

XX treme nail art

SCULPT A DRAGON NAIL SHAPE



WHAT YOU NEED

Liquid & powder system & primer

GETTING PREPARED

Brush, dappen dish, lint-free wipes, needle, extreme length form (the form in this step by step is manufactured by www.kostkanailsystem.com, nail file & an efile

Hazel
Dixon



Hazel Dixon trained in nails in 2006. Never underestimating the power of education, Hazel has undertaken a wealth of training. In 2009 she began competing across the globe and has won over 25 awards and is in the *Scratch Stars* Hall of Fame; currently her HD Professional nail education team has won *Nail Team of the Year* for three consecutive years and moved into the Hall of Fame in 2021. The title of *UK Nail Professional of the Year* has also been bestowed upon Hazel twice in recent years.

Hazel is the Akzentz distributor for the UK and has developed her own nail brand, HD Professional.

SCULPTING AN EXTREME DRAGON SHAPED NAIL



1 Prep the natural nail, customize, then fit the extreme nail form.



Hazel Dixon

UK champion nail artist,
educator & brand owner
[@hdacademy](https://www.instagram.com/hdacademy)
[@hazeldixon](https://www.instagram.com/hazeldixon) [@hdpronails](https://www.instagram.com/hdpronails)



2 Apply primer to the nail.



3 Apply L&P acrylic bead to the joint between the natural nail and the form. This is where the deepest part of the C-curve lies.



4 Pinch early on with thumbs; pinch tongs can dent the product. Pinch down the whole form to make sure it is pinched in tightly, to keep it all balanced and the form thin, rather than wide.

PRO TIPS

- Work the first bead at the join of the natural nail & the form. This is where the C-curve will be pinched in to make the nail slim. This is where the deepest part of the C-curve is located on the nail.



5 Place the next bead on the natural nail. This stabilizes the nail and as you carry on down the nail, it keeps it balanced. Pat and drag the product down the whole nail. This technique means the nail is solid and it won't be moving.



6 Now there is a strong foundation along the natural nail and at the edge where the nail meets the form, apply a bead at the center of the nail and work it down to create a stiletto style nail shape.



7 Wipe over the bead and look for the line of light as you work. If the line is straight it shows the product placement is correct and even.



8 Place the bead and blend it in. Work from side to side, as this pushes the product upwards and creates the spine of the nail.

9 Apply bead, blend and stretch the product on each side and then down the middle for the spine. You get a solid, balanced nail this way.

PRO TIPS

- When you work on an extreme nail you need to work on the C-curve first and pinch it in early on because the product will be setting and an hour after sculpting you will not be able to pinch or mold it.
- The pinching of the product is critical for competition nails. It's where you will gain points.
- To create an extreme nail requires the tech to sculpt & pinch in stages.
- Every time you pinch in the C-curve, roll down the nail and pinch down the form, even where there is no product. You do not want the form to widen, so pinch it in.
- If the form is fitted correctly with a nice C-curve already formed, you will not need to pinch too harshly.



10 The last bead to be placed at the end of the nail must be put on top of the form only, no product is to go down the sides. Leave a small bulge/bump for filing.



11 Make sure you have enough product on the top of the nail to allow you to file. If it's too thin, you will file it off. This is also where you will slide in a needle to stabilize and protect the end of the nail's point.



12 Keep pinching down the entire nail to keep its shape and structure correct and make sure it's slim with a stunning C-curve. You want a very skinny nail.

PRO TIPS

- When creating an extreme shape you will be applying many acrylic beads as you stabilize, build and form your extreme shaped nail.
- Always check for your line of light while the L&P product is wet. This way you know if the nail is straight & the product applied correctly.

SCULPTING THE SHAPE DOWN THE SIDES



13 All skilled techs have their own measurements for their extreme nail shapes. Spend time before sculpting working on the actual length and style of each section of the nail, as you will need to mirror the 'wings' of the nail on the opposite side.



14 Add your beads to the sides of the nail and sculpt your chosen shape. Look at the nail from above after every bead is placed to make sure you cannot see the sides from the top - you must not see any product at the side. You want to see a stiletto from above.



NOTE TO SELF

When looking from above, you want to see a stiletto nail, regardless of the shape down the sides.




15 Use the lines and measurements on the form to place your beads as you create your design. Work neatly as you mold the sides, so they require minimal filing.

PRO TIP

- Keep sculpting as neatly as possible. This means less work refining the nail later.



16 When the sides have been sculpted, add another bead along the spine in readiness for the apex to be formed and to refine the structure of the nail. When adding the apex, make sure it is added and slopes downwards. The nail must not come out straight from the finger. Use your file to show that the nail has been sculpted straight down from the upper arch. Remove the form. 



17 After the form is removed. Trim the end of any excess product in readiness to refine the nail.

PRO TIP

- Practice sculpting stiletto nails. All nail shapes are born from the stiletto. From the stiletto you can mold any nail shape.



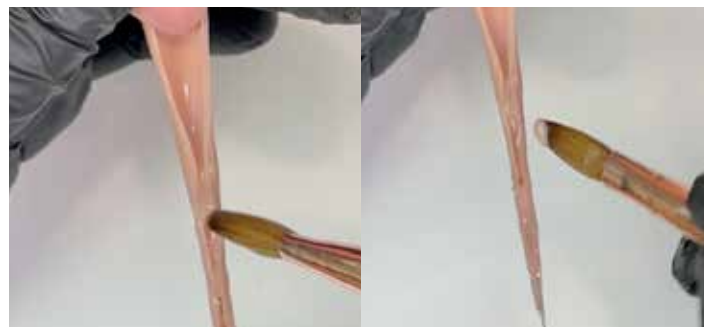
18 Add a small bead of acrylic to the very end of the nail and then push a needle up into the bead, adjust it until it's perfectly straight and hold it while the acrylic sets/cures.



19 Once the needle is placed, add a small bead of acrylic on top to blend and seal it to the nail and create the point of the stiletto.



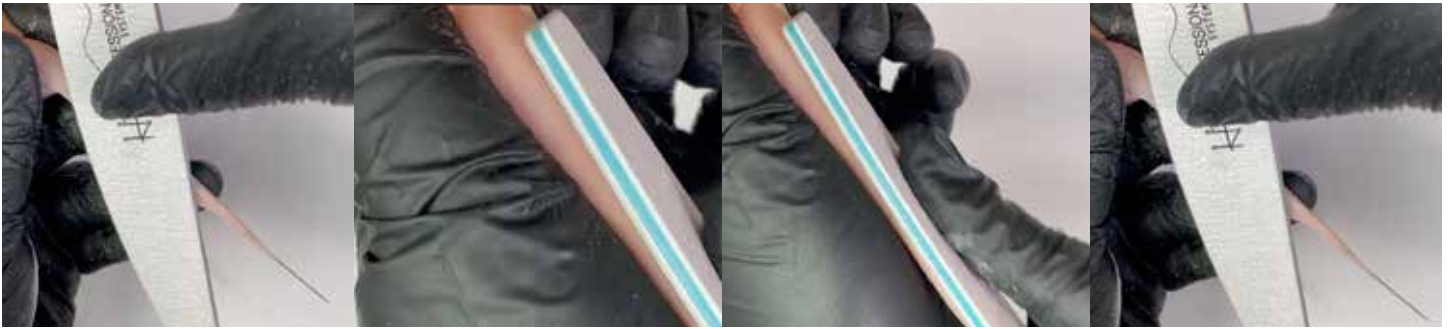
20 At this stage, looking at the underside of the nail, we can see that this nail is perfect for competition because the sides are wafer thin and the nail is straight.



21 Since the nail is so fragile, it's wise when doing photo shoots etc, to fill in the underside of the nail with acrylic. This will give it strength, durability and stability.

PRO TIPS

- A needle is put into the end of the stiletto in order to file it without breaking off the end of the nail since it is so thin.
- Do not fill in for competition nails as you need the C-curve points. This nail has a 60% C-curve, which is perfect for competition.



22 Look at the nail from above; it is a perfect triangle. Refine the nail. File in one direction only (so you don't catch, pull or break the needle at the end of the nail), and work from one side to the other, so you don't build up heat and the nail is refined carefully and stays even. You want the nail to be flat and smooth down each side.



23 Use your file underneath the nail to check that the lower arches under the nail match.



24 Use an efile, as a flat hand file cannot effectively file the underside of the dragon shape. Hazel is using a fine round top carbide bit for this manoeuvre. Turn the nail upside down and file across, so both sides are filed simultaneously. This means they will match.

Buffing the nail ready for art application takes up to 30 minutes of careful planing, as if working with wood. During this time the nail is slowly rotated.

PRO TIP

- When filing keep away from the needle point.

XX TREME nail art DRAGON



Hazel
Dixon



WHAT YOU NEED

Airbrush paints, airbrush gun, cleaner, L&P system & colored powders, brush, orangewood sticks, backing paper from extreme form

GETTING PREPARED

Airbrush gun, lint-free wipes, scissors & kitchen roll

Hazel Dixon

UK champion nail artist,
educator & brand owner
@hdpronails @hazeldixon
@hdproacademy

AIRBRUSHING



1 Always start airbrushing with the lighter colors and add darker shades as you move through the design. Hold the airbrush gun a few inches away from the nail and carefully move the gun from side to side to spread the paint evenly as it sprays. Start at the point of the nail and work your way up.
(Hazel mixed yellow and red paints in the gun to create her orange shade.)



2 Turn the nail upside down and spray the paint evenly onto its underside.



3 Add a darker red into the airbrush gun and now spray further up the nail. Overlap the colors as you work up the nail to create an ombre effect. Layer the colors to get a fine, even and opaque coating to the nail.



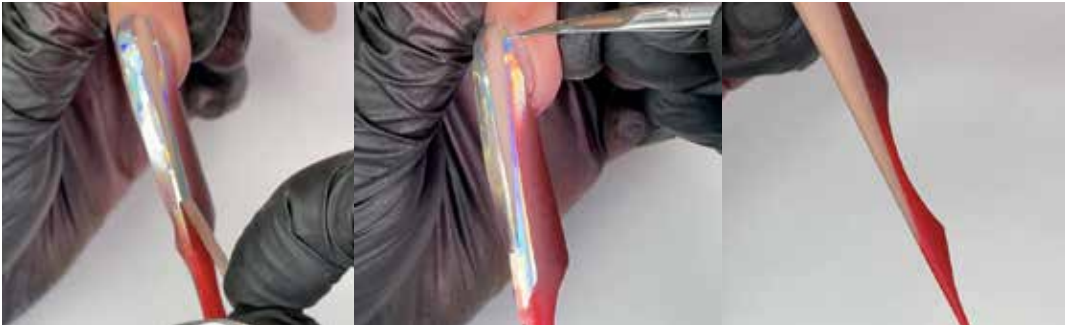
4 Add black paint into the airbrush gun to make the red richer and darker as you move up the nail. Start with a light orange shade, moving into light red and then dark red for the ombre.



5 Layer the paint along each side of the nail, across the top and the underside.

PRO TIPS

- Add striping tape to your nail to create strong defined lines for the design.
- Airbrushing adds no bulk to the nail, so a great choice for art on extreme shapes.
- Airbrushing will show up any mistakes in your nail finish & highlights the definition of the nail.
- Always work from light to dark paints, so there's no need to clean the airbrush gun between colors.



6 Peel off the striping tape to reveal the finished ombre design.

SCULPT 3D FLOWERS & LEAVES



7 Use the backing paper from your forms. Flatten an acrylic bead created using red colored acrylic powder. Stretch it out to create a rose petal. Do this in beads of varying miniature sizes, so the flowers are not symmetrical.



8 Keep the bead even and work thinner, so you get more playtime with the bead. You don't want a fast cure.



9 When it goes from shiny to satin, but before it turns matt, put monomer on your brush and wiggle it under the petal.



10 As you wiggle the underside of the bead, it gets wet and will lift off. Place the wet side on the end of an orangewood stick and wrap around.

PRO TIPS

- Red takes longer to dry due to the amount of pigment inside it.
- Wear gloves, so you do not overexpose yourself to the acrylic product.
- Flatten your bead to get more playtime. The thicker the product, the more molecules are there and the set time is quicker. Work thinner for more time to mold the product.



11 Use your brush to open up the petals while it is still malleable, before it cures.



12 As the rose is crafted, make beads bigger in order to wrap around the entire rose.



13 Make and flatten a bead using green colored powder. Use tip of the brush to tickle the bead and pull into a diamond shape at opposite ends.

14 Flick out a small section of the leaf to give it movement. Score the surface to give it leaf characteristics.



15 Make irregular shapes by stretching the beads to mimic real leaves. When leaves turn satin, fold the paper to give the leaf a curve.

PRO TIPS

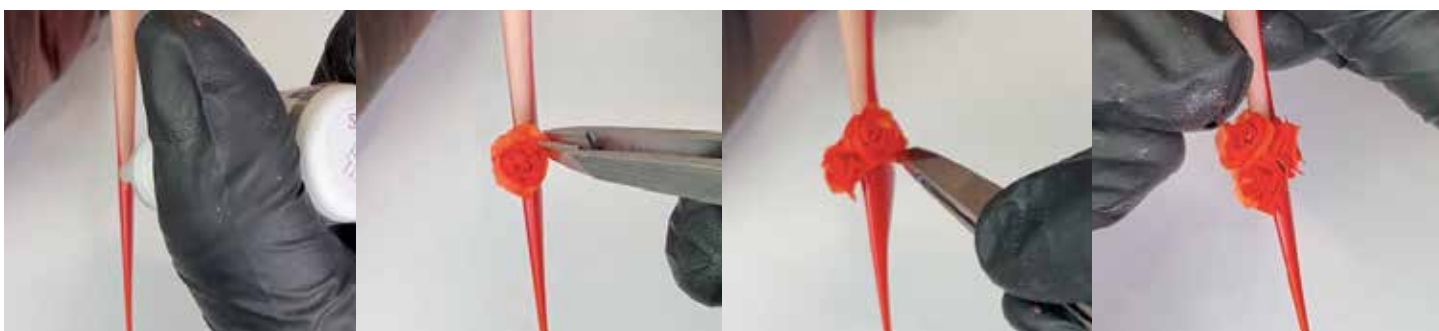
- The underside of the petal is now wet since the brush loaded with monomer has picked it off the paper. Use this wet side to adhere the petal to the rose as you wrap around the orangewood stick.
- The liquid & powder will not adhere to wood and so the rose will peel away from the orangewood stick easily.
- Adhere the leaves and roses with glue to use them again or acrylic for permanent adhesion.



16 Wet brush and wiggle under bead, lift and fold a little, hold and leave to cure. The leaf now has an arch and realistic movement. The leaf will have movement on the nail and not sit flat.

PRO TIP

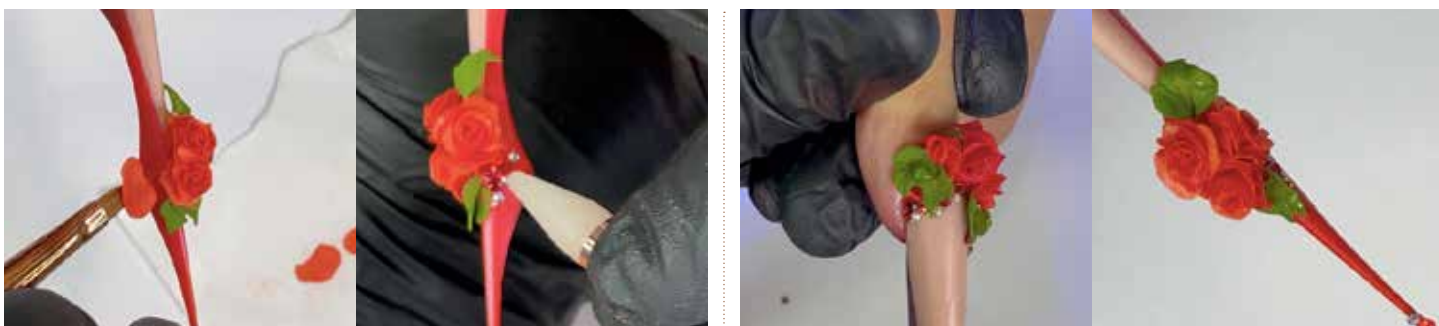
- Use microbeads/bullion and crystals to cover up any obvious glue drops.



17 Use nail glue to add the roses to the nail. Use tweezers to prevent the roses adhering to the gloves. Create a cluster of three on the nail.



18 After roses and leaves have been adhered to the nail. Add extra rose petals to fill in spaces and complete the flower.



19 Finish the design elements using red, silver and rainbow microbeads/bullion and carefully placed crystals.

20 Apply no-wipe top coat to place the microbeads and cure. Use clear UV top coat and add small drops to leaves and petals (to mimic raindrops), to complete the design and flash cure.