



Module 12 : Basic Nail Art

- How to prepare the nails for nail art
- About the importance of the base coat
- Where to find inspiration for nail art designs
- About different types of nail art

By the end of this module, you will know:

- How to prepare the nails for nail art
- About the importance of the base coat
- About different types of nail art
- Where to find inspiration for nail art designs

12.1: Introduction

While a lot of clients will come to you expecting manicures, acrylics, and gels, others will need you because they want nails that are exceptionally pretty.

As such, you need to learn how to engage in a little basic nail art.

12.2: Preparing the Nails for Nail Art

You should be pretty familiar with nail preparation now.

If not, let's go through it again in a series of bullet points:

- You need to remove nail polish. Even if it doesn't look as though there's any there, add a little nail polish remover to a pad and swipe it over the nail anyway.
- You need to shape the nails. Use an emery board at a 45-degree angle, and pre-clip the nails if necessary.
- Push the cuticles back by applying a little cuticle oil first and then using a cuticle pusher.

12.3: Using a Base Coat

All nail art requires a base coat of some sorts, and some will need a further coloured coat.

Either way, if you are using a coloured coat, it shouldn't substitute for your base coat. The base coat should always be there fulfilling its basic function. In the case of nail art, aim for one that's as pale as possible.

12.4: Different Types of Nail Art

Painting just the tips of the nail a different colour

This is one of the most basic forms of nail art out there, yet it's pretty effective. As the title suggests, it involves painting the tips of the nails a different colour. Use tip guides, as you would when creating the tips discussed in the last module.

You can take two approaches here: either leave the nail plate plain, or use a complementary colour. As time goes on, you'll get to learn exactly which colours complement each other. Some clients may

even arrive with prior knowledge of what they want.

Adding jewels and stickers to the nails

Jewels and stickers really have made the lives of nail technicians easier. However, there is still a need to practise until you perfect your method. Not only do you need to get the jewel or sticker in place, you need to make sure it stays there.

After applying a base coat, add a little nail glue to the jewel or sticker, and place it on the nail in a location you feel will work. Some nail technicians like to do this using a pair of tweezers, but that can be quite fiddly, especially when the jewels are particularly small. Instead, you can use the tip of a wax pencil crayon and place it on.

After it dries, you can remove any wax residue that's there. To prevent the jewel or sticker from falling off, simply apply a top coat.

Creating glittery nails

Glittery nails are simple, yet effective. They look amazing on nights out and are likely to be one of the designs of choice for young girls who are heading off to their proms.

Use professional nail glitter. Create a normal colour coat, then add the glitter over the top and seal it with a top coat once it dries in.

Polka dot designs

Again, polka dot designs fall into that 'simple yet effective' category as far as nail art goes. To make the most of yours, you definitely need to create a basic colour coat first, then use white or another colour that stands out well to create the dots themselves.

Some nail technicians choose to use a professional tool to create their dots, whereas others may want to use a toothpick. Either option is fine. Take a little of the polka dot colour onto the tip, then dab it onto the nail. Do this until you feel there are sufficient dots.

To seal the work in, add on a top coat.

Making leopard print nails

Creating leopard print nails is easier than you may think. You may want to stick to using classic colours associated with this design—such as gold and black—or you might want to get a bit creative.

Either way, you can pull it off using one nifty trick. After creating polka dots in the manner discussed above, use a similar tool or a very thin paintbrush to draw rough 'C' and 'U' shapes around each dot.

After doing this, you should have that leopard print effect you were looking for.

12.5: Upping your Nail Art Game



The designs listed above really are basic, which means you need to learn to up your nail art game if you're going to find real success.

In other words, you may find that you need to take extra classes, or you can take out a book that features nail art. Always remember, in the midst of trying out different nail art techniques, you can easily forget the basics.

As such, you need to remember to pay attention to painting a decent base coat and a top coat to seal it all.

12.6: Some Inspiration for You

Pink with polka dots



Red Hearts / Romantic Designs



Elegant



Simple with Jewels / Stickers



Coloured Nail Tips



Leopard Print



12.7: Instructional Video

Nail Art - 2m 51s

Watch this short instructional video showing how to do 3 different nail art designs.

Go and Practise

Estimated time: up to 60 minutes

Find 3 willing volunteers and practise 2 of the nail art designs shown above plus make up one of your own.

Module Summary

In this module, you learned about some nail art basics. This included creating unique coloured tips, as well as glittery nails. For added measure, polka dots, jewels, and leopard print nails were also covered. You also learned about what you need to do to ensure your nail art lasts.
