Spring Nest

by Vera Collier 2020

A bowl of food on a plate

Description automatically generated

I painted this project in a wood salad bowl that I picked up at a garage sale. However, the design can easily be adapted to many different surfaces.

**Supplies**

**Surface**

6” diameter wood bowl

**Paints**

Decoart Americana

Asphaltum

Blue Mist

Golden Straw

Honey Brown

Milk Chocolate

Soft Black

Warm White

**Brushes**

10/0 liner

1/2” wash

#2 and 4 rounds

1/2” angular shader or your favorite shading brush

Your usual acrylic brushes. (Unless specified, use the best brush for the area you are painting)

**Supplies**

Decoart Americana DuraClear Matte Varnish

Decoart Americana All Purpose sealer

**Preparation**

Sand, seal and sand the bowl. With the 1/2” Wash, basecoat the inside of the bowl with Warm White. I painted the outside with Blue Mist, but you can also paint it Warm White or any other color in the palette. It’s entirely your preference.

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**Painting instructions:**

Trace the outline for the nest in the center of the bowl. Using your #4 round, loosely base in the nest with Asphaltum. Don’t worry about getting opaque coverage, we will be applying many coats over the top of this one.

Once the Asphaltum is dry, trace the three eggs in the center. Basecoat the eggs with a 1:1 ratio of Blue Mist and Warm White. You want a very pale blue color.

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With masking tape, mask off the area around the nest to protect the paint. Lightly spatter the eggs with thinned Ashphaltum. I go old school and use a toothbrush to spatter, but you can use whatever method you are comfortable with.

Remove the masking tape and touch up any of the Warm White where a stray spatter might have hit.

With Asphaltum and your angular shader, shade the eggs where they overlap. The eggs are highlighted with Warm White.

A close up of food on a plate

Description automatically generated

Shade around the eggs with Soft Black.

The nest is painted using a 10/0 liner and thinned paint. Start with Milk Chocolate, then Honey Brown and finally finish up with golden Straw. Build the nest around the eggs by painting the twigs in a criss cross pattern, overlapping and having them going every which way. You can add little squiggles here and there and also, be sure to carry a few twigs across the eggs. I did go back and forth with the colors until I was happy with the way the nest looked.

A white egg on a plate

Description automatically generated

I wanted my bowl to have a little bit of a “chippy” look to it so I lightly sanded the rim. It is up to you if you want to do that or leave it as it is.

Finally apply several coats of Dura Clear Matte varnish to the bowl, both inside and out.