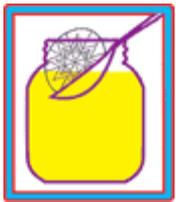


The Process

Melted wax is applied to the eggshell. This hot beeswax will harden almost instantly. The beeswax covers and seals the shell where the wax has been applied. A special tool called a kistka is needed to heat and apply the beeswax.



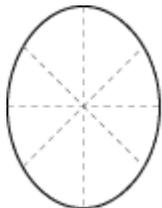
As a rule the first application of beeswax is done on the white shell. Ordinarily the sequence of colors are dyed from lightest color to darkest color.



Start with the white shell first. Apply melted beeswax to the white shell wherever you want white on the completed design. The beeswax seals the color underneath it. The next step is to dye the egg with the first color. The entire shell will change color, except underneath the beeswax. That part of the egg will remain white. As a rule, the first dye used will be yellow. Now, cover whatever part of your design that is to be yellow with melted beeswax. Dye the egg again into the next color, usually orange. Apply more beeswax. Dye the shell again. Repeat a few more times until you have finished layering

all the colors of your design.

Customarily, no more than 5 colors are used on a pysanka. Too many colors will affect the brilliance of the individual dyes. Many colors are of the same hue and therefore not compatible on the same egg. Time and practice will teach reliable color sequences. There are several excellent books available with step by step designs. Following these steps take the guessing out of dye sequences. These books are a good way to start out.



Pencil sketch to establish geometry



Gray represents areas where wax remains from prior stages.

Wax is not applied to the final color. When the shell has completely dried from its final dye bath, the beeswax will be removed. There are several methods to removing beeswax from the shell, but the oldest way is still the most magical. Place a section of the egg along the side of a candle flame. When that section becomes shiny, remove the shell from the heat and wipe clean

with a tissue. Continue until all of the beeswax is removed.

Oil based varnish or polyurethane wood finish can be applied to the shell upon completion to give it a beautiful gloss.

Ukrainian Easter

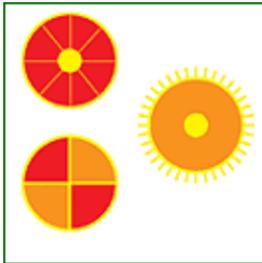
by Ukrainian Gift Shop Symbols



Rose or 8 pointed star
This is a symbol of Christ.
It can also represent
flowers.



Fish are a common
symbol for Christ and for
Christians.



The Sun symbolizes life,
warmth, love of God and
the eternal existence of
God.



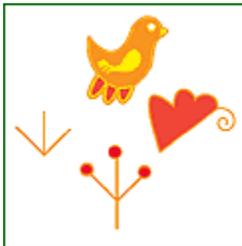
Pine needles, periwinkle
Pine needles and
periwinkle represent
eternal life.



Triangles or little baskets
denote the Holy Trinity. A
triangle with a circle in
the center denotes the eye
of God.



Deer or horses
Deer and horses denote
wealth and prosperity.



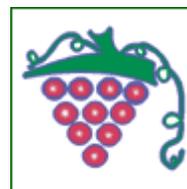
Birds exemplify fertility
and fulfillment of wishes.
Partial representations are
frequently seen on
pysanky. Hen's feet
emphasize protection of
young. Goose feet
represent the spirit.
Rooster's comb signifies
masculinity.



Diamonds
Diamonds indicate
knowledge.



Flowers express the
female principle denoting
wisdom, elegance and
beauty. Leaves and
flowers also suggest life
and growth.



Grapevines signify the
good fruits of the
Christian life. Grapes and
wheat represent Holy
Communion. Grapes can
also express strong loyal
love.



Crosses have several meanings and come in many different shapes. They always represent some aspect of Christian faith. Most common.

Ukrainian Easter

by Ukrainian Gift Shop