



As Seen in
Your Weekend
 June 19 2010

STYLE



SHELLAC OR TALSIES? Properly done, a manicure should last a week. But if you're hard on your nails or just generally too time-poor to charge out your nail polish frequently, consider Shellac, a new-ish product that combines the best of gel enhancements with high-gloss enamel. Shellac, which comes in many colours, is applied to the nails like ordinary polish but is then dried under a UV lamp (similar to gel). Incredibly glossy and hard-wearing, it should last 14 days. Gel nails, on the other hand, are now available in many fashionable colours and last longer than Shellac, but do have to be backlaid every two to three weeks. Visit creativenails.co.uk to find a Shellac salon near to you.

Get nailed

ENAMEL HAS ALWAYS SEEMED LIKE CANDY UP WITH THE MOST PALATABLE TRENDS

WHEN IT COMES to naming new products, nail companies often have the most fun. "Carnegie Green Carpet," "I'm Not Really a Millionaire," "Royal Flush Baby," "Mink Muffin," "Backstage Baby" and "Chips No Flakes!" are just some of the attention-grabbing (if slightly off-the-wall) names used by companies such as Essie and OPI to brand their lacquers. And if you are a nail fan, knowing your Pinkie Shoo-don't from your Caring-a-little (and not "lighter O.C.O."): it's essential. Nail colour is, after all, fashion. And as anyone who's even the slightest bit manicure-mad will tell you, changing your nail colour is like changing your lipstick, in the easiest — and cheapest — way to keep up with what's current.

The trend, of course, is an extension of the average fashion designer's attention span. But if it's your nails — rather than your wardrobe — that's keeping you current when you're cash-strapped, it will pay to take notice of the latest nail news.

FRENCH WITH A TWIST If the thought of the classic white-tip French manicure bores you cold, you could try a little reverse-thinking instead

of white tips try black on, an nail brand Essie is currently promoting, creating painting the tips of your favourite shade in a specialist product that turns glossy enamel into flat matte. Essie's is called "Matte About You," \$29.80, and it's a great way to update your look between manicures, enabling you to achieve a matte tip, or a matte base with a gloss tip.

LAYER UP Another hot trend is applying polish to create a customised look. Basically, any shades can be combined that the lighter, sheerer colours are more successful. Try mixing a pink and a beige to get a medium pink nude or a coral and pink to get a summery everyday shade you can call your own.

SQUARE OR SQUAWLY? There will always be some who favour a square nail shape but a short "squaw" (a combination of square and oval) is more current. The squaw also provides the strength (prevents splitting and breaking) at the sides of the nail that long nails into a proper oval doesn't.

BRIGHTER HORIZONS Winter may be a time for favouring gorgeous deep shades such as purple, black, red and chocolate. But since we follow northern hemisphere trends, expect to find a new range of summery colours in stores now. If not very soon. As for as trends go, the new shades are an extension last summer's pretty corals, pale pinks, turquoise, greens, blues and reds in either cream or translucent formulas.

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Nail polishes we love

- ESSE:** A huge range of the latest colours and products and some great nail strengtheners.
- OPI:** Extremely accessible, with an even bigger range of constantly changing colours and nail-faring products.
- LEIGHTON DENNEY:** More boutique than OPI or Essie, but really contemporary.
- CHANEL:** Beautiful, credible shades that are a pleasure to wear.
- L'ANCÔTE:** Always different, always gorgeous and always luxurious.
- REVLON:** Widely available, highly accessible and well loved.

Manicure in 10

Stumped for time? Take a few tips from beauty bible Vogue. Its beauty book, *Staying in Color* (Bantam Publishing), provides the best templates for a manicure in 10 minutes.

1. Strengthen your nails by brushing them with a soft brush and a wipe in the bath or shower.
2. Apply a little cream and gently push back cuticles with a stump handbrush.
3. Remove old nail polish. Using a remover containing acetone is good if you're pressed for time because the acetone will dehydrate your nails, making the polish to come brittle.
4. Clip nails, and file.
5. Apply a base coat, and two coats of quick-dry nail enamel. Taking the time for a topcoat gives dividends — one of the easiest ways to show brightly out of your manicure is to neglect it. (Just every two days) messy a fading bubble or enamel. If you're careful, a manicure should last for a week.