

XXXTREME nail art

ADVANCED 3D FLOWER SCULPTING



Dafne
Fernández



Working as a nail professional since 2009, Dafne Fernández, known for both her nail sculpture, structure and art skills, is the founder and owner of Stanzy Nails & Beauty, Botica Puré, Mano Santa Nail Art and the director of the Stanzy Academy in Mexico City. Dafne became globally renowned after taking the role of global educator for *Artistic Nail Design* from 2012-2018. A champion tech, Dafne has won accolades in Orlando, Vegas, Pasadena and at the first *Nailympia* Canada in 2019. Dafne is an international judge and has educated in Japan, USA, China, Turkey, The Netherlands, UK, Russia, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, New Zealand, Australia and Greece. She was also the host of the first *Nailympia* Mexico (30-31 Oct 2021).



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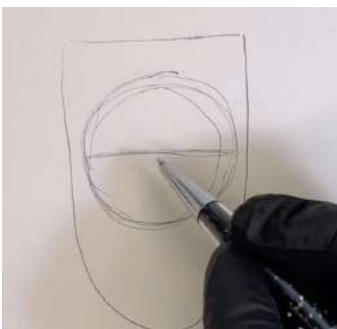
WHAT YOU NEED
You will need a #4 Kolinsky brush with a thin, pointy tip for detailing. The brush at the ferrule end must be flexible & strong, as you will be pressing down into the product throughout the design. The design requires red, neon peach, green, blue, yellow and white powders for creating highlights & shadows as well as color.

GETTING PREPARED

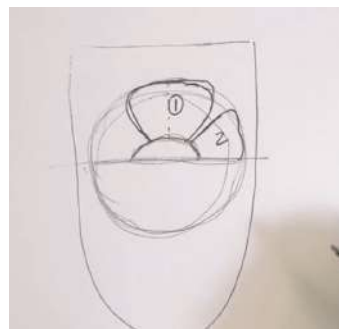
Have your brush sitting in a brush holder, monomer in dappen dish & powders ready. Have an art tool with pointed end ready to add in design details towards the end of the design.



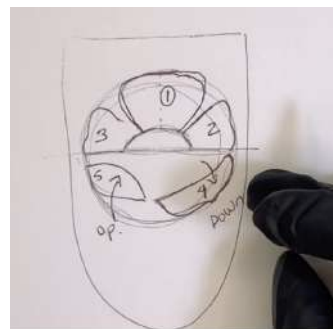
DRAWING



1 Start by drawing the design onto white paper. Draw a large nail tip with a circle in the center. Then break the circle in half & add a mini half circle above the line. This drawing will help you translate your art onto the actual nail tip.



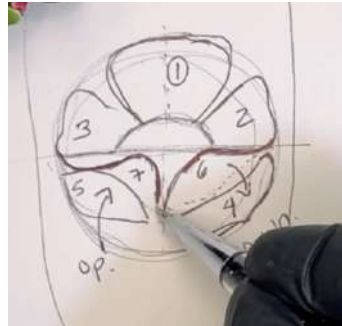
2 Add a petal to the top area and call it number 1. Draw a 2nd petal to the right, call it number 2 & a petal to the left, number 3.



3 Now add the lower petals to your drawing - petals 4 & 5. For an open petal - use an arrow pointing down - number 4- and for a closing petal point the arrow upwards - number 5.



4 Now place petals 6 & 7. Draw them above petals 4 & 5 with 6 placing above 5 and below number 3. This helps create a flower that is correctly in proportion.



5 Leave the center of the flower empty, as this is where the nucleus of the flower will be added towards the end of the design process.

PRO TIPS

- If you're working this design in a cold climate you may want to work with your monomer at 30% acetone to 70% monomer. If working in normal, comfortable conditions, then use 100% monomer. Do not use cloudy or dirty monomer. It must be a clean liquid as dirty monomer will make the design shiney & the powder will stick to your brush.

BACKGROUND



6 Polish 2 coats of white UV/LED gel polish on the nail and cure between each layer.



7 Now create the background using dark green & blue powders. Take your green powder bead, place it on the tip & blend it down. Work with a wet brush to give a watercolor effect.



8 Next take your blue powder bead and place in the middle of the tip and blend upwards. Overlap the two colors to create an ombré blend effect.



9 Take a lint-free nail wipe & clean your brush with monomer in readiness for the red powder. Clean the brush by pulling it in one direction, then rotate the bristles carefully to keep the brush in a point. Respecting & caring for your brush in this way will give it good performance & longevity.



10 Take the red powder & create a half-moon shape in the center of the nail tip.



11 Pick up a red bead, work the brush wet, as you would with watercolors and now pull the product upwards to create the first petal. Keep working the product so it becomes very flat. Be patient, work slowly & allow the product to dry as you work. As it dries, continue to press down to make the petal very flat. As the product dries it becomes easier to manipulate.



PRO TIPS

- Wear gloves when sculpting in 3D to keep the monomer & the powders off your skin. It also helps you to stay clean during your work.

SCULPTING THE PETALS



12 Take a small red bead & add petal number 2; follow your drawing to make sure it is placed correctly. Don't use too much monomer, be careful to get your ratio correct for sculpting. Here you want to create volume, so use the belly of the brush to pat & move the bead into shape.



13 Add petal number 3 & note how the product dries to a matte finish. This is exactly what you want to see.



14 Place the bead for petal number 4. Press the bead down & pull the product down to the tip. This will give the petal its movement.



15 For petal number 5. Place the bead & push the product upwards for the closing movement of the petal. This gives it movement & shape. Let each stage of your sculpting dry before you add the next bead.



16 Place petals 6 & 7 creating movement as you sculpt by pressing & pushing the product with the belly of the brush. Allow the product to dry before you manipulate each stage. As you place petal number 7 connect it to petal 3 & pull it down into the center of the flower. Push the tip of the brush into petal number 2 to create the idea of an opening petal. The flower is now ready for its highlights & shadows to bring it true dimension.



HIGHLIGHTS & SHADOWS



17 Take a neon peach bead to add highlights to the raised areas of the petals. This is to bring light into the scene.



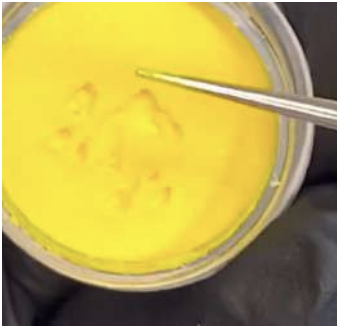
18 It's time to add leaves, more colors & elements. Take a yellow bead & place it at the bottom of the petals, to create a stem. Work wet to make it malleable. Add green to the yellow & begin to place leaves in the lower areas by placing the bead & pressing it to create its shape & form. Take a wet small blue bead & add into petals that need shadow, such as petals 2 & 3.



19 Take a white bead to create the highlights, depth & dimension to the leaves. Work wet, blend & pull the product to create the desired effect of highlighted leaves.



20 Create obvious channels in the product to give the leaves high points & low points. Add a leaf bead to the underside of petals 3 & 4 to give further interest & dimension.



21 Place a yellow bead in the very center of the flower. Let it dry a little before you use your nail art tool to press into the bead to create the stippled effect.



22 Take a red bead & place an 8th petal in the lower right of the nail tip. Pat, press & draw the product into a petal shape as before.



23 To complete the design & give it full depth & dimension use small white beads & place them on the highest points of the design, & place small beads of neon peach in the recesses of the petals too. These will lighten up the whole look & bring it to life!



The final look