

Instructions:

Draw the shape of the chicken lightly with pencil, tightly fitting, on one golden yellow square. Cut two of these shapes.

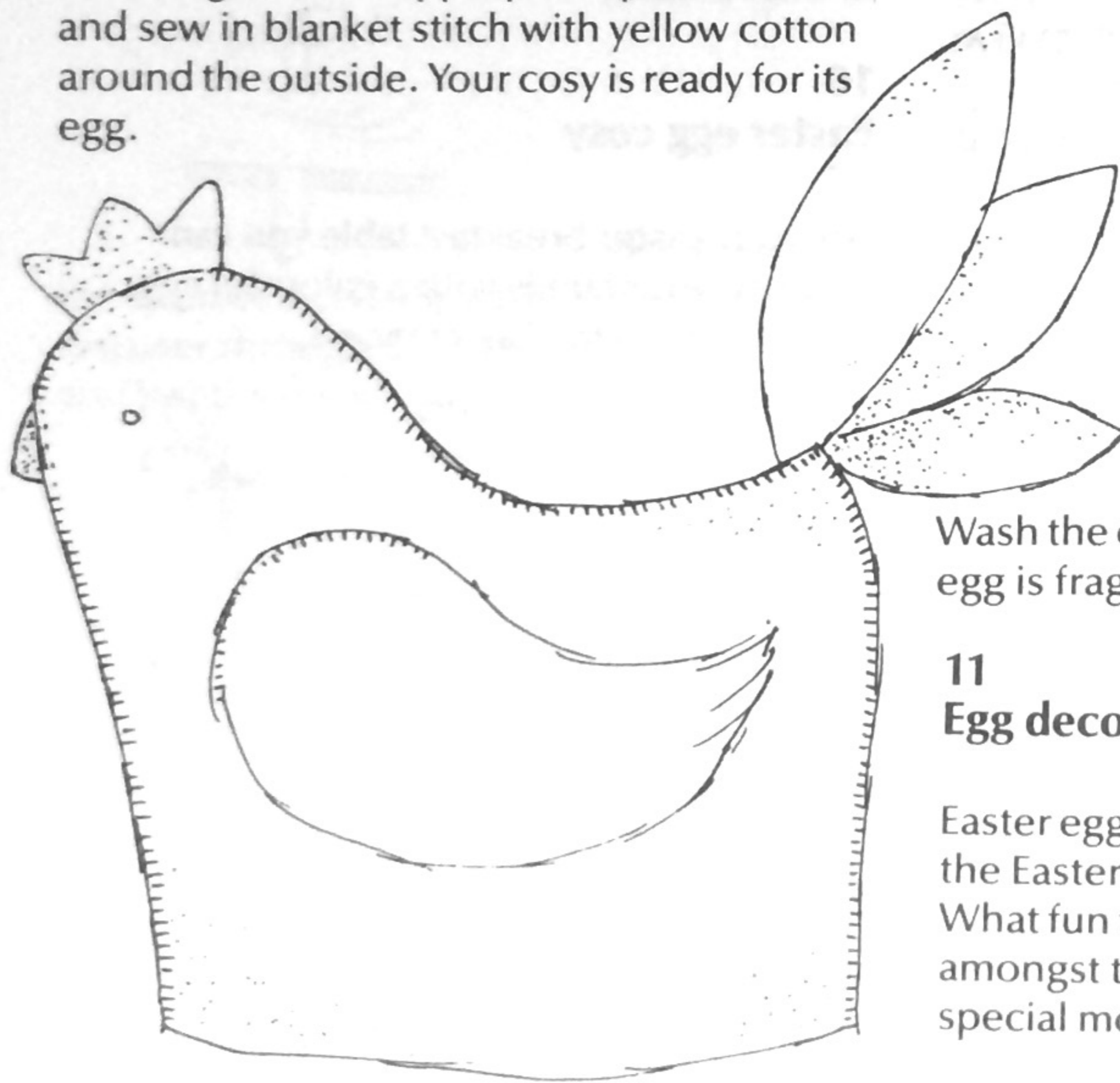
Cut out a small beak in orange

Cut one comb in red

Cut three tail feathers: one feather in pale yellow, one feather in orange and one feather in red.

Cut two wings in pale yellow.

To make up the bird, turn the pencil line to the inside. Stitch the beak, comb, feathers and wings in their appropriate places. Pin and sew in blanket stitch with yellow cotton around the outside. Your cosy is ready for its egg.



actual size

How to blow eggs

This is a task for careful fingers!

Wash the eggs in water with a dash of vinegar in it. Dry them.

With a darning needle carefully bore a hole at each end of the egg, making the hole at one end slightly larger than the other. Break the yolk with the needle. Hold the egg over a bowl and blow through the larger hole until the egg runs into the bowl and the shell is empty.

Wash the egg again very carefully as a blown egg is fragile and cracks quite easily.

11 Egg decorations

Easter eggs are to be found in the garden, on the Easter tree or on the breakfast table. What fun to discover something so colourful amongst the new green leaves on this very special morning.

There are many ways to help the Easter hare with decorating eggs. A friend of ours knows 27 different ways! Here are a few. A practical

hint: start well before Easter – some methods are not very quick.

First of all, try and find the palest eggs available. Some free range chickens still lay the old-fashioned white ones, but not many. The hunt starts here.

Tie-dyed eggs

You will need:

Either blown or raw eggs
Food dyes or lots of onion skins (The onion skins give a rich golden brown colour)
Small flowers and leaves
An old nylon stocking
Cotton thread

Instructions:

If you use raw eggs and food dyes, boil the eggs first. Do not boil them if you use onion skins. Cut a piece of stocking, just larger than the egg and tie up one end. Put the egg into it. Place the small flowers and leaves inside the stocking around the egg. Pull the stocking firmly over the covered egg – which is a little tricky – and firmly tie up the stocking on the other side.



Dye this egg parcel in the food colouring. Mind that the colouring is not too strong,

otherwise the patterns will be lost. If you use onion skins, cover these with water and boil them up. If you use raw eggs make sure they are covered with the water and onion skins and boil it all together. The blown eggs can be boiled in it as well. It takes some time before the colour dyes the eggs strongly.

When done, take out the eggs, unwrap them and let them dry in an egg box. If you used blown eggs, let them dry out upside down with the small hole up. The delicate patterns of the flowers and leaves are printed onto the egg.

When it is fully dry, rub the egg with furniture wax polish to give it a sheen.



Dyed and painted eggs

This is a nice method to use with children who can use a small paint brush. Most of them from the age of 6 or 7 can do it.

You will need:

Pale, blown eggs
Food colouring – pale colour
Water colour
Very small paintbrush

Instructions:

Dye the eggs in a light overall colour and when dry, paint Easter motifs onto them.

These can be the traditional designs but your small artist will want to make his or her own! Suggest a hare, rising sun, small birds, little flowers, anything to do with the new Spring feeling. If you put the egg on a narrow knitting needle with some blu-tack above and underneath it to hold it in place, your chances of success will be increased!

Although felt pens usually in creative work give a harsh and flat effect, they can be very effective in drawing on eggs. They can be used instead of the paint.



Batik eggs

This is a very simple way of using the batik technique on eggs. Again you can do this with children from 6–7 years old onwards. For the advanced pychanhi technique you need all the proper batik tools which you can get from a craft shop. Instructions for this are included in the sets.

You will need:

Blown or hardboiled eggs

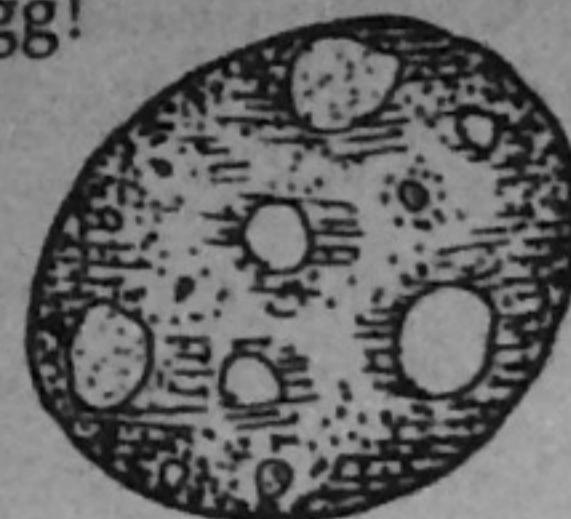
Candle

Batik dye or food colouring in 3 different colours (e.g. yellow/red/violet)
Paper tissues or toilet paper

Instructions:

Wash the eggs in water which has a dash of vinegar in it. Dry them carefully. Light the candle and with the melted wax drop a few drops evenly spread over the egg. Let them dry and dye the egg in a light colour (yellow). Again let it dry and drop some more wax onto the egg, now onto the coloured ground. Dye the egg again, now in a slightly darker colour (red). Repeat this process once more and dye the egg in the darkest colour (violet).

Let the egg dry again. When dry, hold it next to the candle flame (but not in it) and as the wax melts quickly wipe it off with the paper tissue. Repeat this till all the wax is removed. You will be surprised at the colour effects and at the sheen of the egg!



Scratched eggs

This method is not so easy but with some care older children can do it too.

You will need:

Pale hardboiled or blown eggs (the hardboiled eggs are firmer and do not crack so easily in this method which requires more force)

Food colouring or batik dye – dark colours only

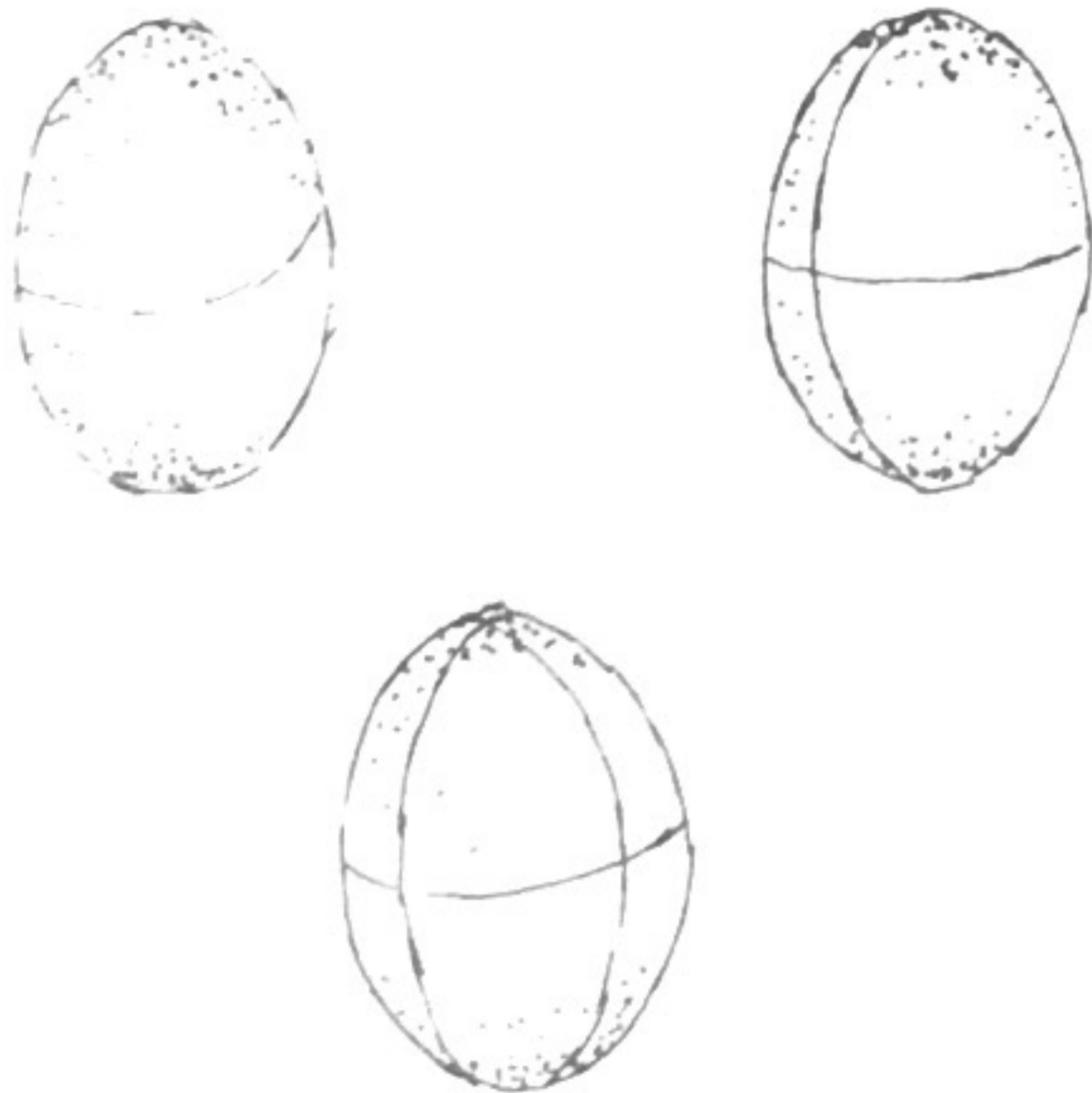
A sharp knife or nail, ideal is a dentist drill bit (ask your dentist for old ones) held in a clutch pen

Black pencil and rubber

Instructions:

Dye the eggs. Dry them. They are now ready to have their patterns drawn into them. If you use blown eggs, remember that they are fragile, especially at the top and bottom. Hold the egg in the palm of your hand, avoid using just two fingers.

Use the sharp point of your tool and gently scratch away your drawing on the dye to reveal the white underneath. The traditional design divides the egg in halves horizontally. If you do not have a steady hand you can use a rubber band to guide you. Mark this line with a pencil and scratch this line away with your tool. Then divide the egg vertically. Do this again at right angles to your first vertical division.



You now have eight parts. To finish the basic structure of the design, make a triangle in each part as shown.



Now use your Easter imagination and design a figure in each triangle. First draw it and then gently scratch it out.



When it is done you can wax it with furniture wax polish to give it a sheen.

Some Easter egg motifs

