

TAG THAT trend

PUPPY LOVE



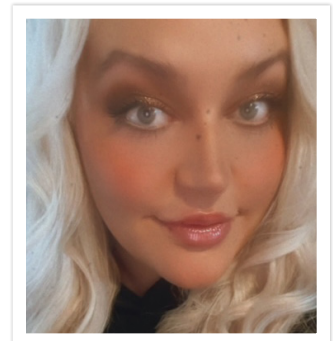
Gemma Dawson



While on maternity leave with her first baby back in 2015, Gemma Dawson took up nails. "I was desperately unhappy in my career working at a university during my PhD in statistical analysis," reflects Gemma. "I've always been creative, but had lost my way a little through my studies. I really admired people who were creative and their own bosses, so I looked into retraining and nails had always been something I loved. Whether it was painting my own and attempting some DIY nail art or having them done in the salon. I soon discovered the competition circuit and was fascinated by what could be created on nails. It merged two areas that I already loved; craft and nails. I decided then, that my long-term goal was to compete"

"Once qualified I soon realized clients weren't the way forward for me and that I really enjoyed posting my art and doing live tutorials or step-by-steps for other nail techs. A real mash up of my original teaching career and newfound passion for nails, I'm now a full-time stay-at-home mum, I home school my two children and post my nail art as much as I can online.

"I've currently challenged myself to enter as many nail art competitions as possible through 2023 and hope that in 2024 I can look into putting together some proper nail art courses."



GEMMA DAWSON

UK

IG: @gemma_dawson_nailartist

WHAT YOU NEED

The HD Professional Nail Systems L&P acrylic system, white, black and red powders, HD Professional Nails No-Wipe Top Coat, acrylic paints in black, gray and white. HD Professional Nails white gel paint, HD Professional Nails mini 3D art brush, silicone or dotting tool, a nail form.

GETTING PREPARED

Prepare your table in an organized manner eliminating cross contamination from the products. Make sure all necessary products are within hand's reach, so the products are ready to use on the nail desk.



1 Apply base color to the nail tip. I've used matte top coat & then buffed over it.



2 Apply a medium-sized bead of acrylic, centrally on the nail where you want your puppy to sit.



3 Create a triangle out of aluminum foil or product if you prefer. This will become the puppy's body.



4 Cover the foil in a layer of gray acrylic to give it a hard exterior.



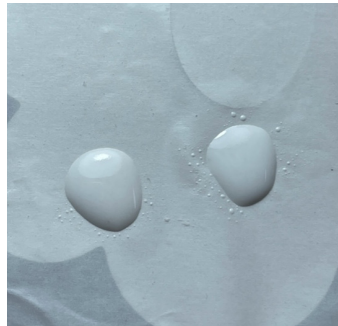
5 Apply a small bead of L&P to the top of the triangle & attach a small foil sphere. This will act as a base for the puppy's head.



6 Repeat the process of covering the foil with gray acrylic until the foil is well disguised.



7 Now refine the shape & smooth away any roughness to create the body shape.



8 On a sculpting form, place two small acrylic beads and let them set. These will act as the beginning of the puppy's paws.



9 Once set, attach the paws using a small amount of acrylic to the base of the puppy.



10 Next apply small beads of acrylic to the paws to build them up, make them fuller & less flat.



11 On a sculpting form, place two beads of acrylic & drag them into two slightly curved shapes, that fan out at the bottom. Then place two circles below them. These will become the puppy's front legs & paws.



12 Attach the two arms using a small amount of acrylic, it's ok if they overlap a little.



13 Repeat the process & add the two paw circles.



14 Join the two paws to the arms & build them up, so they are no longer flat & separate.



15 Place a small bead of acrylic to the bottom of the head to the left of center. This is the start of the puppy's snout.



16 Repeat step 15 for the right of center side of the head.



17 Use black acrylic powder, create a small bead & add for its nose.



18 Using your brush, a silicone tool or a dotting tool, push in the nose shape to produce nostrils.



19 Take two very small beads of black acrylic & place small eyes either side of the nose.



20 Add two small, elongated beads of white acrylic & place these as eyebrows above the eyes. Apply a small amount of white acrylic either side of the snout, then using a silicone tool, push indentation lines to give the effect of a fluffy snout.



21 Next apply a small amount of black acrylic & sculpt it into a small triangle-shaped ear to the left of his head.



22 Then, gradually using small amounts of black acrylic, sculpt a floppy ear shape. You can also sculpt separately on a form if you prefer.



23 Repeat step 22 for both ears.



24 Add any additional acrylic to the snout or feet to get the shape you require, add further indentations to emphasize the fur across the body, then use a small amount of black powder & monomer to paint on black spots.



25 Place two small red acrylic beads next to each other on a form, allowing them to touch.



26 Use your brush to drag them into a joining point that will create a heart shape.



27 With a small amount of acrylic, attach the heart to the puppy's face, so it looks as if he's holding it in his mouth.



28 Sculpt a long, curved tail shape onto a nail form using a white acrylic bead. Press into it along one edge with your brush to give it a fluffy effect.



29 Use a small acrylic bead to attach the tail to the back of the puppy.



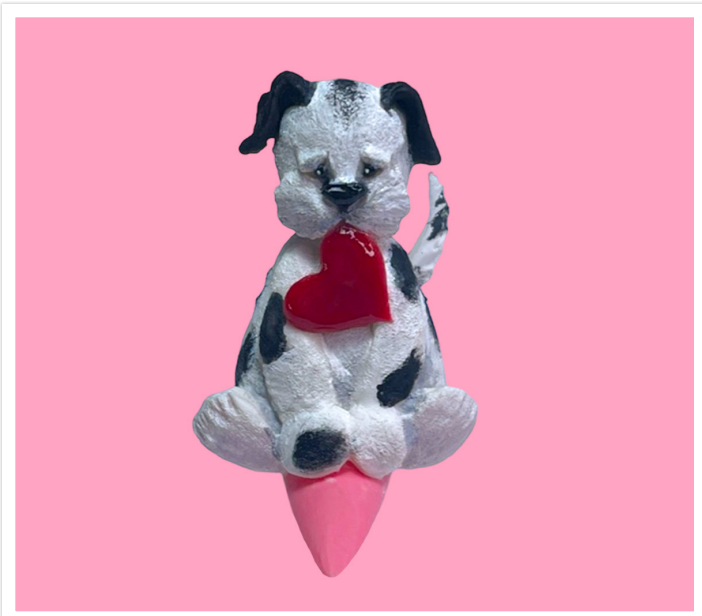
30 To further accentuate the styling, paint over the body with acrylic paints using an almost dry brush. Use the paint sparingly so it gives the effect of a furry, body. Use a little gray paint to accentuate some areas where a natural shadow would fall.



31 Next, with gel paint, add white highlight flecks to the eyes & nose.



32 Lastly apply top coat to the heart - to make it shine as the focal point, the eyes - to make them sparkle - & the nose - to make it look wet, then cure.



In this workbook you have learned how to build a figurine using aluminum foil to create the foundation of the shape, then how to design the architecture and feature details using the L&P acrylic system. Refining the design and all detailing has then been added using acrylic and gel paints. A top coat was then used to give texture and a glossy feature to areas of the figurine. This workbook has covered the fundamentals of taking nail skills into the mixed media forum.