



International Competition CZECH NAIL OPEN CUP 2026

2 October 2026, Prague 7 (PVA Letňany)

The 25th edition of the CZECH NAIL OPEN CUP International Competition will take place as part of the beauty trade fair at the **PVA Letňany** exhibition centre on 2–3 October 2026.

Registration and payment of entry fees Posters: **1 June 2026 – 12 September 2026**

Send an electronic version of the poster to czechnailcup@seznam.cz by **12 September 2026**

!!! When sending the email, please **always state** the competitor's name, the title of the entry/entries and the category. This applies in particular to works submitted by photographers!!!

Please send all posters in **JPG** format only. **A 10-second video** must be sent with each photo.

The posters will be judged electronically, so the judges will be assessing electronic (digital) photographs. You don't need to print anything! We will print all the posters ourselves. They will be on display during the For Beauty trade fair in Letňany, Prague, **on 2–3 October 2026**.

The winners will be announced at the For Beauty trade fair on Friday **2 October 2026**.

Categories: Homework: POSTER:

- **POSTER SOAK OFF** - Square Nails - Snake World
- **POSTER SALON** - Salon Almond - Vitrage French
- **POSTER EXTREME** - Geometry
- **POSTER CreaNAIL EXTREME** - Venice Carnival
- **INSTA PHOTO** (Stamping & Slider) - Pokémon
- **INSTA STORIES** (TOP Makeover): Natural Shimmer
- **POSTER REALITY NAILS** - The 60s
- **POSTER PEDICURE**: Golden Pedicure

Categories: All nominations will be divided into 3 categories:

BEGINNER – this category is for competitors who have never taken part in any competition before, as well as those who have competed but have never placed in the top three in any category, and those who have competed and won in any competition other than the Czech Nail Open Cup.

To move up to the next category, a BEGINNER must win 3 trophies in any category at the Czech Nail Open Cup.

JUNIOR – this category is for competitors who have already competed in the Czech Nail Open Cup and won at least 3 trophies in any category.

To move up to the next category, a JUNIOR must have won first place three times in each specific group of categories* at the Czech Nail Open Cup (thus confirming their skill).

MASTER – this category is for competitors who have previously competed in the Czech Nail Open Cup and have won first place three times in a specific group of categories*.

A Master who wins first place three times in a specific category may proceed to: complete training and become a **Czech Nail Open Cup Instructor** for that specific category.

* Categories are divided into 5 groups:

1. Group 1: On-site categories – technical categories (Soak Off Manicure, French Nails, DUO forms, Modern Almond, Stiletto Nails)
2. Group: On-site categories – nail art categories (Salon Nail Art, Reality Nails, Stamping Nail Art)

3. Group: Homework – Poster
4. Group: Homework – Tip Box
5. Group: Pedicure

A competitor's move from one category to another will take place within a specific nomination group, so a competitor may be a MASTER in one nomination group but a JUNIOR in another group they wish to try. The division into nomination groups applies to both JUNIOR and MASTER.

It is the competitor's responsibility to ensure they are entered in the correct category. If deliberate incorrect classification is discovered before the competition, the competitor will be moved to the appropriate category; if deliberate incorrect classification is discovered during the competition, disqualification may occur; after the competition, winning trophies and other prizes may be withdrawn.

Entries must be newly created for this competition.

Conditions of participation: The exact programme and schedule will be published after the registration deadline. Detailed judging criteria are published before the competition (see below). Every participant must register in good time!

Registration fee: The registration fee includes admission to the fair.

BEGINNER:

1–2 entries – 900 CZK / €35 (per entry) 3 or more entries – 850 CZK / €34 (per entry)

JUNIOR and MASTER:

1–2 entries – 1,000 CZK / €40 (per entry) 3 or more entries – 950 CZK / €38 (per entry)

TEAM: The team registration fee is the same for all categories: 1,100 CZK / 45 € per team.

Prizes: Winners in all categories and divisions will receive beautiful trophies, certificates and prizes from our specialist sponsors: valuable packs of materials, training vouchers, gift vouchers and discounts on materials of your choice!

The value of the prizes from sponsors and the size of the trophies increase according to the competitor's category, so prizes in the MASTER category are more valuable than, for example, in the JUNIOR category, and trophies in the MASTER category are larger than, for example, in the JUNIOR category. In the BEGINNER category, winners will receive a certificate, a trophy and a gift or discount voucher for materials from sponsors.

Absolutely all competitors will receive a Diploma – a thank you for taking part in the competition – a commemorative diploma demonstrating your professional standard, which you can display in your salon!!!

For international competitors: If you are unable to attend the awards ceremony in person, postal costs will be charged additionally.

Registration and applications: www.czechnailopencup.cz

Further enquiries to: Unique Style s.r.o. Veronika Vitkovská, +420 608 981 168
registrace@czechnailcup.cz

POSTER Soak Off

Square Nails - Snake World

Theme: Square Nails - Snake World

This year, as always, we would like to focus on a truly flawless manicure and a beautiful, precise square nail shape. This year's theme offers participants a great opportunity to showcase their skills and imagination. Be as creative as possible, working with various textures, shimmers and snakeskin patterns. Draw inspiration from the textures, movements and hypnotic appearance of snakes. Transfer the mysterious beauty of these cold-blooded creatures into your nail art and bring them to life on your nails.

Task:

Competitors must create a unique original design on both hands based on the given theme. At least 6 nails must be clearly visible. The nails must be precisely square-shaped, short, natural, reinforced and coated with gel polish; the manicure must be clean. If necessary, to achieve a more precise shape, it is possible to finish the corners on the free edge using nail modelling material; however, nail modelling is prohibited.

For Nail Art, you may use UV gloss, UV matt, coloured gel polishes, coloured gels and art gels. Nail Art must be flat. Nail Art must be tastefully distributed across all nails.

This year, you may use stickers, water decals, transfer foils, airbrush and stamping.

The design must include a suitable accessory on the theme of 'Snake World'. The model's face is not part of the design. Rhinestones are prohibited.

Parameters:

Photographs must be in JPG format, portrait orientation, A2 size, and have a resolution of at least 300 DPI. The photograph must clearly show the nails on both hands (with at least 6 nails clearly visible) and some accessories. Entries will be judged on how well the nails match the accessories and the overall look, the professionalism and originality of the nails, and the artistic quality of the photograph.

In addition to the photograph, you must submit a short 10-second video of the nails. Please do not exceed this limit. The video must show the finished nail art in close-up. The work process or the process of taking the photograph is not required.

You may use any professional nail-strengthening materials, as well as coloured polishes or gel polishes. General photo editing is permitted, but editing (retouching) of the nails themselves and their surroundings (cuticles and side ridges) is prohibited.

The following is prohibited:

The use of rhinestones (Swarovski, Preciosa, etc.) is prohibited.

Editing of the nails and their surrounding areas in photo editing software is prohibited.

The use of ready-made nail backgrounds is prohibited: the entire image must be prepared and

executed in one go. Penalty points will be deducted for breaches of the rules: 1 point for each breach

Photographs that do not meet the technical specifications in the brief will not be included in the competition.

Penalty points will be deducted for breaches of the specified brief and criteria: failure to adhere to the format, failure to adhere to the specified shape, editing of the photograph of the nails and cuticles, use of filters on the photograph, use of a ready-made background, use of rhinestones, decorations on the cuticles, 6 nails not clearly visible, nail art not present at least partially on all nails, absence of a video.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA – SOAK-OFF POSTER

Scores range from 1 to 5, with 1 point being the lowest score and 5 points the highest

1. Overall impression

The first impression of the work, the quality of the work, cleanliness, elegance and finesse, and the overall appearance are assessed.

2. Quality of the photograph

The digital photograph should be A2 size with a minimum resolution of 300 DPI in JPG format.

3. Light and shadow

The overall lighting of the subject and the lighting of individual elements of the work are assessed. Important elements should not be too bright or, conversely, too dark and in shadow.

4. Overall Image

The theme and its execution are assessed, as well as how well the nails complement the model or accessory and, where applicable, other elements of the composition, and also how well the image corresponds to the chosen nail art on the nails.

5. Poster composition

The composition and theme of the photograph are assessed. The placement of compositional elements within the photograph. How well the nails complement the image and other elements of the composition, and whether all key elements are clearly visible and do not get lost.

6. Manicure

The quality of the manicure is assessed.

7. Gel polish application

The quality of the gel polish application on the chosen nail shape and length is assessed, as well as accuracy on all fingers, precision and technique. Particular emphasis is placed on the application of gel polish around the cuticles.

8. Nail Art

The chosen nail art, its difficulty and complexity, and its execution are assessed. Furthermore, the composition and cleanliness of the application of the components.

9. Nail Art Composition

The composition of the nail art, the placement and arrangement of the nail art elements, are assessed.

10. Accessories

The selection of accessories is assessed: precision of detail, and how well it corresponds to the theme.

11. Consistency with the theme

Evaluates how well the work corresponds to the theme.

12. Originality and creativity of the nail art

The work must stand out and be distinctive through its original and interesting approach and execution. Whether the nail designer has managed to develop her own distinctive style and has used new motifs.

13. Originality and creativity of the poster

The work must stand out and be distinguished by an unusual and interesting approach and execution, an original theme and creative execution of the entire poster.

14. Neatness of the work.

The neatness of the work is assessed.

POSTER SALON

Almond Salon - Vitrage French

Task:

Competitors must create precise nails on both hands based on the given theme. The nails are shaped like salon almonds, where, when viewed from the side, the top and bottom edges are gently rounded; when viewed from above, the side edges are also gently rounded. The free edge is up to 1 cm long, so this is truly a salon-style manicure.



The nails must be sculpted in the built-up French style; the French tip must not be painted on, but must be sculpted on all 10 nails. The extended nail bed must be a flesh-tone or milky shade without pearlescent or glitter finishes. The tips of the nails are transparent, coloured in the style of stained-glass nails without glitter, pearlescent shades or other nail art components; they are clear, coloured, clean tips.

You may use any professional nail modelling materials for your work – UV gel, acrylic, polygel; all may be combined. The nail extension can be applied using classic paper forms or DUO forms.

Parameters:

Photographs must be in vertical JPG format (portrait orientation) in A2 size and with a minimum resolution of 300 DPI. The photograph must clearly show the nails on both hands and an accessory or part of the model. The nails must be visible from both above and from the side (the proportion of nails visible from above or from the side is not relevant). Entries will be judged on how well the nails complement the overall look, the professionalism and originality of the nails, and the artistic quality of the photograph. In addition to the photograph, you must submit a short 10-second video of the nails. Please do not exceed this limit. The video must show a close-up of the finished manicure and nail art. It is not necessary to show the process of creating the design or the process of taking the photograph.

General photo editing is permitted, but editing (retouching) of the nails themselves and their surroundings (cuticles and side ridges) is prohibited.

Editing the nails in photo editing software and the use of filters are prohibited.

The following are prohibited:

Use stickers, water decals, stamps, and ready-made 3D elements (flowers, leaves and the like), or any nail art on the surface of the nails, including rhinestones.

The use of ready-made nail backgrounds: the entire image, including the nails, must be prepared and executed in one go. It is prohibited for the participant, a female judge or a male judge to be the model in the poster.

Penalty points will be deducted for breaches of the rules: 1 point for each breach.

Penalty points are deducted for breaches of the specified brief and criteria: failure to adhere to the format, failure to adhere to the specified shape, alterations to the photograph on the nails and cuticles, use of a ready-made background, use of a filter on the photograph, use of stickers, water decals, stamping, rhinestones, internal nail art, and where the built-up FM is not present on all nails when the FM is drawn.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA – SALON POSTER

Ratings range from 1 to 5, where 1 is the lowest rating and 5 is the highest

1. Overall impression

The assessment covers the first impression of the work, the quality of the work, its cleanliness, elegance and delicacy, and the overall impression.

2. Quality of the photograph (assessed by a technical judge)

The quality of the photograph in electronic form should be A2 size with a minimum resolution of 300 DPI, in JPG format.

3. Light and shadow

The overall lighting of the subject and the lighting of individual elements of the work are assessed. Important elements should not be too bright or, conversely, too dark and in shadow.

4. Overall Image and composition

The composition and subject of the photograph are assessed. The placement of compositional elements within the photograph. How the nails harmonise with the image and other elements, and whether all important elements are clearly visible and do not get lost.

5. Manicure

The quality of the manicure is assessed. Whether it is clean and free from damage.

6. Nail shaping

The shape of the nails is assessed (whether it is the same on all fingers), the length of the nails, whether it is uniform on all fingers, and the thickness of the nails must be the same on all nails. The apex is in the correct position and the same on all nails; the side curves are gently rounded; the top and bottom curves are symmetrically rounded.

7. Nail bed

It must be extended beyond the natural nail bed. The nail bed is modelled using a camouflage material in a shade suitable for the model's skin tone or a milky material. The material contains no pearlescent particles or glitter; the application is smooth with no visible streaks or patches.

8. Smile line

The smile line must be drawn on all 10 nails. The shape of the smile line corresponds to the shape and length of the nail.

9. Free Edge

The free edge of the nails is shaped using a clear, tinted (stained glass) material without pearlescent particles or glitter; it is applied smoothly without visible shadows.

10. Accessory or visible part of the model

The model is assessed on how well she fits the theme and how well she matches the nails, and whether she complements and enhances the overall look.

11. Consistency with the theme

The extent to which the work corresponds to the theme is assessed.

12. Originality and creativity

The work must stand out and distinguish itself through an unusual and interesting approach and execution. Whether the nail designer has managed to come up with an original and creative interpretation of salon French manicures.

13. Cleanliness of work.

The cleanliness of the work is assessed.

EXTREME Poster

Geometry

Task: Geometry

Competitors must create a unique, original nail art design for longer nails of any shape (any type of Extreme nails, 12–16 cm long). The design must be 100% hand-crafted, including the tips – a perfectly precise shape identical on all 5 nails. No prefabricated elements, moulds, steel needles or rods to reinforce the structure are permitted. Everything must be modelled by hand. French tips and the smile line are not assessed, but are not prohibited. The nail art is flat and consists of a tasteful combination of geometric patterns.

Specifications:

The photograph must be in vertical JPG format (portrait orientation) in A2 size and with a minimum resolution of 300 DPI. The photograph must clearly show the nails of one hand against a plain, single-colour background. Neither accessories nor the model are part of the poster. The judging criteria include the coordination of the nails, the professionalism and originality of the nail design, and the artistic quality of the photograph.

In addition to the photograph, you must submit a short 10-second video of your nails. Please do not exceed this limit. The video must show a close-up of the finished nail design and nail art. It is not necessary to include footage of the work process or the photography process.

You may use any professional nail materials for nail modelling and nail art.

This year, we will once again be focusing on the perfect nail shape. For the nail art, you may use any flat decoration technique, or airbrushing over stencils or lace.

Airbrushing is permitted.

Rhinestones, pearls and other ready-made elements are prohibited.

General photo editing is permitted, but editing (retouching) of the nails themselves and the use of filters on the photograph are prohibited.

The following are prohibited:

Editing nails in photo editing software and the use of filters are prohibited. The use of decals, nail stickers, rhinestones, pearls, chains, etc. is prohibited. So-called moulds are prohibited.

Steel needles and sticks are prohibited.

The use of ready-made nail backgrounds is prohibited: the entire image, including the model, make-up and nails, must be prepared and executed in one go.

Penalty points will be deducted for breaches of the rules: 1 point for each breach

Penalty points will be deducted for breaches of the specified brief and criteria: failure to adhere to the format, alterations to the photograph on the nails and cuticles, use of ready-made backgrounds, use of stickers, water decals, other decorations, castings, steel structures, colours other than those specified in the brief, nails shorter than 12 cm or longer than 16 cm.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA – POSTER EXTREME

Ratings range from 1 to 5, where 1 is the lowest rating and 5 is the highest

1. Overall impression

The assessment covers the first impression of the work, the quality of the work, its cleanliness, elegance and delicacy, and the overall impression.

2. Quality of the photograph (assessed by a technical judge)

The quality of the photograph in electronic form should be A2 size with a minimum resolution of 300 DPI, in JPG format.

3. Light and shadow

The overall lighting of the subject and the lighting of individual elements of the work are assessed. Important elements should not be too bright or, conversely, too dark and in shadow.

4. Overall Image and composition

The composition and subject of the photograph are assessed. The positioning of the nails in the photograph – the position of the hand. Whether all important elements (nails) are clearly visible and do not get lost in the background.

5. Nail shape

The assessment focuses on whether the chosen or designed nail shape is harmonious and balanced, and whether it is aesthetically pleasing.

6. Nail modelling

The quality of the chosen shape and length of the nails is assessed, as well as the accuracy of the nail modelling on all fingers, precision, and whether the shape of the nails is harmonious and balanced, and aesthetically pleasing.

7. Nail Art

The chosen nail decoration technique and the standard of the nail art are assessed. Whether the colour is applied smoothly, whether the layer is even throughout, and whether the chosen material distorts the shape of the nails. How precisely it is applied near the cuticles.

8. Complexity of nail modelling and technique

The difficulty of the chosen modelling technique, the precision and cleanliness of the work, and the sophistication of the details are assessed. The chosen shape and decoration of the nails.

9. Consistency with the theme

The assessment focuses on how well the work relates to the topic.

10. Originality and Creativity

The work must stand out and distinguish itself through an unusual and interesting approach and execution. Try to incorporate imagination and creativity into your work. Creativity is evident not only in the shape of the nails, but also in the way specific elements and techniques are used.

11. Cleanliness of the

work. The cleanliness of the work is assessed.

POSTER CreaNAIL EXTREME

Venice Carnival

Assignment: Venice Carnival

Competitors must create a unique, original nail art design on longer nails of any shape (any type of Extreme nails on the given theme, with a minimum length of 12 cm; there is no maximum length limit).

Theme: The Venice Carnival opens the door to a world of elegance, fantasy and rich detail: masks, lace, gold, glitter. Don't be afraid to combine textures, ornaments, shine or dramatic elements — it is precisely the extreme length that gives you the space to create a true work of art. Surprise us with your originality and turn your nails into a carnival show!

Specifications:

Photographs must be in vertical JPG format (portrait orientation) in A2 size and with a minimum resolution of 300 DPI. The photograph must clearly show the nails of at least one hand and part or all of the model's face and hairstyle. Judging criteria include the harmony of the nails with the model's look and the overall image, the professionalism and originality of the nails, and the artistic quality of the photograph.

In addition to the photograph, you must submit a short 10-second video of the nails. Please do not exceed this limit. The video must show a close-up of the finished nail design and nail art. The work process or the photography process is not required.

You may use any professional materials for nail modelling and nail art; everything is permitted. Nail art must not cover more than 30% of the overall shape; the shape of the nail must be clearly visible.

Airbrushing is permitted.

General photo editing is permitted, but editing (retouching) of the nails and cuticles themselves, as well as the use of filters, is prohibited. ! Photoshop may be used to prepare the background, but not to prepare or edit the model or the nails.

The following is prohibited:

Editing of the nails in photo editing software and the use of filters are prohibited. The use of nail decals and stickers is prohibited.

It is prohibited to use ready-made models in the background for the nails: the entire image, including the model, make-up and nails, must be prepared and executed in one go.

Penalty points will be deducted for breaches of the rules: 1 point for each breach

It is prohibited for the participant herself, a female judge or a male judge to be the model on the poster.

Penalty points will be deducted for breaches of the specified brief and criteria: failure to adhere to the format, alterations to the photograph on the nails and cuticles, use of a ready-made model from the internet, use of stickers, water decals, decorations covering more than 30% of the nail surface, nails shorter than 12 cm.

EVALUATION CRITERIA – CreaNail POSTER

Scores range from 1 to 5 points, with 1 point being the lowest score and 5 points the highest

1. Overall impression

The first impression of the work, the quality of the work, cleanliness, elegance and finesse of the work, and the overall appearance are assessed.

2. Photo quality

The quality of the JPG photograph in electronic form should be A2 size with a minimum resolution of 300 DPI.

3. Light and shadow

The overall lighting of the subject and the lighting of individual elements of the work are assessed. Important elements should not be too bright or, conversely, too dark and in shadow.

4. Overall Image and Composition of the Poster

We assess the theme and its execution, how the nails complement the model's face and hairstyle, and, where applicable, other elements of the composition, as well as the extent to which the model's appearance matches the chosen shape, length and nail art on the nails. The placement of compositional elements in the photograph, ensuring that all key elements are clearly visible and do not get lost.

5. Nail Shaping

The quality of the chosen nail shape and length is assessed, as well as the accuracy of the nail modelling on all fingers and the precision of the work.

6. Nail Art Composition

The composition of the three-dimensional elements on the nails is assessed, along with their placement on the nail bed and how they interconnect. Whether all important elements are clearly visible and do not get lost.

7. Nail Art

The chosen nail decoration technique and the standard of the nail art are assessed, as well as how tastefully the decorative elements are coordinated, how well they are executed, and how well they fit the theme.

8. Difficulty and Technique

The difficulty of the chosen nail modelling and decoration technique is assessed, as well as the precision and cleanliness of the work, and the sophistication of the details. The chosen shape and decoration of the nails.

9. Model

The make-up and hairstyle of the model are assessed, as well as the precision of the details, the standard of workmanship, and how well it corresponds to the theme.

10. Consistency with the theme

The extent to which the work corresponds to the theme is assessed.

11. Originality and Creativity of Nails and Nail Art

The work must stand out and be distinguished by an unusual and interesting approach and execution. Try to incorporate imagination and creativity into your work. Creativity is evident not only in the shape of the nails, but also in the way specific elements and techniques are used.

12. Originality and Creativity of the Poster

Your work must stand out and make an impression at first glance. Try to use your imagination and creativity whilst working on it, add various embellishments, and present the whole theme in an original way.

13. Cleanliness of the

work. The cleanliness of the work is assessed.

POSTER InstaPHOTO

Stamping & Slider: Pokémon

Task: Stamping & Slider: Pokémon

Competitors must create a unique original image consisting of 4 elements of the same length (approx. 3 cm) and any shape on the given theme, using the technique of applying stickers and water decals, decorated with various accessories, so that the resulting photograph can be used for Instagram, i.e. for presentation and promotional purposes. ! It is not a requirement to use both techniques: you may use either Sliders (stickers, water decals) or Stamping, or combine these techniques.

TIP:

The tips are more important, so don't overdo the accessories in the photo.

Pay attention to the lighting of the tips; due to strong glare, the nail art is often difficult to see. The shades in the photo should be as natural as possible, not too bright or yellow.

Parameters:

Photographs must be in square JPG format, i.e. 1:1 (as on Instagram), with the shorter side measuring A2.

Photographs must be taken on a mobile phone. Although the quality will be reduced when printed, it is the digital (electronic) photographs that will be judged. The photograph must clearly show the 4 tips and accessories. The judging criteria include the coordination of the tips and accessories, the professionalism and originality of the work, and the artistic quality of the photograph. In addition to the photograph, you must submit a short 10-second video of the tips. Please do not exceed this limit. The video must show the finished tips in close-up. The work process or the photography process is not required.

You may use any professional stickers and water decals for your work, both flat and 3D. For the background and decoration, you may use coloured and effect gels, gel polishes, as well as gels and gel polishes with glitter. For decoration, you may use mica, foils and similar flat elements. Decorating tips with rhinestones, pearls and similar 3D elements is prohibited. Spider gel is prohibited. General photo editing is permitted, but editing (retouching) of the tips themselves is prohibited.

The following is prohibited:

The use of ready-made backgrounds is prohibited: the entire image must be prepared and executed in one go. Decorating tips with rhinestones, pearls and similar elements is prohibited.

The use of full-surface stickers is prohibited!

Penalty points will be deducted for breaches of the rules: 1 point for each breach.

Penalty points will be deducted for breaches of the specified brief and criteria: failure to adhere to the format, use of more than 4 tips, tip length exceeding 3 cm, photo editing, use of filters on the photo, use of a ready-made background, use of nail art techniques other than slider or stamping designs.

EVALUATION CRITERIA – INSTA PHOTO

Ratings range from 1 to 5, where 1 is the lowest rating and 5 is the highest

1. Overall impression

The assessment covers the first impression of the work, the quality of the work, its cleanliness, elegance and delicacy, and the overall impression.

2. Quality of the photograph

The quality of the photograph in electronic form should be in a 1:1 square format, JPG file.

3. Light and shadow

The overall lighting of the photograph's subject and the lighting of individual elements of the work are assessed. Important elements should not be too bright or, conversely, too dark and in shadow. Glare does not impair the legibility of the nail art.

4. Overall Image and composition of the photograph

The theme and its execution are assessed, as well as how the tips harmonise with the accessories and other elements of the composition. How the tips harmonise with the image and other elements of the composition, and whether all important elements are clearly visible and do not get lost.

5. Composition of the nail art

The composition and placement of the nail art elements on the tips are assessed, checking whether all important elements are clearly visible and do not get lost.

6. Colour Composition

The extent to which the shades of the accessories match the shades used in the nail art is assessed.

7. Difficulty of Stamping Technique

The difficulty of the technique chosen by the competitor for their work is assessed.

8. Stamping & Sliders technique

The judge assesses how well the competitor has mastered the technique. Whether the elements are legible, precise and clean.

9. Alignment with the theme

This assesses how well the work corresponds to the theme, i.e. how well the photograph serves the purposes of Instagram: promotion and presentation.

10. Originality of Nail Art

The work must stand out and distinguish itself through an unusual and interesting approach and execution. Whether the nail designer has managed to create her own unmistakable style and used new motifs.

11. Originality of the Poster

The work must stand out and be distinguished by an unusual and interesting approach and execution; whether the entrants have managed to devise an unconventional approach to depicting the themes, and what original accessories and aids they have chosen to achieve this.

12. Cleanliness of the

work. The cleanliness of the work is assessed.

Insta Story

TOP Makeover – Natural Shimmer

Task:

Competitors must take 2 photographs of the same hand: BEFORE any treatment, manicure or nail modelling, and AFTER the manicure and nail modelling. They must then combine these 2 photographs in any way to create a single Instagram Story format poster, i.e. 16:9. If necessary, you may explicitly state which photo is BEFORE and which is AFTER, or indicate this with arrows, etc. No other text is permitted (e.g. salon name, logo, slogans, etc.). The hand must be the same in both the before and after photos; the hand cannot be mirrored.

To achieve the WOW effect, try selecting a model with shorter, wider, irregular natural nail plates and thicker cuticles, and take a photo. The more complex the hands are, the more points you will receive.

Next, on the same hand, create the most natural-looking nails possible – the Natural Shimmer Look. The nails can be either almond-shaped or squarer, but shorter. If your natural nails are long enough, simply file them into the desired shape; if they are not long enough, you can lightly extend them. The nails are camouflage nude, pinkish or milky; the camouflage material must contain micro-glitter, known as Stardust, shimmer or pearl. You can shape them using gel or polymer materials; on tips, templates or using DUO forms, or you can also use the existing nail length if it is sufficient. The main thing is that the nails look as natural as possible. Then take another photo. The nails must have a natural appearance, so a perfect manicure must be done. No nail art or colour application is part of the competition. The length of the nails should not be much longer than the distal (front) nail fold.

The aim is to create a poster in the Insta Story format, which could be used for Instagram Stories, i.e. for presentation and promotional purposes. How would you use a single photo to demonstrate your expertise to a potential client – the transformation of the client's hands.

Parameters:

The photo must be in Instagram Story format, i.e. 16:9 (like an Instagram Story). The photo must be taken on a mobile phone. Although the quality will be reduced in print, it is the digital (electronic) photos that will be judged. At least 4 nails on one hand must be clearly visible in the photo. The photo of the nails may also feature an accessory, but this is not mandatory. The model's face is not part of the poster. The main criteria for evaluation are the 'WOW' effect of the transformation of the client's hands and nails, as well as the artistic quality of the photograph.

! In addition to the photograph, you must submit a short 10-second video of the nails. Please do not exceed this limit. The video must show a close-up of the finished nail design. The work process or the photography process does not need to be shown.

You may use any professional materials and tools for manicure and nail modelling. General photo editing is permitted, but editing of the nails themselves and their surroundings is prohibited.

! You may use a ready-made background for the overall poster or create one using photo editing software.

The following is prohibited:

The use of nail art techniques is prohibited.

Penalty points will be deducted for breaking the rules: 1 point for each violation

Penalty points will be deducted for breaches of the specified brief and criteria: failure to adhere to the format, a different hand for BEFORE and AFTER, captions other than BEFORE and AFTER, photo editing of the nails and cuticles, nail length different from that specified, 4 nails not clearly visible, a model in the photo, a matt top coat, or Nail Art. Any accessories or clothing bearing product names or brands are prohibited.

EVALUATION CRITERIA – INSTA STORY

Ratings range from 1 to 5, where 1 is the lowest rating and 5 is the highest

1. Overall impression

The assessment covers the first impression of the work, the quality of the work, its cleanliness, elegance and delicacy, and the overall impression.

2. Quality of the photograph (assessed by a technical judge)

The quality of the photograph in digital form should be in Insta Story format, i.e. 16:9.

3. Light and shadow

The overall lighting of the subject and the lighting of individual elements of the work are assessed. Important elements should not be too bright or, conversely, too dark and in shadow.

4. WOW effect

The extent to which the contestant has managed to impress with the transformation of the client's hands and nails before and after the manicure and nail treatment will be assessed.

5. Composition

The composition and theme of the photograph are assessed, i.e. how effectively the competitor has combined two photographs of one hand – before and after the manicure – within a single poster. The position of the hand and fingers is also important, so that the nails are not obscured and are clearly visible (at least four nails).

6. Natural nails: shape of the nail plate

The model's natural nails are assessed on how complex, irregular and deformed they are. The more complex the nails, the higher the score.

7. Natural nails: length of the nail plate

The extent to which the model's natural nails are irregular and deformed is assessed. The more complicated the nails are, the higher the score.

8. Natural nails: cuticles

The assessment focuses on how 'ingrown' and damaged the cuticles and nail ridges are. The more complicated they are, the higher the score.

9. Manicure

The assessment focuses on how precisely, cleanly, carefully and without causing injury the manicure – the treatment of the cuticles and the area around the nails – is performed.

8. Nails after treatment: Natural Shimmer Look

The treatment of natural nails is assessed, including how precisely the nails are shaped or modelled in accordance with the specified, maximally natural shape. How precisely the glossy finish gel is applied.

10. Alignment with the theme

The assessment focuses on how well the work corresponds to the theme, specifically how well the photograph serves the purposes of Instagram: promotion and presentation.

11. Originality

The work must stand out and distinguish itself through an unusual and interesting approach and execution. Whether the nail designer has managed to create her own unmistakable style and appeal to potential clients.

12. Cleanliness of work.

The cleanliness of the work is assessed.

POSTER Reality Nails 1960s

Theme: The 1960s

Let's travel back together to the 1960s — a period of elegance, extravagance, colour and iconic fashion. Imagine if the world of that era had discovered today's possibilities in nail art. What kind of nails would complement the legendary outfits of that time? Choose a style that inspires you and blend the atmosphere of the 1960s with modern nail design. Let your imagination run wild and showcase your own vision of retro style with a modern twist.

Assignment:

Competitors must create a unique, original nail design for both hands based on the given theme. You can choose the shape and length of the nails yourself, but they must complement the overall design. Bear in mind that this is the Reality Nails category, which means that a client might actually request such nails in a salon and would then wear them for around a month, so they are unlikely to be very long or excessively decorated. We are considering the standard, average client. We understand that there are clients who wear long, decorated nails all the time, but there aren't that many of them.

We will be judging how the nails complement the overall outfit and accessories, so the dress/clothing and accessories are the primary focus. You can use absolutely everything you use in the salon for the nail art. In the salon, we usually decorate 1–2 nails, so in the competition, nail art is limited to 20% – this is a real client, so the nail art shouldn't be too elaborate, so that you can finish everything before the next client arrives.



On the poster, you will combine two photos. The base will be a finished image, i.e. a model with her hair and make-up done, wearing a dress or outfit (full-length shot), then, within a circle resembling a magnifying glass, a close-up of the hands with nails (this can be 1 or 2 detailed photos; the result must show enlarged nails on both hands – see the illustrative image: the winning entry from 2024 by Šárka Kunešová. The close-up of the nails can be placed anywhere and may partially overlap the model. You can take the close-up photo separately (this is the better option) to ensure it is beautifully in focus, but the position of the hand must be similar to that in the full-length photo, so that it truly creates the effect of a magnified detail.

Specifications:

The photograph must be in portrait format (vertical) in A2 size and have a minimum resolution of 300 DPI. The full-length photograph must clearly show the nails of both hands and the entire model; the close-up photographs must show the nails of both hands. If the model is holding something with both hands, there will be one close-up photograph. To complement the overall image, 1960s motifs may also be used in the background. Entries will be judged on how well the nails harmonise with the overall image, the professionalism and originality of the composition, and the artistic quality of the photograph.

In addition to the photograph, you must submit a short 10-second video of the nails. Please do not exceed this limit. The video must show the finished nails and nail art in close-up. The work process or the photography process is not required.

You may use any professional nail care and nail art materials for your work.

General photo editing is permitted, but editing (retouching) of the nails themselves and their surroundings (cuticles and side ridges) is prohibited.

The following is prohibited: It is prohibited to create long, extremely elaborate nails. These are salon nails. The entire design must be prepared and completed in one go.

Penalty points will be deducted for breaches of the rules: 1 point for each breach.

Penalty points will be deducted for breaches of the specified brief and criteria: failure to adhere to the format, both hands are not visible, the entire model is missing, the enlargement is in a completely different position to that on the model, the length of the nails exceeds that of salon nails, the decoration exceeds what is realistic within the salon time limit and exceeds 20%, photo editing on the nails and cuticles.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA – REALITY NAILS POSTER

Scores are awarded on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 point is the lowest score and 5 points is the highest score

1. Overall impression

The first impression of the work, the quality of the work, cleanliness, elegance and finesse of the work, and the overall image are assessed.

2. Photo quality (assessed by a technical judge)

The digital photograph should be A2 size with a minimum resolution of 300 DPI.

3. Light and shadow

The overall lighting of the subject and the lighting of individual elements of the work are assessed. Important elements should not be too bright or, conversely, too dark and in shadow.

4. Overall Image

The theme and its execution are assessed, as well as how the nails harmonise with the accessories, the model and, where applicable, other elements of the composition.

5. Composition

The composition and theme of the photograph are assessed. The placement of compositional elements within the photograph, and the appropriate combination of two photographs.

6. Model – evaluation of the main photograph

The model's overall look is assessed: whether the accessories fit into the overall look, and whether the hairstyle and make-up are appropriate.

7. Manicure – evaluation of the detail photo (1 or 2 detail photos)

The quality of the manicure, the condition of the cuticles around the nails and the side ridges are assessed.

8. Shape and length of nails – assessment of photo detail

The accuracy of the chosen shape and length of the nails is assessed. The length of the nails is proportionally the same.

9. Nail Art – photo detail assessment

The assessment focuses on how well the nail art complements the model's overall look, how tastefully the elements and techniques of the nail art have been chosen, and how precisely the nail art has been executed.

10. Cleanliness of work – photo detail assessment

The precision and cleanliness of the work are assessed.

11. Practicality of the work

The assessment focuses on how well the nails and nail art meet the real needs and wishes of the clients. The nails and nail art must not be too time-consuming.

12. Realism of the image

This assesses the extent to which all elements of the image are realistic.

13. Alignment with the theme

The extent to which the work corresponds to the theme and brief is assessed.

POSTER Pedicure

Aesthetic Pedicure – Golden Pedicure

Theme: Aesthetic pedicure – Golden Pedicure

Treating the nails and surrounding areas on the feet and applying classic nail varnish or gel polish. Taking a beautiful photograph of toenails isn't that easy!

Brief:

Competitors must create a unique, original design for the nails on both feet based on the given theme. The nails are square shaped. The length of the nails is proportionally the same. The nails are painted with classic nude, milky or other soft pink toned polish or gel polish without any effects: no glitter, pearlescent finishes, etc.

This year we are also adding Nail Art, which involves tastefully combining a more natural pedicure with any gold elements. You may use Swarovski crystals, foils and pigments for decoration.

The area around the nails is well-groomed. All 10 nails must be clearly visible (the nails on the little toes may be partially visible). Use an accessory to complete the overall look.

Feet are not included in the photograph.

If necessary, to achieve a more precise shape, you can add corners to the free edge using nail modelling material or smooth the surface of the nails with suitable materials.

Specifications:

The photograph must be in portrait format (vertical) in A2 size (594x420 mm) and have a minimum resolution of 300 DPI. The photograph must clearly show the nails of both feet and fashion accessories in keeping with the theme. The assessment will focus on how the nails complement the overall image, the professionalism and originality of the composition, and the artistic quality of the photograph.

In addition to the photograph, you must submit a short 10-second video of the nails. Please do not exceed this limit. The video must show the finished nails and nail art in close-up. The work process or the process of taking the photograph is not required.

You may use any professional nail polish materials for your work.

General photo editing is permitted, but editing (retouching) of the nails themselves and their surroundings (cuticles and side ridges) is prohibited, as is the use of filters.

The following is prohibited:

The use of multiple colours is prohibited.

Editing the nails in photo editing software is prohibited.

The use of ready-made nail backgrounds is prohibited: the entire image must be prepared and

created in one go. Penalty points will be deducted for breaking the rules: 1 point for each violation

Penalty points will be deducted for breaches of the specified brief and criteria: failure to adhere to the format, failure to adhere to the specified shape, editing of the photograph of the nails and cuticles, use of filters, use of a pre-made background, use of multiple colours on the nails, visible feet, and the nails on the fifth toes not being visible at all.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA – PEDICURE POSTER

Points are awarded on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 point being the lowest score and 5 points the highest

1. Overall impression

The first impression of the work, the quality of the work, cleanliness, elegance and finesse of the work, and the overall image are assessed.

2. Photo quality

The quality of the JPG photograph in electronic form should be A2 size with a minimum resolution of 300 DPI.

3. Light and shadow

The overall lighting of the subject and the lighting of individual elements of the work are assessed. Important elements should not be too bright or, conversely, too dark and in shadow.

4. Overall Image and composition

The theme and its execution are assessed, as well as how the nails harmonise with accessories and, where applicable, with other elements of the composition. The placement of compositional elements within the photograph. A beautiful positioning of the feet. How the nails harmonise with the image and other elements of the composition.

6. Pedicure

The quality of the pedicure is assessed, including the treatment of the cuticles around the nails and the side ridges.

7. Shape and length of the nails

The accuracy of the specified shape is assessed, i.e. the precision of square nails in relation to the anatomical features of the specific model. The length of the nails is proportionally consistent.

8. Application of nail polish or gel polish

The assessment focuses on how precisely the colour is applied around the cuticles and along the sides of the nails, accuracy on all fingers, precision, and technique; the gap should be minimal.

9. Nail Art

The assessment focuses on how well the nail art complements the overall look, how tastefully the elements and techniques of the nail art are chosen, and how precisely the nail art is executed.

10. Accessories

The following are assessed: how tastefully the accessories have been chosen to create the overall look.

11. Consistency with the theme

The extent to which the work corresponds to the theme is assessed.

12. Cleanliness of the work

The precision and neatness of the work are assessed.

TOP Team

Once again, you have the chance to compete as a team!

Do you work under the same brand, in the same salon, or do you have colleagues who would also like to compete? Then the Team Competition is just for you!

The minimum number of participants in a team is 3 and the maximum is 10.

Each team must have a name. On the entry form, each competitor must state whether they belong to a team and specify which one.

The winning team will be determined based on the total points scored for placing in the top 5 in all categories: 1st place – 5 points, 2nd place – 4 points, 3rd place – 3 points, 4th place – 0.5 points, 5th place – 0.5 points

The maximum number of participants per team, plus participation in multiple categories = a better chance of winning! The winning team will receive a special prize – a trophy and medals for all team members!!!

As a team, you have the opportunity to be identified as such, so during the competitions and the awards ceremony you can wear T-shirts featuring the logo of the brand of products you use or the logo of your salon! Don't miss out on the chance to get your adrenaline pumping and gain some extra

publicity. A flat fee of 45 € applies for the registration of the whole team.