

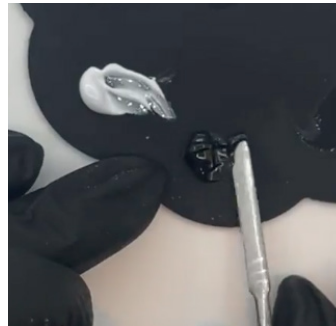
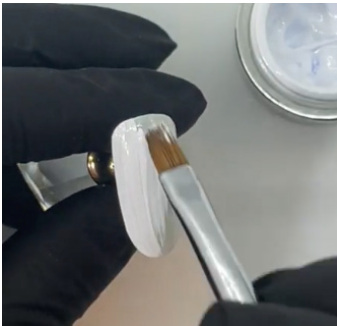
XXXTREME nail art SKULL DESIGN



WHAT YOU NEED

Akzentz Gel Play - Black , Akzentz Gel Play - Titanium White, Akzentz No.6 Design Brush, 000 or 00 Liner/Detail Brush, Akzentz Gel Wipes - Lint Free, Akzentz Prep & Wipe, Akzentz Matte On, Fine Pointed Gray Led Pencil

PREPARE THE BASE OF THE DESIGN



1 Apply 2 coats of Akzentz Gel Play - Titanium White, for a strong, stark white background. Cure between coats for 30 seconds. While the second coat is curing, set up a dollop of white and black paint on your palette (Viv is using a silicone mat for her palette).



2 Apply a coat of Matte On over the entire nail and cure for 30 seconds. Then remove the tacky layer with gel cleanser on a lint-free wipe.

3 Lightly buff the surface of the nail and tidy up the edges of the tip using a Sponge buffer. This helps create a better surface to sketch onto.

4 Remove dust with a lint-free pad and Prep & Wipe gel cleanser.

Viv Clements- Simmonds



With over 29 years of industry experience, Viv Simmonds has achieved international status and recognition through many industry accomplishments. A champion tech, Viv has worn the title *Australian Champion* for five consecutive years, has earned the accolade *Australian 'Champion of Champions'*, has been crowned *EzFlow Educator of the Year* and taken many more awards and titles across Australia over her near three decades in nails.

In her quest to stretch her skills, Viv has also taken 1st, 2nd & 3rd place trophies in Asia, America and Europe. Leaving the competition arena behind, Viv is now found behind the curtain as a much sought-after international judge.

An inspiring source of skill and creativity, Viv has created eight front covers for nail magazines and trade titles around the world and was listed in the *Who's Who of Australian Women* 2010 and 2011. She's been featured on television, as well as in industry and consumer magazines across Australia and around the world.

Viv's accomplishments have taken her all over the globe, where she's conducted training events in *Advanced Nail Technology & Design*. One of Viv's greatest achievements to date is the Australian & New Zealand Team of ACE Akzentz educators that she's mentored and trained, who are now developing into multi-award-winning nail artists and educators themselves.

Viv Clement-Simmonds is the director of Vivid Nails & Vivid Nails Academy, is the global education co-ordinator for Akzentz Professional (Canada) and ICE (International Certified Educator) for Akzentz Professional.



Viv Clements - Simmonds
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DRAW THE OUTLINE OF THE DESIGN



5 Using a fine pointed gray pencil – sketch the skull onto the nail. Start with the outline of the skull adding indentations where the ends of the teeth will be positioned. Then add the nose in line with the indentations and make it a teardrop shape. Next add in the eye sockets, do not make them perfectly round circles.

PRO TIPS

• While sketching the outline of your design, work lightly, not heavy, so it's easy to correct mistakes if you need to erase anything later. It's important to choose a superfine pencil to work with.



6 To delete any mistakes, don't use a regular eraser, instead, as Viv demonstrates, choose the Akzentz No.6 Design Brush to clean away any lines or smudges of pencil on the nail tip. Clean the brush with gel cleanser on a lint-free wipe.

7 Soften the lines you are happy with and keep them super fine and faint – just enough to see slightly. If you need to correct a mistake, such as moving the eye socket higher, just gently push the line with your #6 brush and gently push the penciled line up or you can wipe it off.

8 Apply a very thin coat of Titanium White over the entire skull – just the smallest amount and cure. This will make sure the lines you've drawn are secure.

PRO TIPS

• Clean the brush with gel cleanser on a lint-free wipe, as you do not want any fluff to come near this nail tip.

DRAW THE OUTLINE OF THE DESIGN



9 Using a 000 or 00 fine detail brush, start outlining the skull using Akzentz Gel Play Black – do not cure. 'Less is best'; use the tiniest amount of paint on the brush. You can always add more, but you don't want to smother the nail in paint and ruin the design in the early stages.

10 Using the No.6 brush utilize the point to lightly tap into the line to soften and slightly smudge/blend the line into a fade.

11 Repeat this step on all the key features of the skull – skull head, eye sockets (do not make them round, more like a hexagon shape, nose, skull crack, jaw and teeth).

DETAILS, HIGHLIGHTS & SHADOWS



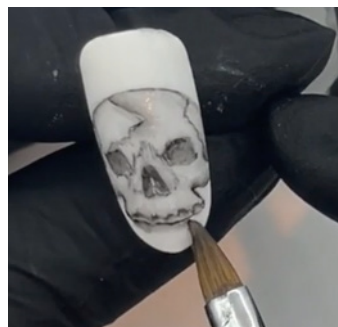
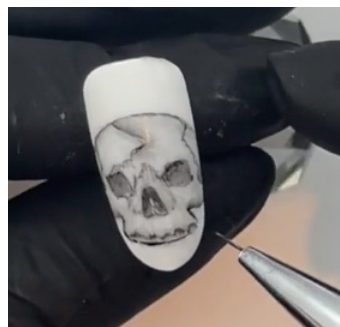
12 Start to add in more detailed shadowing – making sure you clean up any smudges on the white area as you go.



13 Use Titanium White to assist in blending and highlighting where needed. As you blend with the white you will create a transitional gray shade to accentuate the highlighted and shaded areas. Here you are contouring the design to give it depth and more reality.



14 Keep doing this technique until you see that you cannot add any further depth, then cure. (Highlights include: across the top of the skull, along the top lip, center of the nose, cheekbones and to the sides of the skull).



15 You can now go back and add more color for depth and highlights using the same techniques.



16 Once you are happy with the shadowing then cure.

FINISHING THE DESIGN



17 Apply a coat of Matte On and cure for 30 seconds. Then remove the tacky/dispersion/inhibition layer and now it's time for final details.



18 Using the fine liner brush – add in lines for detail. Along the jaw tap the white into the design to highlight, do not wipe it across.





19 Use black gel paint for the darker areas and Titanium White for the highlighted areas and to soften the shading; move slowly around the entire skull.



20 Cure and cap with either Matte On for a matt finish (for a softer more subtle look) or Shine On for a high shine finish (the image will pop/ stand out more on a shiny finish).