

What does that even mean?!?!

You're definitely not the first one to ask what on earth we're talking about, so hopefully this list helps sort out some of the confusion!

Acronyms:

AIS - [Adventures in Stamping](#) (fb group)
ANIVC - [A Night In Vegas Collection](#) by PDP
BL - [Butter London](#)
BPS - Born Pretty/[Born Pretty Store](#)
LAc - [LA Colors](#)
CbL - [Colors by Llarowe](#)
CC - [Color Club](#)
CG - Cover Girl
ChG - [China Glaze](#)
DL - [Deborah Lippmann](#)
DrL - [Doctor Lacquer](#)
EP - [Enchanted Polish](#)
GITD - Glow in the Dark
IG - [Instagram](#)
MdU - [Mundo de Unas](#)
MM - [Messy Mansion](#)
MP - [M Polish](#)

NOPI- [Nicole by OPI](#)
NWP - [Native War Paints](#)
NYC - [New York Colors](#)
PAA - [Polishaholics Anonymous](#) (fb group)
PANC - [Polish Addict Nail Color](#)
PDP - [Pipe Dream Polish](#)
POMP - [Polish Of My People](#)
PSP - [Polish Stamping Plate Co-op](#) (fb group)
SB - [Simply Beautiful](#)
SC - [Sinful Colors](#)
SH - [Sally Hansen](#)
SS - [Shinespark](#)
VP - [Virago Polish](#)
WW - [Wet'N Wild](#)

Definitions:

3-Free: A polish that does not contain Dibutyl Phthalate (DBP), Formaldehyde, Toluene in its ingredients.

5-Free: A polish that does not contain Dibutyl Phthalate (DBP), Formaldehyde, Toluene, Formaldehyde Resin, and Camphor.

Advanced Stamping (aka reverse stamping): This technique can be done a couple ways;

1. After choosing the image you want to use transfer that image to your stamper head. Then with a small brush or dotting tool fill in the image with color in desired areas. Allow this to dry, then stamp onto less than dry nails. You don't want them wet but slightly tacky so your image will stick. Then top coat. Links: [Video1](#), [Video2](#)
2. You can create a decal by painting a small area of clear polish (large enough for your image) on a non stick surface like parchment paper (you will later peel this off to apply to your nail). After the clear is dry stamp your image there and fill in the colors where you like. Once dry, apply to a tacky almost dry nail and top coat. Links: [Video1](#), [Video2](#), [Video3](#)

Blobbicure: When you apply drops (blobs) of polish onto your nail while your base color is still wet. [[Example1](#), [Example2](#), [Example3](#), [Video1](#), [Video2](#)]

Cinderella Hand: The hand that does all the work with none of the glory. usually your dominate

hand, and the hand that is rarely photographed.

Clean-Up: When you use a makeup, or nail art brush to clean the edges of your mani, creating a smooth, clean finish. Natural bristles work best as acetone will eat through synthetic fibers. The [Sonia Kashuk No.105](#) is a great brush for \$5, it can be found at Target. Also check out the Kolinsky Clean-up Brush [size 14](#), [size 12](#) (#12 is smaller than #14).

Crelly: A type of finish that has a squishy and is sometimes a little sheer on the first coat, but buildable. It is similar to a cream in opacity.

Dupe: An exact copy of a polish, recreated by a different brand.

Duo-chrome/Multi-chrome Polish: These polishes usually show one color in one light, and a completely different color in another light. Duochromes are made up of two colors [[Example1](#)], multi-chromes are more than two [[Example1](#), [Example2](#)]. *

Finish: There are 13 types of nail polish finishes. And they include: shimmer, micro-shimmer, micro-glitter, glitter, frost, lustre, crème, prismatic micro-glitter or shimmer, iridescent, opalescent, matte, duo-chrome, and translucent.

Flakies: These are usually toppers, but some polishes have a colored base with flakies in them to give them a neat effect. They are flat iridescent glitter that catches the light and usually shines. Some can be holographic, some can be multicolored, some are just clear/iridescent. [[Example1](#), [Example2](#), [Example3](#), [Example4](#)] *

Foil Method: A technique used to remove gel, glitter, or other hard to remove polishes. Place cotton pads/cotton balls soaked in 100% acetone on the nail, then wrap with aluminum foil. Allow to soak for 5-10 minutes. The polish should then slide right off, if not give it a few more minutes and check again. ([Tutorial](#))

Formula: How the polish applies. Streaky, thick, goopy, smooth, etc.

Franken: A polish made from multiple pre-made polishes to create a personalized color.

Franken Jelly: These are made by adding a small amount of color to a clear polish. Often created to use for “jelly sandwiches” or “lead lighting” stamping technique. ([How to](#))

Gelly Sandwich: A mani that “sandwiches” or layers regular nail polish between a gel base and top coat. This enables you to have the longer wear of gel polish while still using regular polish colors. It’s particularly helpful if you already have a large polish collection prior to starting a gel system and regular nail polish can be MUCH cheaper than gel colors.

To achieve this look:

1. Apply a gel polish base coat and cure it
2. Apply regular polish mani, allow to dry thoroughly (Most recommend overnight with a regular quick dry top coat)
3. Apply a gel top coat and cure

Gradient Nails: This is created with two or more colors blended into each other using a sponge to

apply to the nail. ([Tutorial](#)) Not to be confused with ombre nails. There is a great explanation of the differences, with visual aids, found [here](#).

Half Moon Mani: A manicure that is created by painting nails a base color(s) then taping off a crescent shape at the base of the nail, painting, then removing the tape to reveal the crescent in the base color. Check out some tutorials and ideas [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#). Also see “Ruffian Manicure”

Haul: Getting a large group of items all at once. Example: “Check out my Ulta haul, I got all this for less than \$25!”

Holo (Aka holographic) nail polish: This type of polish catches the light and throws a rainbow. There are two types: a) scattered [[Example1](#), [Example2](#)] and b) linear [[Example1](#), [Example2](#)]. Scattered is usually glitter, throws rainbows all over the place. Linear shows the rainbow effect in lines. *

Ikate: Is a manicure based off a fabric pattern. [Tutorial](#), [Video](#), [Video](#)

Jelly: A type of finish that has a squishy appearance and sheer application, often taking 3, 4, or even 5 coats. It is difficult, if not impossible to tell if a polish is a jelly in the bottle, the best way to know if it is a jelly is by other users experience. ([Example 1](#), [Example 2](#), [Example 3](#))

Jelly Sandwich: A manicure that “sandwiches” or layers glitter between coats of translucent or “jelly” polish. This creates the effect that the glitter is floating inside the color polish. To achieve this look:

1. Two thin coats of a "Jelly polish" (a polish that sheer but has a squishy finish)
 2. A layer of glitter
 3. Another layer of Jelly polish
- ([Example](#), [Tutorial](#) and [Video Tutorial](#).)

Leadlight Stamping: A technique where you paint a white base (or other light color), and stamp as normal with a black (or dark) color. Then with a jelly polish fill in the colors in desired locations like coloring in a coloring book. You can buy jelly polishes or make your own. If you don't want to make a full bottle, you can easily mix a few drops of clear on a pallet, a drop of color, and mix it together for a one time use. Links: [Video1](#), [Video2](#)

Lemming: According to Urban Dictionary: “A lemming refers to a purchase/wished-for-item which results from reading an enthusiastic post about a new fabulous product. Overcome by compulsion, readers follow like lemmings diving off a cliff.” Can be a noun or verb. Examples: “That polish is one of my biggest lemmings!” or “I am totally lemming the new OPI Collection after reading her blog post!”

Leukonychia: White spots on the nail bed. The spots you notice are not caused by a calcium deficiency (common misconception). They're called "leukonychia" and are very common. Most of the time the white spots simply are a sign of some past injury to the matrix (base) of your nails.

Micro-glitter (finish): A really teeny fine/tiny glitter. You couldn't do glitter placement with a micro-glitter because you can't easily separate it from the base. [[Example1](#), [Example2](#)] *

Nail Wraps: A sticker like “wrap” you place on your nail. They can be great for a quick mani or if

nail art isn't your strong point. [[Video](#), [Tutorial](#)]

Ombre Manicure: Often confused with gradient nails, but is actually a very different technique. This technique is not a gradient on each nail but shading from one nail to the next, each nail being a solid color and just a shade off from the nail next to it. For example black on one nail, three shades of grey (going from dark to light) over the next three nails, then white on the last nail. This is also in the blog post I linked in the gradient definition ([here](#)).

Pond Mani: A manicure created with nail art between layers of polish with a jelly finish. (like [here](#), [here](#), or [here](#))

Reciprocal Gradient: A manicure created by doing a base manicure with a color gradient, then placing striping tape over it and doing the gradient in the opposite direction. ([Video Tutorial](#))

Ruffian Manicure (aka Crescent Moon Mani): This is a mani created by laying down a base color then adding another color on top leaving a crescent shape of the base color showing along the cuticle line. ([Tutorial](#)) ([Video Tutorial](#))

Shimmer (finish): A polish, usually with a cream base, that has a shimmer to it. Not a glitter but a very fine powdery shimmer. Sometimes it isn't even noticeable until in the right lighting.

Skittles Mani: To get this look you apply different colors to each nail not necessarily in the same color family. (Also explained in the [gradient/ombre blog post](#).)

Skittlette: Not a full skittles look, a skittlette is one with at least two accent nails. They can be in any order you like, but a true skittlette has at least two nails that are the same, the others can all be different. Or you can do two pairs of identical nails and a different nail. A couple of good blog posts about this look can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

Swatch: To apply polish for the sole purpose of seeing the true color and finish out of the bottle. Usually removed once photographed to share online or on a blog.

Syrup Mani: A gradient like manicure, created by layering a jelly polish in coats each shorter than the previous. ([Tutorial1](#), [Tutorial2](#))

Vag Brush: a container of acetone with a brush inside. Particularly helpful for removing glitter and textured polishes. When the acetone gets gross, just dump it out and add fresh! You can find them at most drug stores, just be sure that it says "brush" somewhere on the packaging. (Can be found [here](#) or [here](#).)

Vag Sponge: a container of acetone with a sponge inside. Helpful for removing stubborn polishes but it can get gunky and need to be replaced more frequently than a vag brush. ([Here](#))

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