



Ultimate Nail Art

Rules, Judges Instruction & Criteria

Rules



1. Total time allowed is 7 hours.
2. Description of the competition is a long running event where the competitor must create a set of nails that have all types of nail art including; 3D acrylic, flat art with gels and/ or acrylic paint, structured nails with unique shapes and styles on models.
3. Time allowed: the competitors will have 7 hours to complete their work. The first day is 4 hours without models present while all 3d work will be created.
4. The second part of the challenge is on the last day. The models will be present and there will be 2 hours to apply the nails on 1 hand to be applied. There will be a 1 hour break for judging and the remanding 1 hour after the break will be with models present for the 3d artwork to be applied and added to the top surface. There will be a second judging.
5. Flat art, foils, glitters, flocking, crushed shells, confetti and rhinestones are allowed for extra effect.
6. NO pre-made art such as Fimo or machine made shapes of any kind.
7. Theme is of the competitors choosing. Theme will be judged based on the cohesive collaboration of artistry and style. There is not an actual theme required. For example; Alice in Wonderland. The theme should have a style and design that represents the competitors unique style.



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8. The models nails should have a unique and new modern style shape. Example; edge, stiletto, or pipe.
9. The models nails may be applied with acrylic or gel but must be sculpted. All colors and type of acrylic and gel are allowed.
10. The nails may be applied however the competitor chooses.
11. The models nails will be scored in the same manner as any other structured nail competitions it has a unique shape. Example; French twist, design stiletto & design sculpture.
12. Artwork may be applied into the structured nail and on the surface.
13. Flat artwork of all kinds with all types of flat art mediums are allowed.
14. Gel sealers and topcoats are allowed.
15. Use of electric files are allowed.
16. The competitor may not use any of their own pre-made work.
17. All commonly used items needed for 3D sculpting are allowed. Example: wire, aluminum, pipe cleaners.
18. Oil is allowed.
19. Electric file oil is allowed.
20. Pinching tools, C-curve sticks and all types of tools used to create a proper structure are allowed.
21. All products and tools will be inspected by a floor judge prior to the competition.
22. All general rules apply in this competition.
23. Total possible points 250.

Judges Instruction for Nail Structure Categories

- **5 point total on all categories.**
- **1 point a nail. .**
- **Each nail is judged on its own merit.**
- **The nail must meet all of the criteria for the category being judged to earn its point.**

Convex

- The exterior of the nail form should be completely symmetric.
- The surface of the nail should have no inconsistencies or appear to be uneven on the outer surface.
- The judge will examine the nail by looking at nail head on and check zone 3 from the back side perspectives check zone 2.
- The convex or surface of the nail should be symmetrical throughout the entire nail until it reaches zone 1.
- The nail can earn a 1/2 point for each correct zone.



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Concave

- The interior contour of the free edge must be completely symmetric.
- 1 point can be earned for each nail.

Arch and Apex

- The high point (apex) of the arch should not appear overly apparent.
- It should have a subtle and gradual incline that is located consistently in the second zone (see example) of each nail.
- The entire arch including the apex, should be not be overly apparent or appear too flat in the second zone.
- The arch should not be located too far forward or back in the second zone when looking at the entire nail from a profile perspective.
- The nail can earn a 1/2 point for each of these two criteria that are required.

Judges Instruction for Shape and Refining Categories

- **5 point total for all of these categories.**
- **1 point for each nail.**
- **1/2 points may be given if the nails has two areas that are required to be judged in that category. For example, there are two sidewalls on each finger nail. Therefore, half points may be given when judging sidewalls and lateral side extensions.**
- **Each nail is judged on its own merit.**
- **The nail must meet all of the criteria for the category being judged to earn its point.**

Free Edge Thickness

- The nail must be consistently thin throughout the nails free edge and measure the same on the sidewalls.
- The center of the free edge should not be any thicker than 1.5mm until it reaches the top of the finger tip from the underside of the nail.
- The nail can earn a 1/2 point for each of these two criteria that are required.
- See example of measuring tools used to measure the thickness.

Sidewalls

- The Free edge must extend straight out from the lateral folds and the groove-wall..
- The nail should be uniform on each side.
- There can not be any ridges on the free edge extension.
- The sides of the free edges should feel smooth and appear to be filed clean.
- There is a 1/2 point earned for each side of every nail being scored.



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Lateral Side Extension

- To find the lateral side extension you must look at the extension from the nails profile.
- The nail should appear to have symmetry so the side extensions are consistently located.
- There should be no exposure of the natural nail's lateral fold.
- There is a 1/2 point earned for each side of every nail being scored.

Surface Smoothness

- Any surface that does not have 3-D design or artwork on the top of the nail should be completely smooth.
- There should be no scratch marks or ruff spots from the product application.
- If gel sealers are used, all of the nail should be sealed with gel sealer or top coat completely.
- 1 point can be earn for each nail.

Consistency of Uniformity

- Each nail must look similar in shape to earn 1/2 point
- The shape of the nail should have the same degree of angle if shapes such as Stiletto, almond or edge is presented to earn a 1/2 point.

Nail Shape

- The shape of the nail must look straight as it extends from the nail plate and should appear straight when looked at from the front perspective to earn a 1/2 point.
- The nail must be straight and aligned to the natural nail, not the finger.
- To earn a 1/2 point.

Judges Instructions for Length

- **5 point criteria length.**
- **The competitor can earn a total of 5 points for length.**
- **In a 1 hand competition, 1 point is earned for each nail's accurate measurement.**

Length

- 1 hand competition- Each nail is measured from the cuticle to the top of the free edge extension.
- The Index, middle and ringer finger must be the exact same length.



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- The thumb and pinky must be the same length.

Judges Instruction for Application and Finishing

- **5 point total on all categories.**
- **1 point a nail. ½ points are allowed.**
- **Each nail is judged on its own merit.**

Underside

- The back side of the nails free edge extension should appear completely clean to earn a ½ point.
- There should be no visible dust, debris, excessive oil or product of any kind.
- If product such as top coat or gel sealer are used to create transparencies for the free edge, the application must appear smooth behind the nail with no excess product on the skin.
- The application of product should appear smooth to earn a ½ point.
- No excessive acrylic or gel or electric file marks that ruin the appearance of the nails free edge.
- If electric files are used the free edge must appear smooth.

Cuticle Area

- The cuticle and surrounding skin on the nail folds must not have any new cuts or irritation around the nail.
- There should not be any noticeable and apparent ledge of product that can be felt or seen near the proximal folds.
- The application of product must be apparent and cover the entire cuticle area near the proximal folds without leaving a large margin between the cuticle line.
- The product must not be overly filed and must be apparent.
- Each nail must have all criteria to earn 1 point and 2 of the criteria to earn a 1/2 point.

Product Control

- All of the product application should have a clean and well defined application, and if glitter is used, control of application must be considered to earn a ½ point.
- There must not be any air bubbles and or pitting in the clear product to earn a ½ point.

High Shine Finish

- The nails should have a high gloss shine that has a glass finish appearance throughout the entire surface of the nail.



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- The shine on the nails should have a reflective appearance.
- The sides, edges and cuticle area must be considered.
- Lines of demarcation are NOT considered as long as the shine is apparent.
- If gel sealer is applied, the sealer must be completely cured.
- The sealer should not feel or appear to be tacky or dull on the surface of the nail.
- All of the tacky residue (inhibition layer) must be completely removed off of the nail.
- 1 point can be earned for each nail.

Judges Instructions for Artistic Criteria

- **Criteria is scored as a total score**
- **All criteria points awarded are from 1-20. 10 points can be earned for the nails that are applied to the nails that are scored in round 1. And 10 points for the artwork judged on the second judging round.**
- **Scores are determined by the judges educated opinion based on the specifics of each criteria.**

Level of Difficulty

- The complexity of the design is evaluated on it's degree of expertise.
- Is the art executed without any elaboration (simple) or is there more difficulty and expertise put into the making of the design.

Use of Color

- The colors chosen should complement the design and flow throughout or graduate through all 5 nails.
- The colors should complement while still showing contrast.

Clarity of Design

- The design must be apparent and identifiable
- The design must be identifiable on each nail.

Originality

- The theme or design should be something you have not seen before.
- If seen before, done in a manner that is in a new creative and unusual use of art media.

Judges Instructions for 3-D Presentation

- **Nails are scored on the second round of judging.**
- **All criteria points awarded are from 1-20**



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- **Scores are determined by the judges educated opinion based on the specifics of each criteria.**

3-D Presentation

- There should be 3D art is present on each nail
- The 3D art should be presented with clean application
- The 3D should be created with unique style.

Judges Instructions for Artistic Criteria

- **Criteria is scored as a total score**
- **All criteria points awarded are from 1-10**
- **Nails are scored on the second round of scoring.**
- **Scores are determined by the judges educated opinion based on the specifics of each criteria.**

Composition

- How all the parts and pieces of your complete design are put together.
- The design should flow from each nail so that the eye is drawn from nail to nail.
- The nails individually represent the complete design.

Balance

- The design should not be too busy or too sparse.
- The art should look evenly balanced on each nail and from nail to nail.
- There should not be large portions on the surface of the nail left without design.

Presentation

- The design appears completely finished on each nail
- No art work was left unfinished. Artwork that wasn't finished being completely executed Example: face with no lips or eyes, car without the tires, dog without a tail.

Creativity

- Creative use of embellishments, stripers, paint, color powders & glitters.
- There should be a creative collaboration of art that is used.
- There should be a creative manner in which the embellishments are used to reach the design.



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Continuity of Theme

- The theme should be carried through the design in some manner on each nail.
- The design should compliment and have continuance from nail to nail while representing the theme.

Graphic Quality

- The graphics should be created with dimension, not flat.
- There should be dimension in the artwork.

Media

- There must be a minimum of 3 art mediums used on every nail.
- They should be incorporated into the design cohesively and used in a creative manner.

Overall Workmanship

- Components should be painted entirely and smoothly.
- The artwork should not have any visual excess glue. All creations of nail art are cleanly finished.