



Coloring Wooden Eggs with Magic Markers

by Linda Ferber

Our family decided to put a twist to our Easter egg coloring traditions. The egg decoration was intended to be a collaboration of three generations including our two youngest, Bode and Miller. We all participated in the shop to create our special turned and decorated eggs.

First, I turned the eggs, following Walt Wager's instructions (see Explore!, next page). I recommend sanding the eggs through all the grits to at least 400 for best results with the coloring process.

The turned eggs would be colored on the lathe by the kids with the design overlaid in Zentangle style patterns. I have several Zentangle books, but you can easily get inspiration by Googling. You will quickly learn that doodle-based Zentangle is breaking down shapes. You can easily learn this process without being able to draw, since doodles are just idle scribbles.

Everyone would have a part in selecting colors for their portion, and the resulting multilayer overlay would add depth and dimensions to the finished eggs. Supplies for this project included brush-style pens suitable for use while the egg is on the lathe, and marker-style pens for the top design. This project



Bowl of eggs decorated by Linda's grandchildren, using markers both on and off the lathe.



Kids love to color eggs with the lathe turning slowly. Linda has used a variety of archival pigmented inks.



Zentangles.

combined several styles of pens and markers with water-based, pigmented ink.

We used a combination of the following pens: Tombow dual Brush Pen, which features a firm yet flexible brush tip, Sharpie fine tip pens with archival ink, rollerball with waterproof ink for smoothness and consistent color, Faber-Castell Pitt artist pens that are waterproof and acid-free, Copic markers with alcohol-based permanent ink, and Micron markers with permanent pigment ink.

Each pen was selected for its unique features. The Tombow was used on the lathe, its paint brush tip essential for getting even color coverage without damaging the tips. Each egg also received several coats of Krylon fixative spray, to prevent color bleeding. In preparation for the big day, I set up my small Bonnie Klein lathe on a low table, a perfect height for the kids without having to use risers. The kids were ready for their first lathe experience, well equipped

with instructions, apron, and faceshield. The coloring went well though the youngest was so anxious he could hardly wait for his turn. And with only a few minutes of experience, Bode quickly became the teacher for his younger brother.

After the coloring excitement, we went back to the big lathe and turned the tenons from the eggs, lightly sanded the ends, and selected patterns. Don't stress over color selections, this is all about fun and creating an intense blast of color and pattern. We selected a leaf, a spider web and a half-circle patterns.

Each pen or marker works differently, depending on the color and hardness of the wood, so experimenting is helpful. It's important to have a well-prepared surface for good color flow. Layering results in intense color and interest. The harder tight-grained woods do accept color better, but grain movement or chatoyance also creates a wonderful effect.



Use permanent-ink pens and brushes to draw Zentangle-style designs on the kid-colored eggs. A light spray with varnish or laquer keeps the colors from running together.

The final finish is up to you; I start with Krylon fixative spray and then apply Renaissance wax, but Deft spray would work as well.

Share your turning passion. Create memories with your family with a fun day in the shop coloring eggs that will be treasured. In the spirit of a true collaboration, each person contributes and has their voice, and don't be surprised when you find yourself the student.

Linda Ferber is AAW's program director and the founding editor of Woodturning FUNDamentals.

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