:



WHITE
1. Fine kistka.

RED
2. Fine kistka.



ORANGE

3. Fine and medium kistky.

YELLOW

4. Fine, medium and heavy kistky.

LIGHT GREEN

5. Final color.

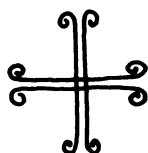
HORSE

Wealth and prosperity.



CROSS PATTERN

Represents the braided Paska or Easter bread.



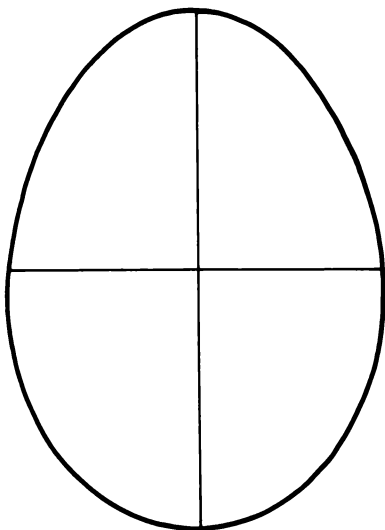
WATER

Symbolizes wealth; you can't have a crop without rain.

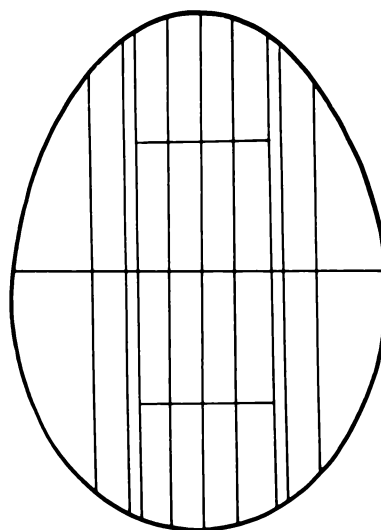


Egg Number 19

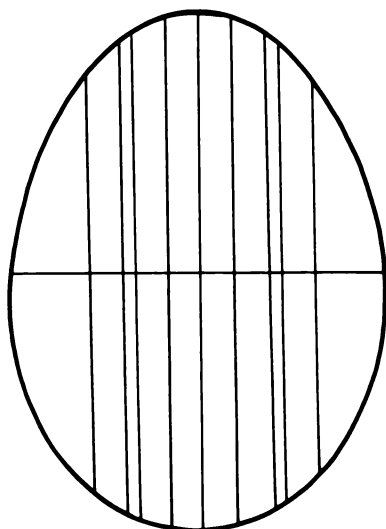
Pencil:



1. Divide the egg into eighths, A division.

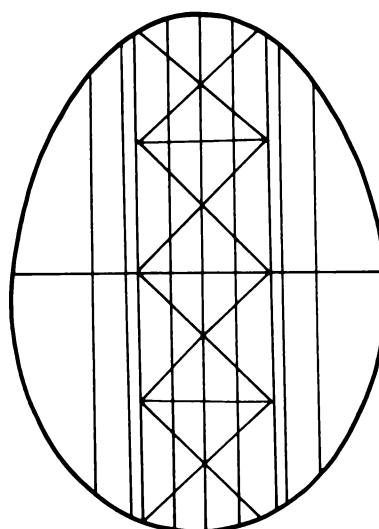


3. Divide each quarter of the border in half.

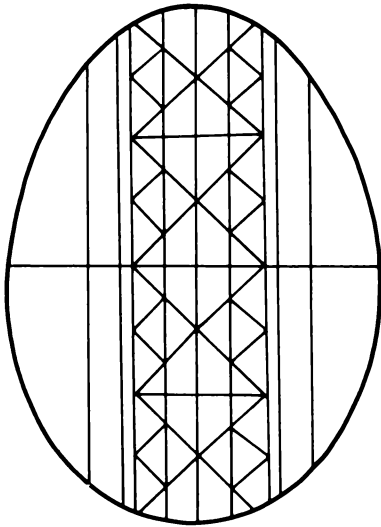


SIDE VIEW

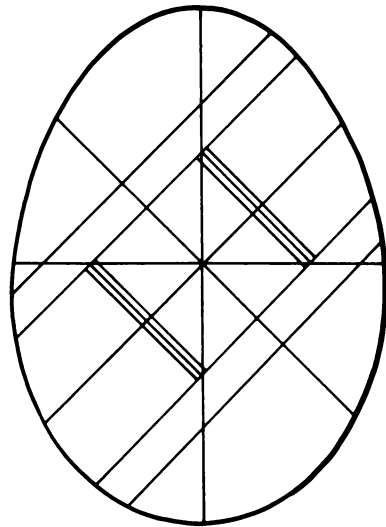
2. Draw in four parallel lines on each side of the center dividing line for the border and guide lines.



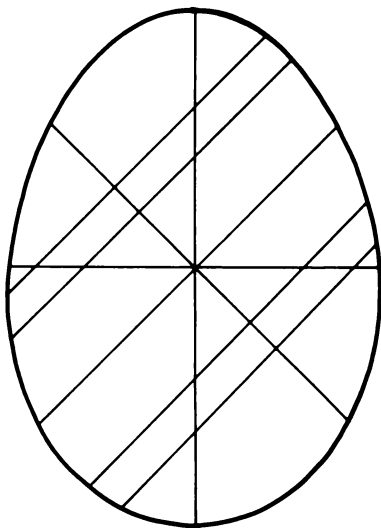
4. Sketch in the criss cross lines of the diamond shapes.



5. Add the short lines to form the diamonds and triangles.

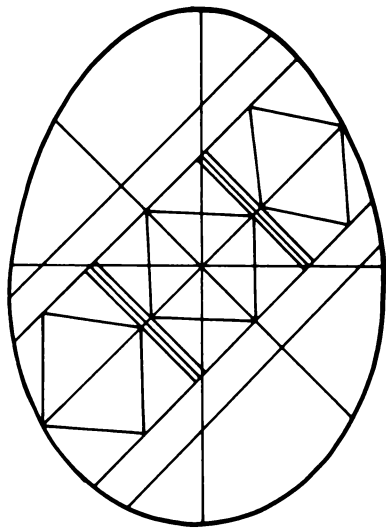


7. Divide diagonal design into three equal parts.



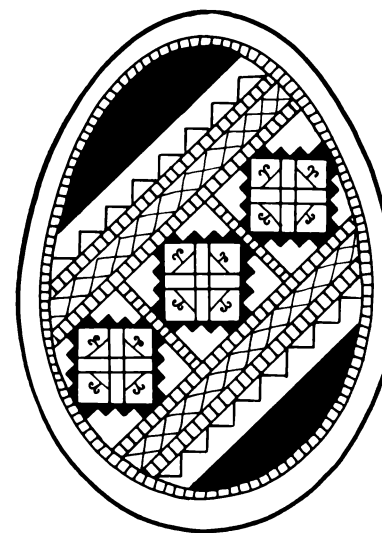
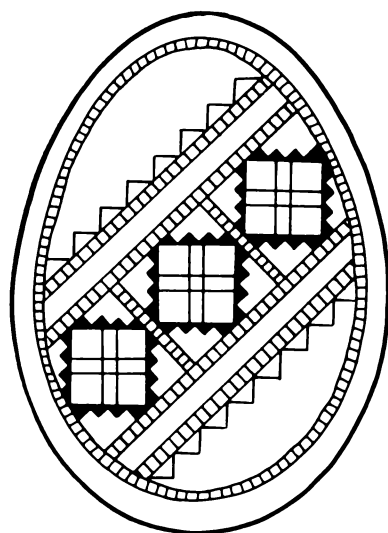
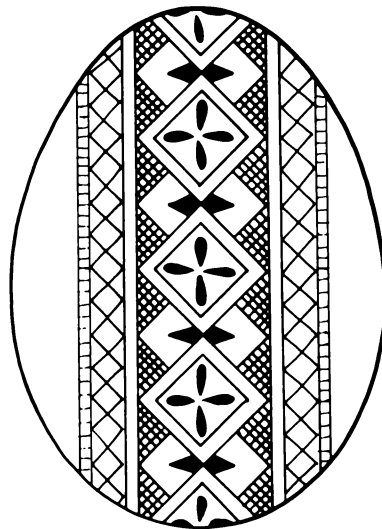
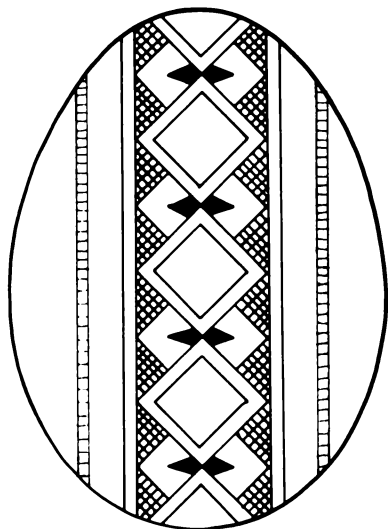
FRONT VIEW

6. Draw in four parallel lines to the diagonal on the face of the design.



8. Draw in diamond shapes.

Kistka:

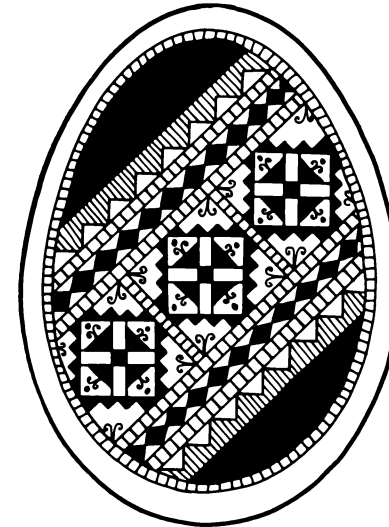
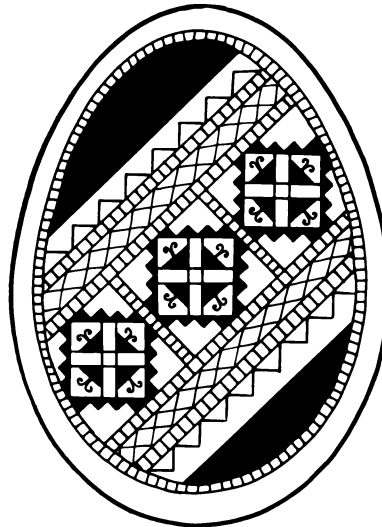
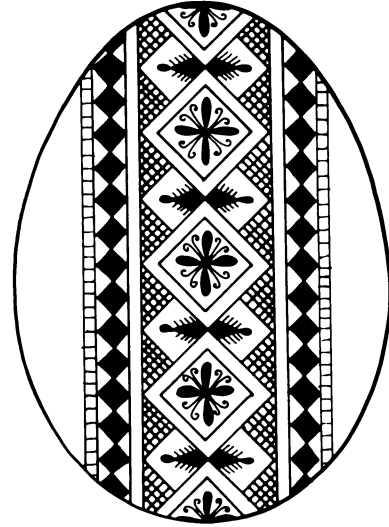
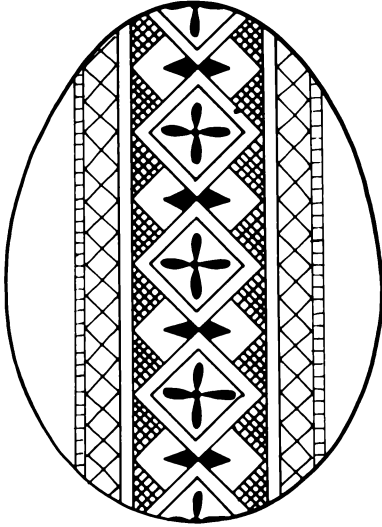


WHITE

1. Fine kistka.

YELLOW

2. Fine, medium and heavy kistky.



GREEN

3. Fine kistka.

ORANGE

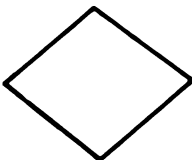
4. Fine and medium kistky.

DARK RED

5. Last color.

DIAMONDS

Indicates knowledge.



LADDERS

Symbolic of searching;
rising above petty prob-
lems of life.



WOLVES TEETH

Denote loyalty, wisdom
and a firm grip.

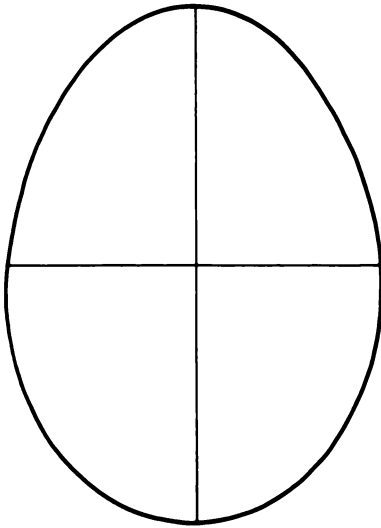


YELLOW

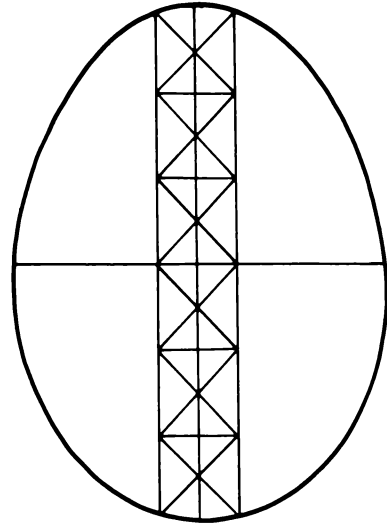
Symbol of light, purity,
youth, happiness and
hospitality.

Egg Number 20

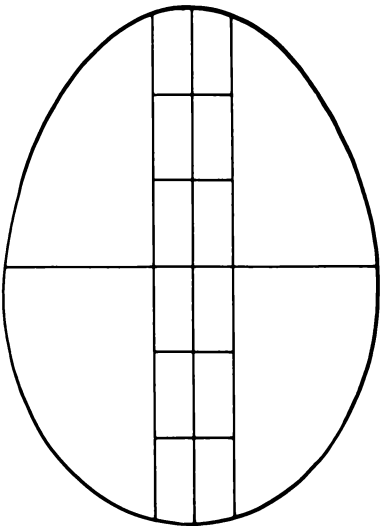
Pencil:



1. Divide the egg into eighths, A division.

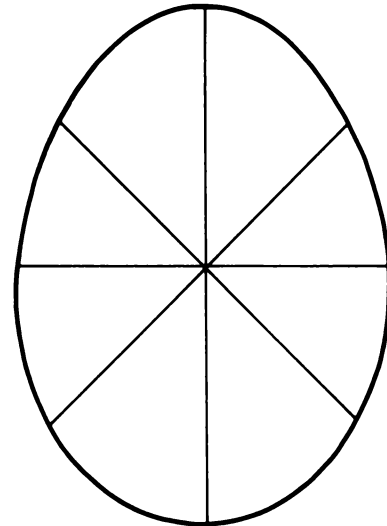


3. Connect the dividing lines with criss cross lines.



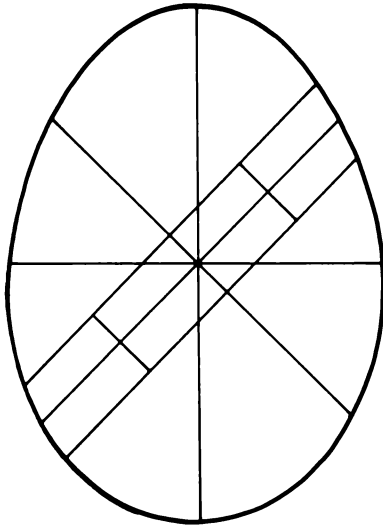
BORDER

2. Draw in two parallel lines to central dividing line, then divide each quarter into three equal parts. We will have twelve diamonds going around the egg.

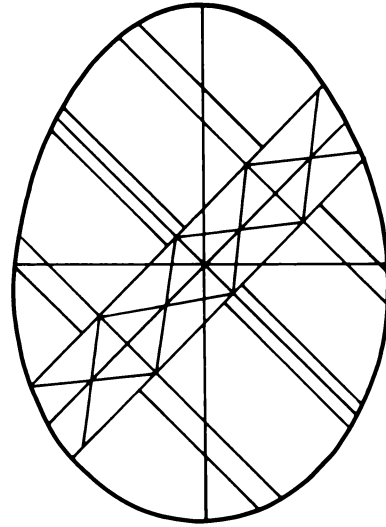


FRONT VIEW

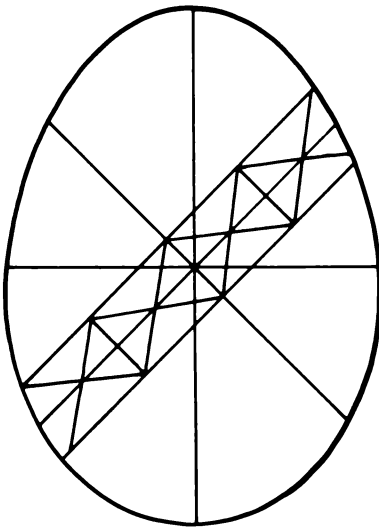
4. Divide each section in half again.



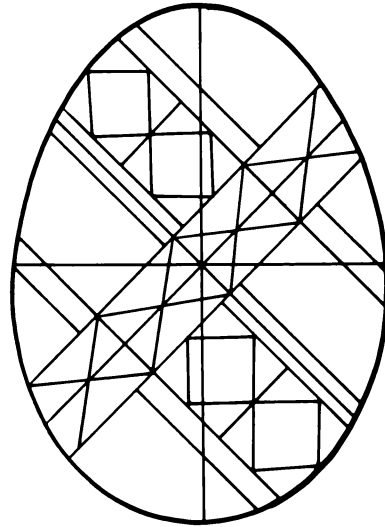
5. Draw in diagonal parallel lines. Divide each section in half as shown.



7. Sketch in parallel lines to form the sleeve of the blouse.

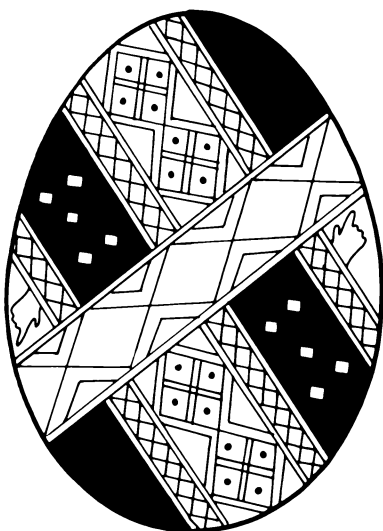
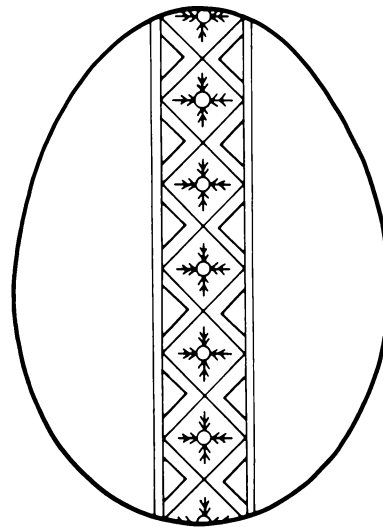
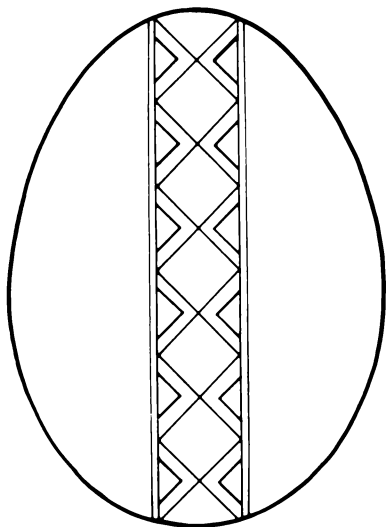


6. Draw in criss cross diamond pattern.

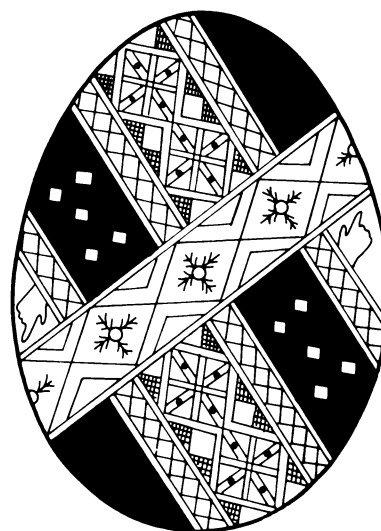


8. Draw in diamond. design.

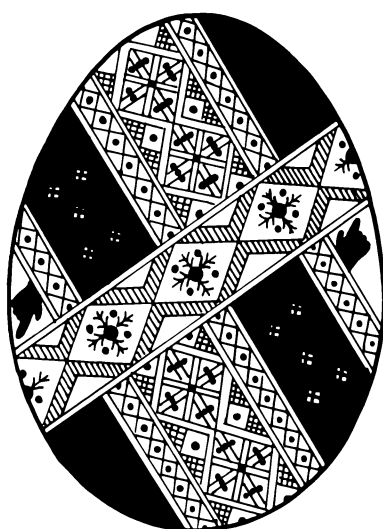
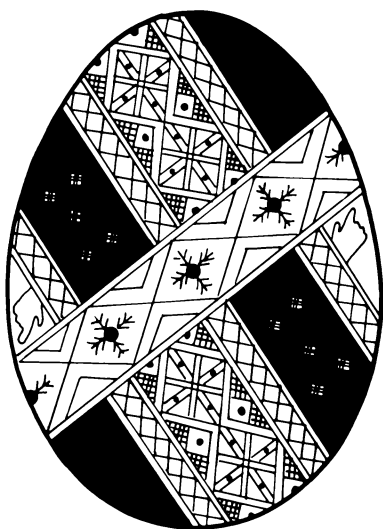
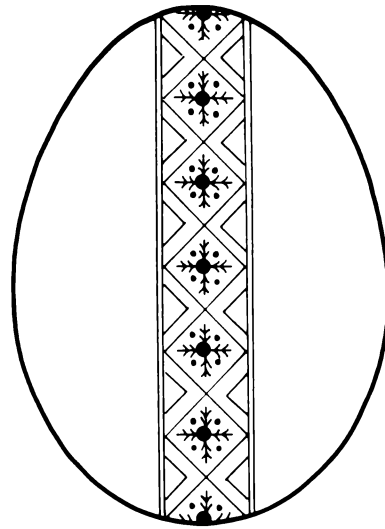
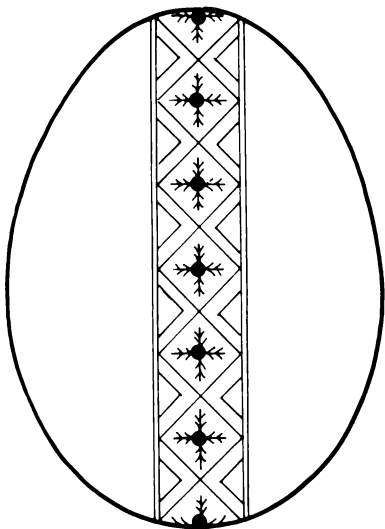
Kistka:



WHITE
1. Fine and heavy kisttky.

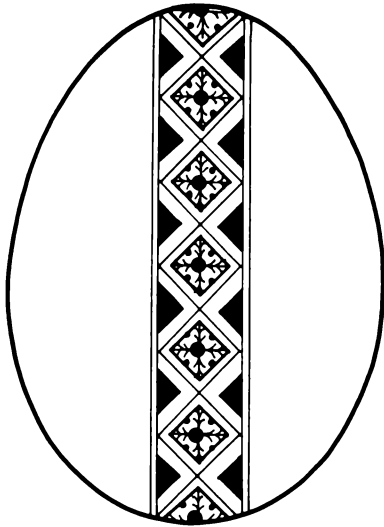


YELLOW
2. Fine kistka.



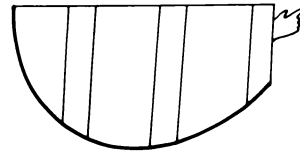
GREEN
3. Medium kistka.

ORANGE
4. Fine kistka.



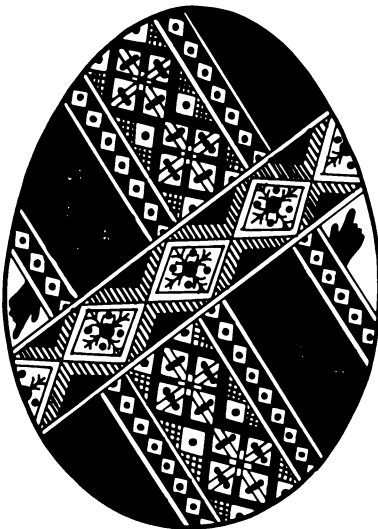
SLEEVE AND HAND OF A WOMAN

Geometric pattern signifies the beautiful embroidery of a blouse.



WHITE

Signifies purity and innocence.



RED

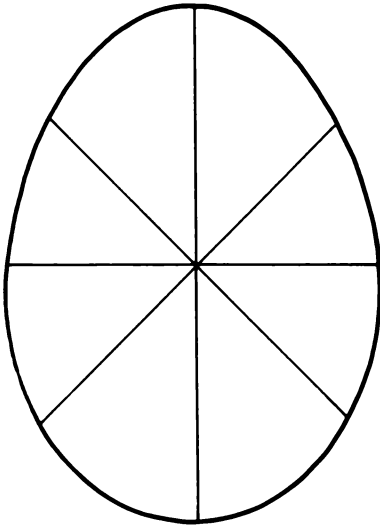
5. Fine and medium kistky.

BLACK

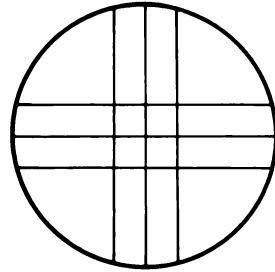
6. Final color.

Egg Number 21

Pencil:

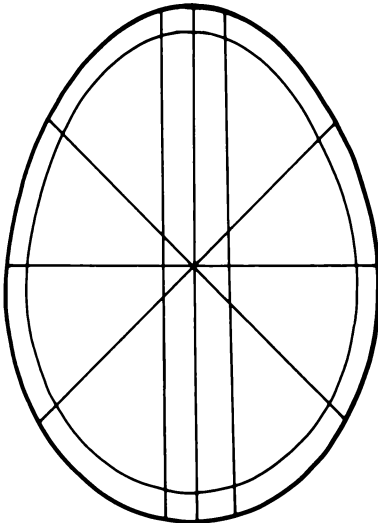


1. Divide the egg into sixteenths, B division.

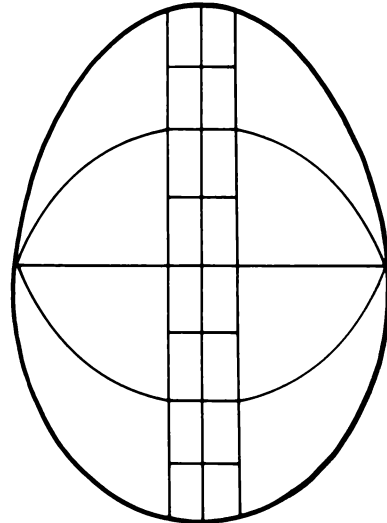


TOP VIEW

3. Top view after step two is completed.

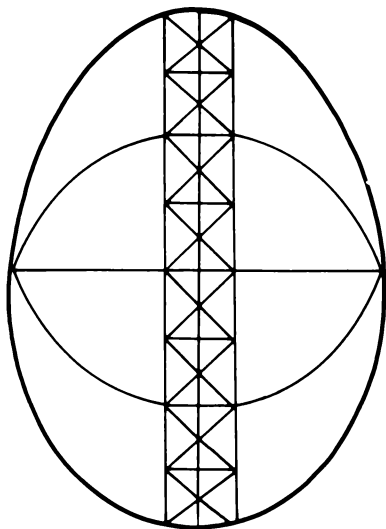


2. First, divide the egg into four equal long sections; two long borders that intersect at the top and bottom.

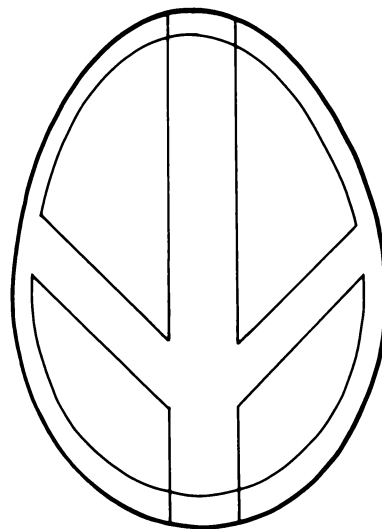


BORDER VIEW

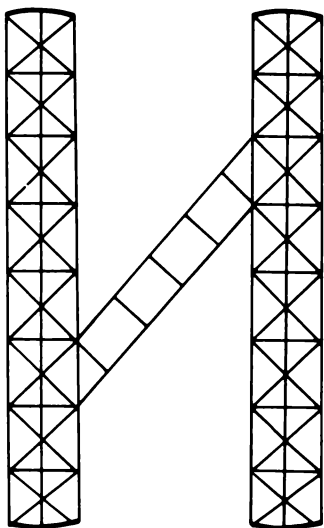
4. Divide each quarter of the border into four sections.



5. Connect the lines to form diamond shapes. Each of the four long borders will have seven complete diamonds and two halves.

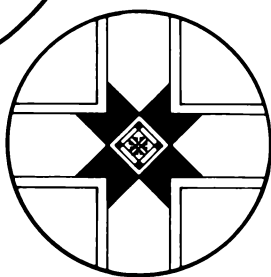
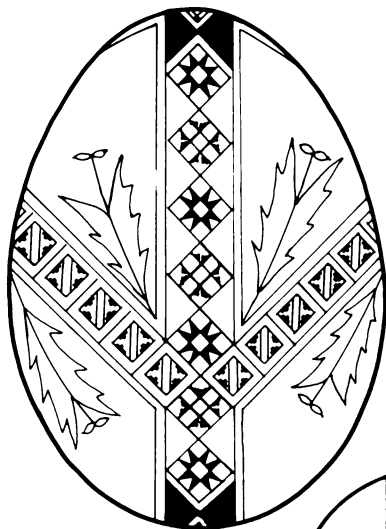


7. This will form a "Y" shape going up and on the other side, a "Y" shape going down.



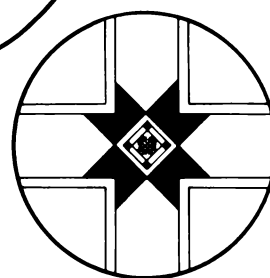
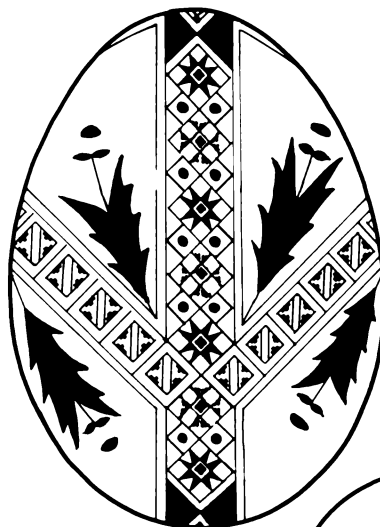
6. Connect the diagonal border from the second diamond of one border to the sixth diamond of the next, as shown.

Kistka:



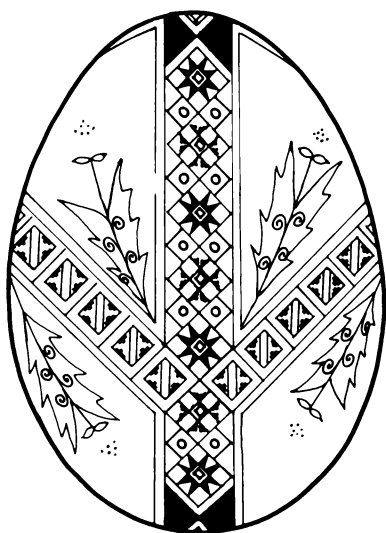
WHITE

1. Fine and medium kistky.



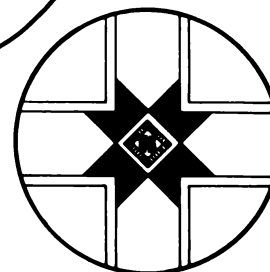
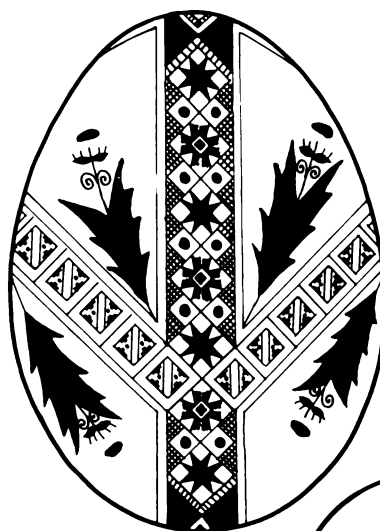
GREEN

3. Fine kistka.



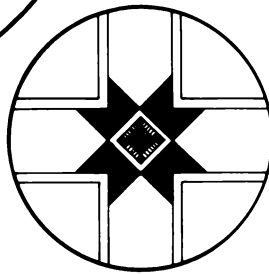
YELLOW

2. Fine kistka.



ORANGE

4. Fine kistka.



RED

5. Medium kistka.

BLACK

6. Last color.

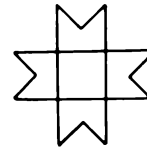
POPPY

Beloved flower of the Ukrainians, represented for their color, joy and beauty.



STARS

Used extensively, variations of patterns representing eternity seen within the egg, they mean completeness.

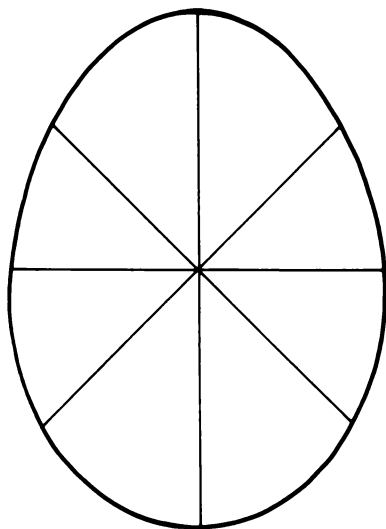


BLACK

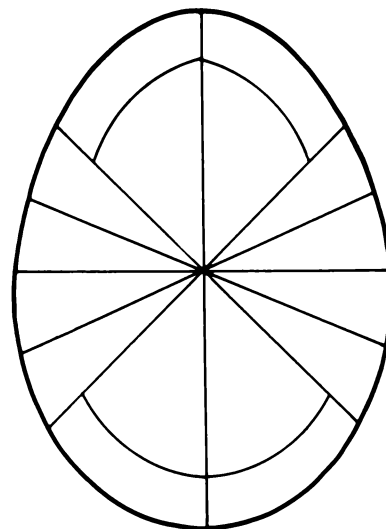
Darkest time before dawn.

Egg Number 22

Pencil:

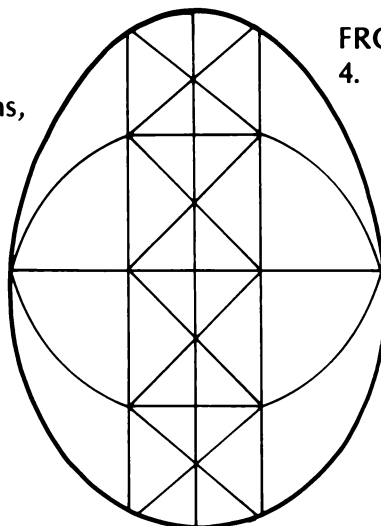


1. Divide the egg into sixteenths, B division.

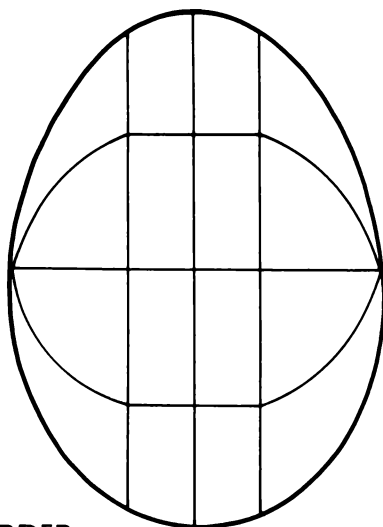


FRONT VIEW

4. Divide as shown with additional spoke lines and draw in curved guide lines.

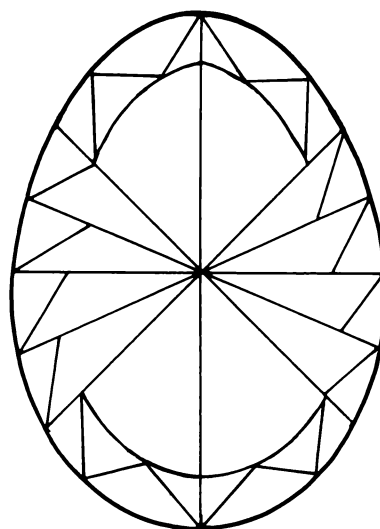


3. Sketch in diamond shaped border design.



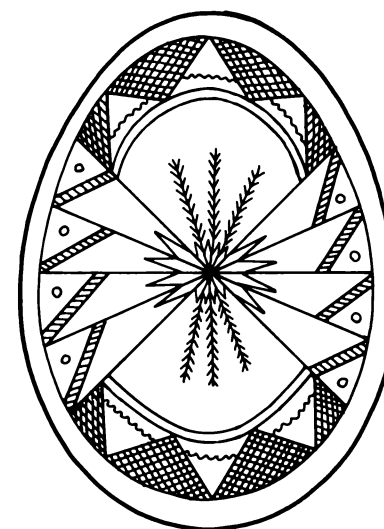
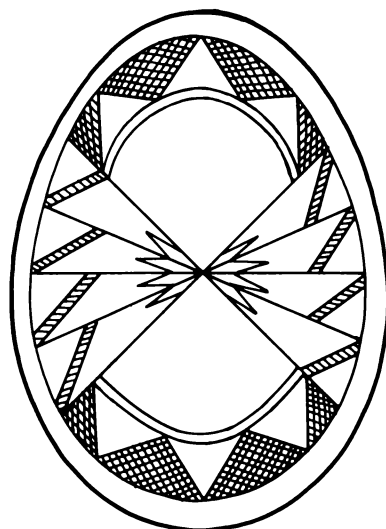
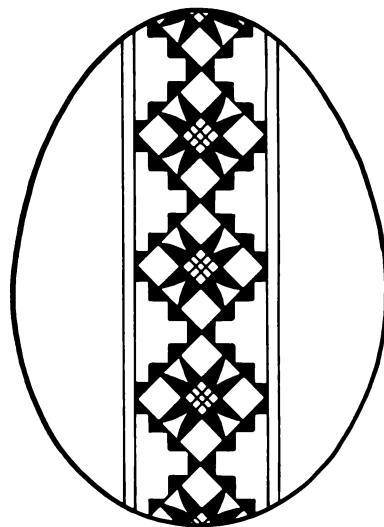
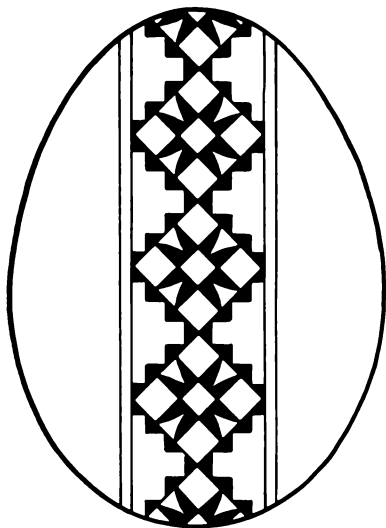
BORDER

2. Draw two lines parallel to the main dividing line creating a border in eight sections.



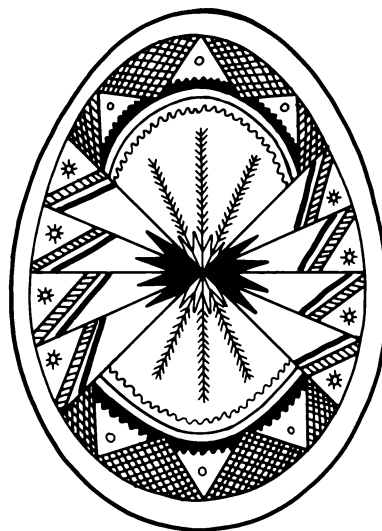
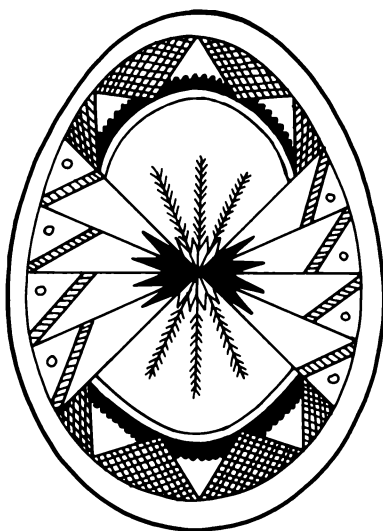
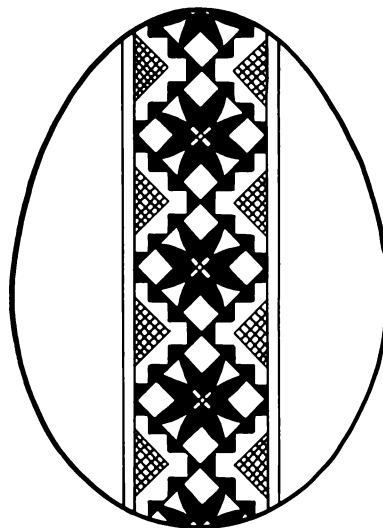
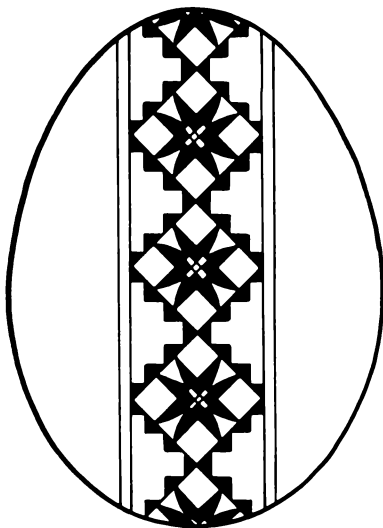
5. Sketch in additional short lines to form pattern.

Kistka:



WHITE
1. Fine kistka.

YELLOW
2. Fine kistka.

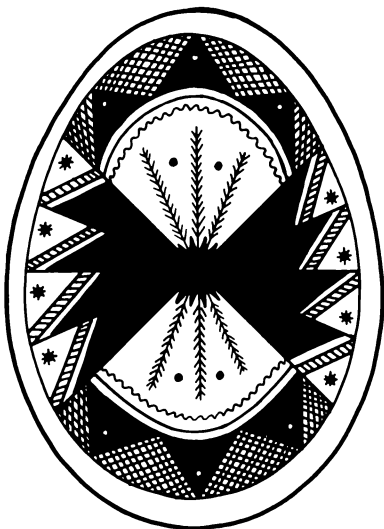
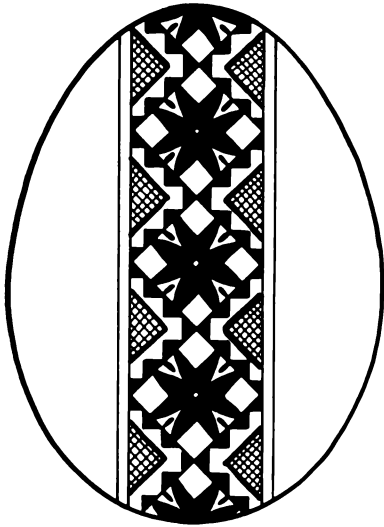


GREEN

3. Fine or medium kistka.

ORANGE

4. Fine, medium and heavy kistky.



RED

5. Medium and heavy kistky.

BLACK

6. Last color.

HALF STARS

Stylized pattern for purity and life.



PINE NEEDLES

Long life, virility



WATER

Means wealth, for all crops need water for a fruitful harvest.



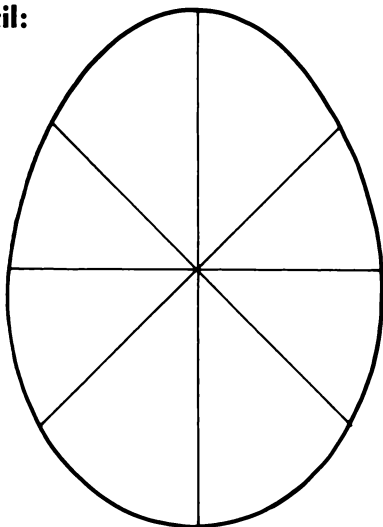
BLACK

Eternity, darkest time before dawn.

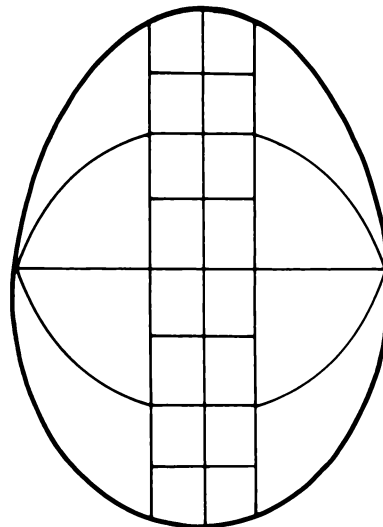
Egg Number 23

This design works best on a round egg.

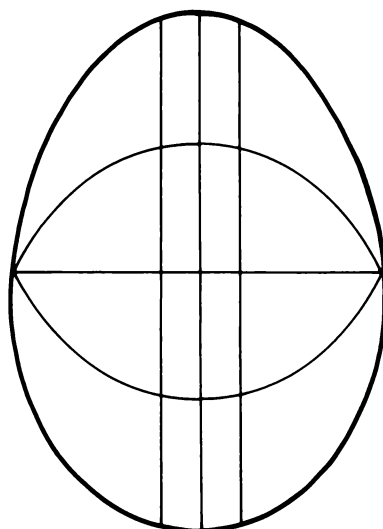
Pencil:



1. Divide the egg into sixteenths
B division.

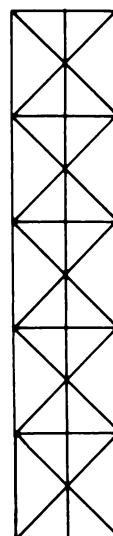


3. Divide each border section in half,
making sixteen equal sections.

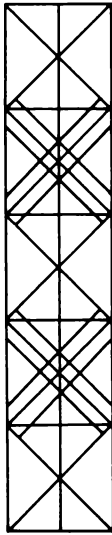


BORDER

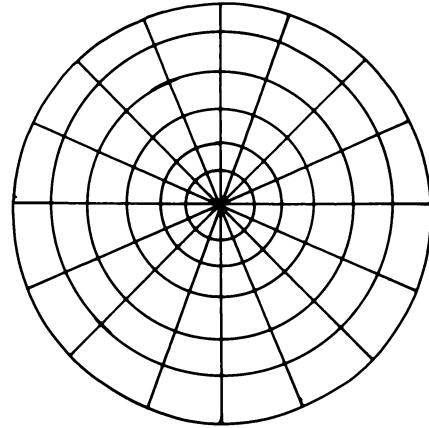
2. Draw in two lines parallel to the
center dividing line. This gives eight
sections to the border.



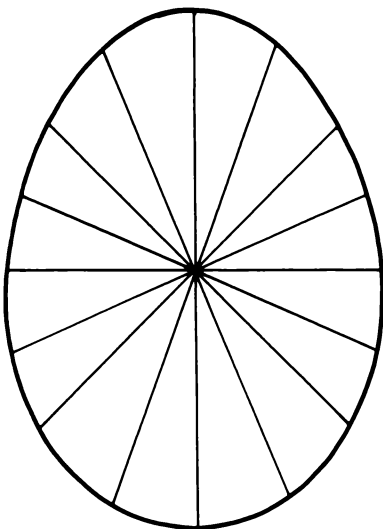
4. Draw in a criss cross pattern.



5. Draw additional parallel lines on every other criss cross of the lines as shown.



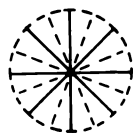
7. Lightly divide the front of the egg with five progressively larger circles as shown. *Note: For ease of drawing we are using a circle to show this.*



FRONT VIEW

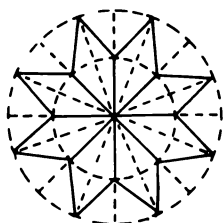
6. The egg is already divided into eight sections. Now, divide each section in half again, making sixteen equal parts.

Kistka:

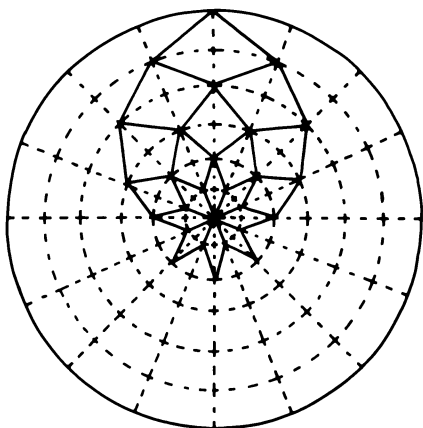


WHITE

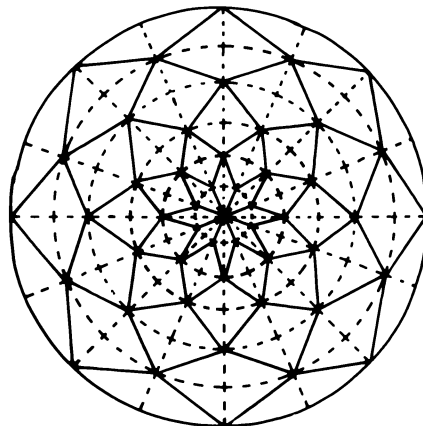
1. Using the center circle for a guide, begin to write in the intersecting spokes of the center lines.



Write in the eight points of the central star, going to the second circle.



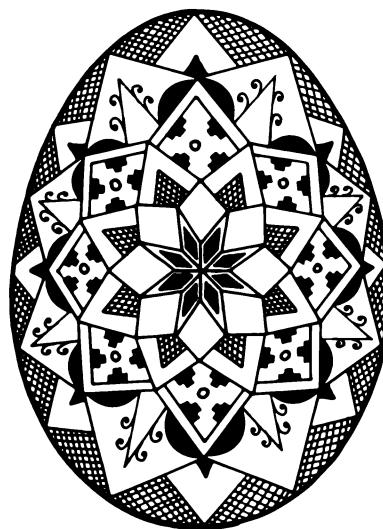
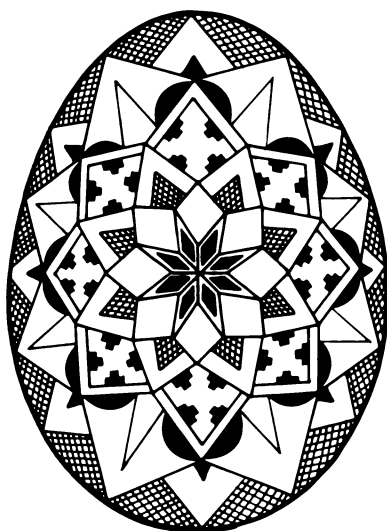
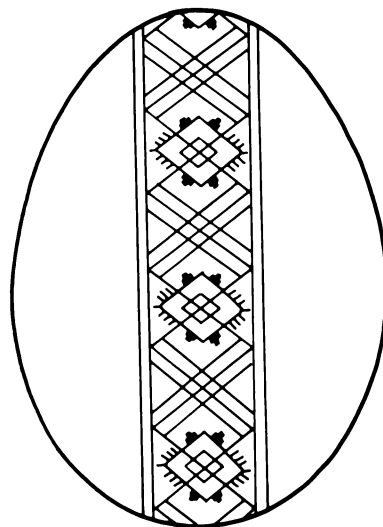
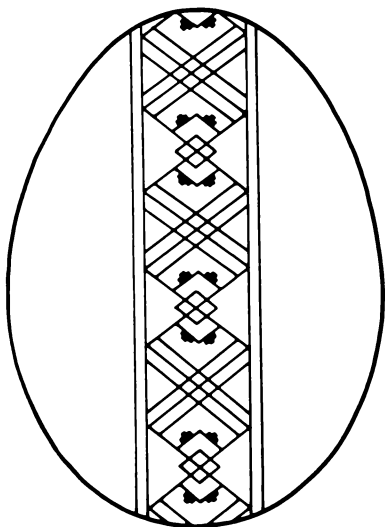
Build the design out from the center by connecting the points to form the starburst.



Progression of the design.

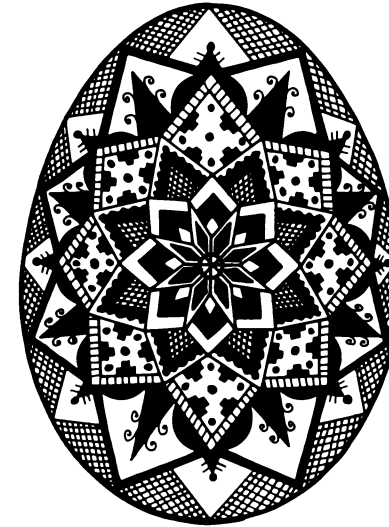
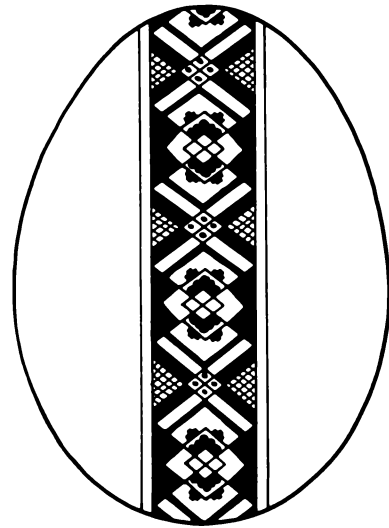
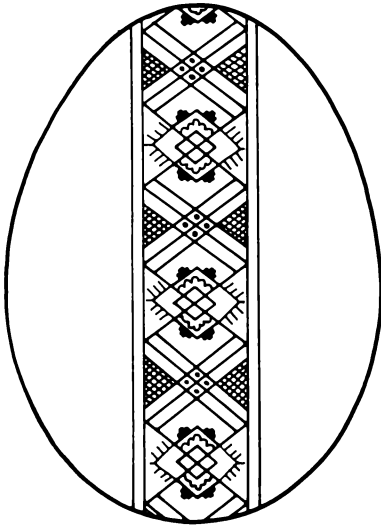
Fine kistka.

Note: Check your work before dipping to be sure no lines have been missed.



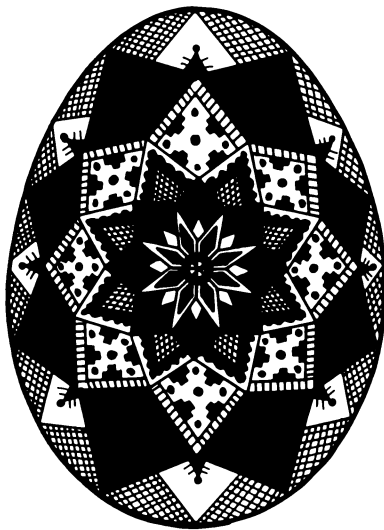
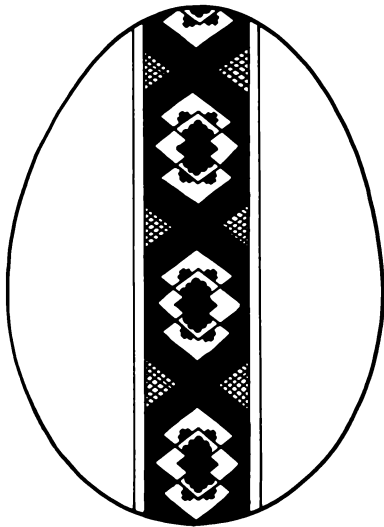
WHITE
1. Fine kistka.

YELLOW
2. Fine kistka.



ORANGE
3. Fine and medium kistky.

RED
4. Medium kistka.

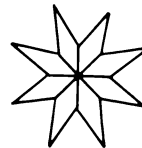


DARK RED
5. Medium kistka.

BLACK
6. Last color.

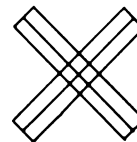
STAR

A geometric burst, usually eight-pointed, one of the most versatile and popular designs. The star denotes the eye of the divine will of God; the love of God for mankind.



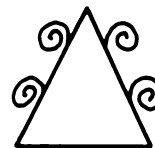
ST. ANDREW'S CROSS

St. Andrew was crucified on such a cross. This symbol honors his work for Christ.



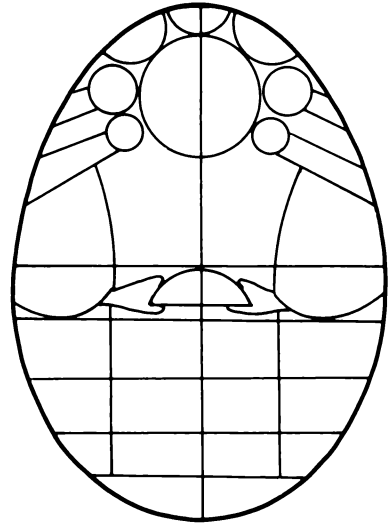
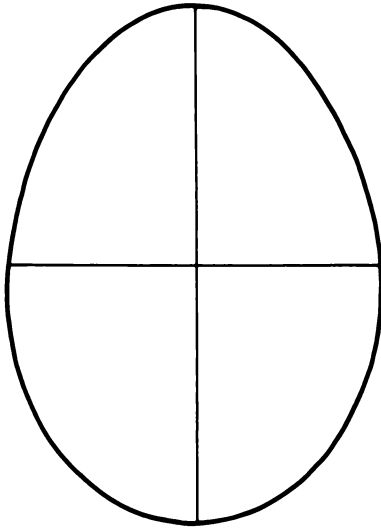
STYLIZED TREE

Strength, good health.



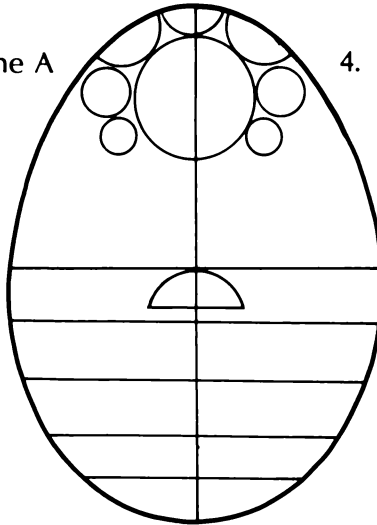
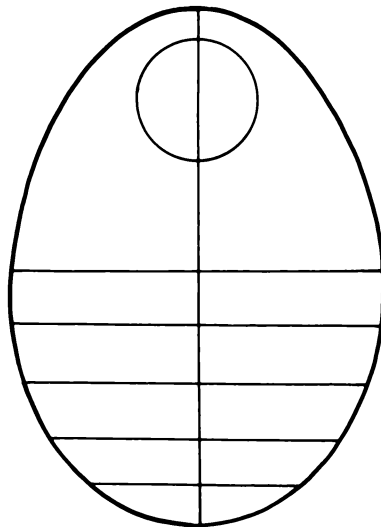
Egg Number 24

Pencil:

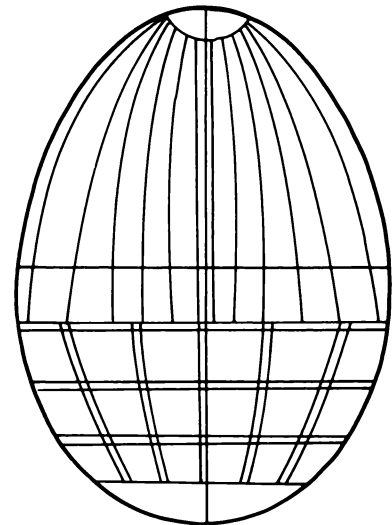


1. Divide the egg into eighths, the A division.

4. Sketch in the sleeves, apron, hands and ribbons.



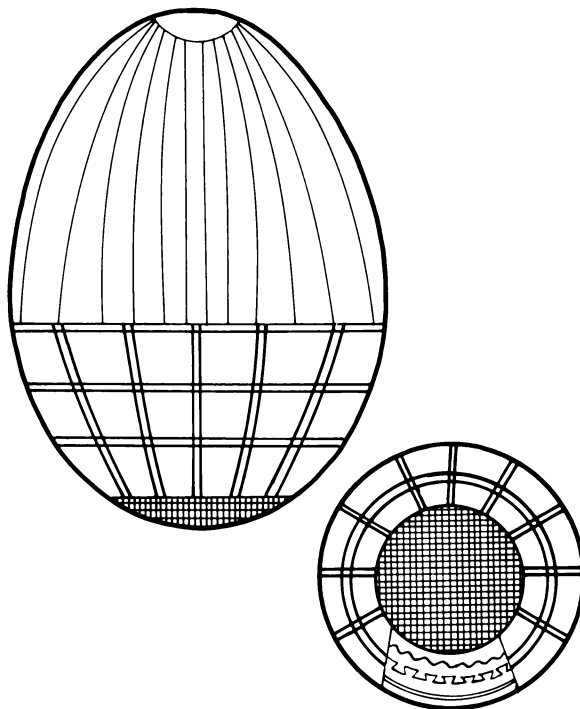
3. Then draw in the wreath, the center flower is on the top of the egg, and the bread is just below the center dividing line.



2. Draw in four parallel lines all the way around the bottom half of the egg. In the front, draw in the circle of the head near the top of the egg.

5. On the back of the egg, lightly divide the skirt section evenly to make up the weaving design.

Kistka:



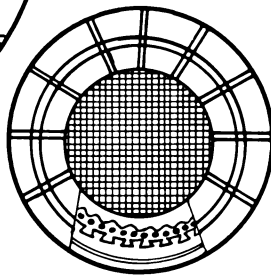
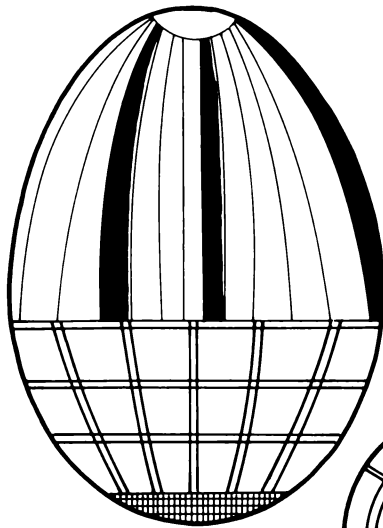
WHITE

1. With the fine kistka, write in the face and wreath. Write in the bottom circle and fill in with the netting lines. Next, write in the sleeves, apron and skirt pattern. The apron goes to the bottom circle. Follow the details of the pattern as shown. Heavy kistka for blouse.



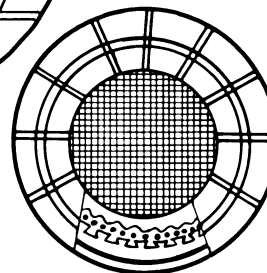
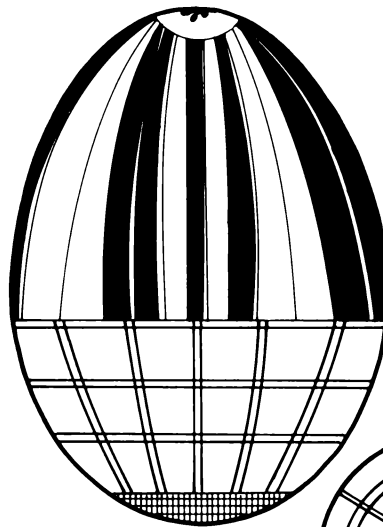
LIGHT ORANGE

3. Swab diluted orange dye on face and hands, dry, cover with wax.



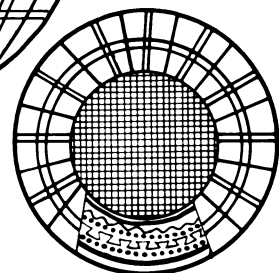
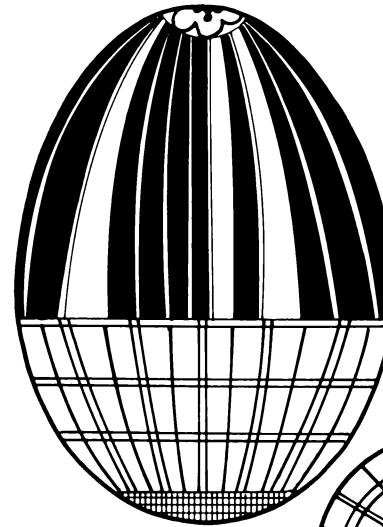
YELLOW

2. Medium kistka, heavy for ribbons.



GREEN

4. Cotton swab dipped in blue dye, medium kistka, heavy for ribbons.



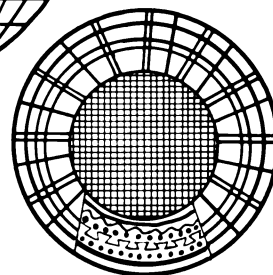
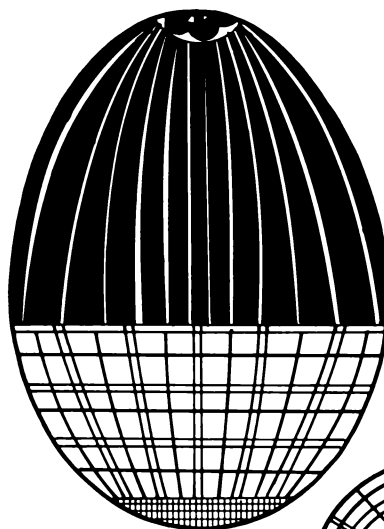
ORANGE

5. Medium kistka on skirt, heavy for filling in ribbons.



BRICK

6. Swab on brick color over bread, dry, cover with wax. Medium kistka.



RED

7. Heavy and medium kistky.

DARK RED

8. Final color.



This is an original non-traditional egg by Luba Perchyshyn depicting a maiden girl from the Poltava region of Eastern Ukraine. The loaf of bread which she carries in her hands represent a welcome to guests. Her beads reflect her dowry and the flowers and ribbons in her "vinok" (wreath) around her head tell us that she is unmarried.

Chapter Six

Finishing the Eggs

Melting

Candle Method

Removing the wax can be done two different ways. We often melt the wax using the flame of the candle. This is done by holding the egg in the side of the flame until the area looks wet, about 2 to 5 seconds. Then, with a clean soft cloth, wipe off the wax. This is where you will see all the work you have done. Be careful not to hold the egg over the top of the flame because the carbon will collect on the shell and darken the design. Do not attempt to heat too large a portion of the egg at one time. After you have finished melting all the wax, blow out the candle and gently wipe the egg with tissue dipped in a small amount of cleaning fluid to remove any carbon that may still be on the shell. It is important to have a clean shell before varnishing.

Oven Method

When you have to remove wax from several eggs, it is easier to use the oven. Preheat the oven for 10 minutes at 200 degrees with the door open. Place the eggs on the egg rack in the center of the oven until the wax begins to melt and look shiny. This should take between eight and fifteen minutes. Remove the eggs one at a time and wipe with a soft cloth or paper towel. It is not necessary for the eggs to get very hot, just warm enough to melt the wax. This method is faster and cleaner than the candle method of melting.

Melting Blown Eggs

For melting blown eggs, remember they only take a few seconds to heat, so watch not to scorch them either with the candle or in the oven. If you are melting them in the oven, melt only a few at a time. They will be warm enough in one or two minutes, so you will need to stay with them throughout the procedure.

Varnishing

Have ready: newspaper, clear gloss varnish, drying rack, hand cleaner and paper towels. Spread the newspapers and open a small can of varnish. With your fingers, gently apply varnish to each egg. Be sure you have covered the entire shell with a thin coat and then place it on the rack to dry. Allow to dry completely (12 to 24 hours). If the eggs are sticky at all, do not apply additional varnish or they will NEVER dry. After the egg is thoroughly dry, apply a second coat for a high gloss finish.

To clean the varnish from your hands, first wipe the excess on a paper towel. Then, clean hands with hand cleaner which is gentle and will cut the varnish easily. Both the varnish and the hand cleaner can be purchased at your local hardware store.

Emptying Eggs

Eggs may be blown either before or after decorating. If you wish to blow them first, the insides of the eggs can be saved for cooking. To empty the contents, pierce a hole at each end of a room temperature egg using a hat pin or a fine drill. Keep the holes as small as possible. Insert a long pin and pierce and break the yolk inside. Shake the egg vigorously to mix the inner contents. Hold the egg over a bowl and blow through the top hole to force the contents out.

A second method requires purchasing a special egg blowing bulb. The bulb forces air into the shell and the contents come out quickly. It is easier to blow eggs with the blower and if you wish, you may make only one hole in the shell.

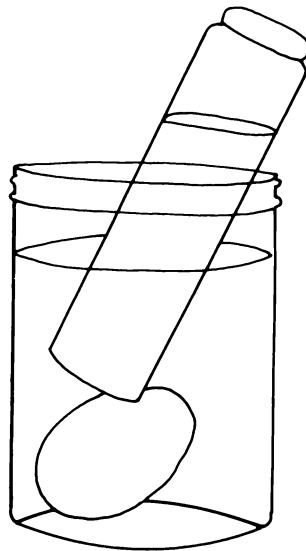
After the egg has been emptied, rinse out the inside of the shell with a mild water and vinegar solution, (1 cup water and 2 tablespoons vinegar), blow again and allow to dry. Set the egg on the drying rack to dry.

The holes in the blown egg must be sealed before dying. What we do is to put a small drop of hot beeswax over the hole with the kistka to seal it. Because the shell is empty, it will float in the dye. Therefore, weigh it down with a small jar filled with enough water to hold the egg under the dye.

If you decide to blow the egg after it has been decorated, it must be done after the egg has been varnished. The dyes are water soluble and will run from either the egg or the rinse water so the shell needs varnish for protection. The insides of these eggs cannot be used for cooking, because the dyes may penetrate the shell and are not edible.

If you do plan to blow out your eggs, do not allow them to get too hot in the oven when melting the wax. Cooked eggs are almost impossible to blow; we know this from experience. You may decide to melt your eggs with the candle instead so the insides remain raw. It is best to blow out all the eggs while they are still fresh.

Whichever way you may choose to blow your eggs, before or after decorating, we have a helpful hint. After the egg is decorated and blown, seal the holes on the ends of the egg with a drop of glue which dries clear.



Hanging Eggs

If you wish to suspend a pysanka as the Ukrainian peasants did in their homes and barns, we suggest either of two methods.

Tie a long length of narrow ribbon, cord or thread to the middle of a toothpick. A small amount of glue may be smeared on the stick where the thread is tied to keep it from slipping. Carefully, insert the toothpick straight down into the hole (Figure 1). The stick will become wedged crosswise inside the shell and will not pull out (Figure 2).

Another method, especially good for hanging blown eggs on the Christmas tree, is to glue a finding to the top of the egg, allow to dry overnight, then thread a cord or fine ribbon through the loop in the finding and you have a beautiful handmade ornament ready to enjoy (Figure 3).

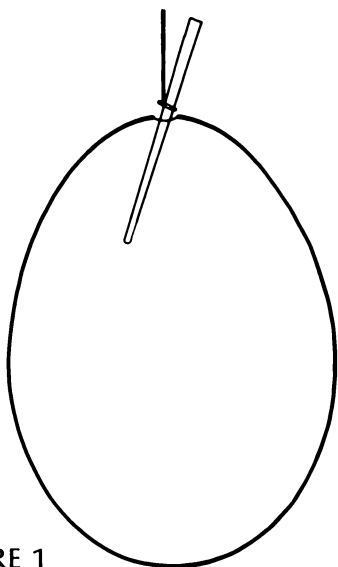


FIGURE 1

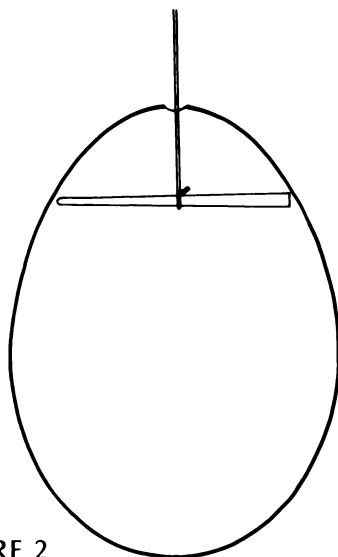


FIGURE 2

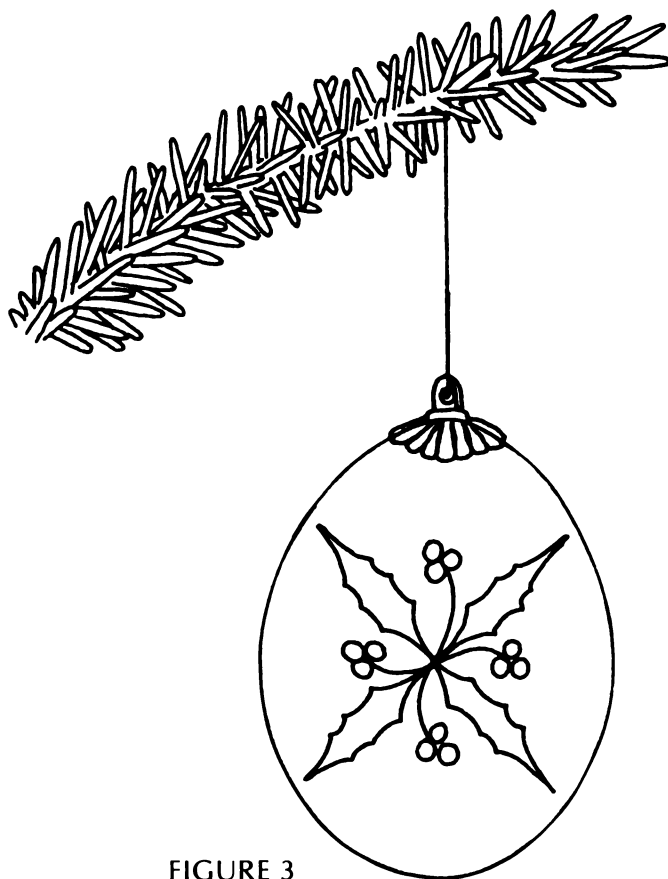


FIGURE 3

Egg Tips

We cannot remind you too much, you will have the best results with your pysanky if you:

1. Use only fresh eggs with good firm shells.
2. Check your work before dying the egg to be sure all your lines are completed.
3. Keep the finished pysanka out of the sun.
4. Do not store whole pysanky in a tight place where the air is not circulating freely. A plastic carton or a china cabinet which has tightly closed doors inhibits normal air circulation. Paper cartons are suitable to use for storage.
5. For whole eggs, handle as little as possible, except to turn every few months for even drying.
6. Keep the eggs from extreme heat or cold. This refers to eggs which are not blown; use no spotlights or do not store eggs in the attic where they might freeze or get excessively hot.
7. Do not take cold eggs from the refrigerator and submerge them in hot water to warm them for decorating. Allow them to come to room temperature normally.
8. If you live in a hot or humid climate, eggs should be blown for best results.

Information on Purchasing Materials

The materials needed for decorating eggs in the Ukrainian style can be supplied by:

The Ukrainian Gift Shop, Inc.
2422 Central Avenue Northeast
Minneapolis, MN 55418 3787
Area Code (612) 788-2545

Or, contact your local Ukrainian or craft store.

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WEST ARKA
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