

iUBT377 – Airbrush designs for nails

URN – K/617/4304

Guided Learning Hours: 22

Learning outcome	Assessment criteria	Taught content to include
LO1 Be able to plan and prepare for airbrush nail art services	1.1. Develop airbrush nail art design plans using research material and resources	• Research i.e. current trends, fashion • Research material i.e. trade publications, magazines, newspapers, the internet, social media, exhibitions • Resources i.e. specialist suppliers • Portfolio work • Themes i.e. bridal, seasonal, colour fades, stencil work • Colour theory to include: - Primary colours - Secondary colours - Tertiary colours - Complementary colours - Tone - Shade - Hue - Colour mixing • Colour schemes • Client requirements • Ensure client desires are realistic in terms of nail size and shape • Design plan adaptations'- modify design to fit various nail sizes
	1.2. Prepare self, client and work area for airbrush nail art services	• Preparation of working area • Equipment • Products • Work wear • Personal appearance and behaviour • Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) • Hygiene e.g. sterilising/sanitising tools and equipment

		• Procedures used to prepare client for treatment • Client care and modesty
	1.3. Use suitable consultation techniques to identify treatment objectives	• An example of a consultation form can be downloaded from www.vtctskills.org.uk • Suitable area • Positive body language • Positioning of the client • Communication skills • Professionalism • Contra-indications and contra-actions • Airbrush nail art design plan • Products and techniques used • Consent • Ensure that informed and signed parent or guardian consent is obtained for minors prior to any service • Ensure that a parent or guardian is present throughout the service for minors under the age of 16 • Confidentiality • Client/parent/guardian signature
	1.4. Carry out nail and skin analysis	• Skin type and condition • Nail type and condition • Natural nail shape and size e.g.: - Oval - Square - Hook - Fan - Ski jump - Wide • Nail formation • Nail thickness • Factors affecting nail growth - Health - Age - Diet - Medication - Climate - Damage

		- client abuse biting, picking, etc - Lifestyle
	1.5. Provide clear recommendations to the client	• Taking into account the following: - The outcome of the skin and nail analysis - Occupation - Lifestyle - Current regime - Client requirements - Identification and recommendation of the appropriate airbrush design and airbrush products - Explanation and agreement of any necessary modifications to the design to fit the client's nail shape and size - Recommendations for ongoing maintenance of airbrush nail art finish and the level of commitment required - Managing client expectations and realistic achievable outcome
	1.6. Select products, tools and equipment to suit client treatment needs, skin and nail conditions	• Couch or chair • Trolley or manicure table • Stool • Towels • Additional support if appropriate • Bedroll • Disposable slippers • Disinfecting fluid • Magnifying lamp • Tissues • Paper towels • Lint free pads • Sterilising solution • UV cabinet • Autoclave • Hot bead steriliser • Chemical immersion equipment • Waste disposal • PPE: face mask, protective glasses • Files • Buffers

		• Orange wood stick • Cuticle tools • Clippers • Scissors • Compressor or appropriate air supply • Air hose • Airbrush equipment i.e. cup feed or gravity feed airbrushes - The differences between airbrush equipment available; cup fed or gravity fed - PSI meaning - The potential risks associated with the use of pressurised airbrush equipment - The importance of checking and testing the equipment before use and when changing colour - How distance and pressure can affect coverage and density - How to create different effects by varying the PSI • The methods used to set up, clean and maintain airbrush equipment and accessories • Cleaning brush • Cleaning station • Appropriate airbrush cleanser • Stencils i.e. lace (including pre-cut paper/card, tailor made) mesh • Masking paper/frisket film • Knife and cutting board • Base coat • Bond coat • Topcoat/sealer • Nail enamels • Adhesives • Oils • Natural nail cleanser • Nail polish remover • Paints i.e. acrylic, water-based, metallic • Products for the following: - Airbrushing techniques ▪ Contouring ▪ Stencilling ▪ Masking
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		▪ Colour fading ▪ Blending ▪ Freehand - Airbrushing designs ▪ Soft French ▪ Chevron French ▪ Fancy French ▪ Animal print ▪ Flowers ▪ Flames ▪ Tropical ▪ Seasonal ▪ Abstract designs
	1.7. Explain the importance of developing nail art design plans	• Developing ideas and themes • Practicing and perfecting techniques • Enhancing ability and speed • Demonstrating versatility and ability to adapt designs to client needs • Experience with differing equipment, products and techniques • Awareness of current and emerging trends within the industry and related fields that may have an impact i.e. fashion • Portfolio building • Continuous professional development (CPD)
	1.8. Describe salon requirements for preparing self, the client and work area	• Any particular rights, restrictions and acts applicable to airbrush nail art services • Code of practice/ethics • Insurance and professional association membership • Record keeping • Professional appearance • Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
	1.9. Describe the environmental conditions suitable for airbrush nail treatment	• Lighting • Heating • Ventilation • Noise levels • Available space • Music • General hygiene

		• Waste disposal including contaminated waste • Décor • Equipment • Pressurised equipment • Privacy • Ensure that a parent or guardian is present throughout the service for minors under the age of 16 • Reception areas • General use/treatment areas • Safety aspects • Pressurised equipment • Protective equipment
	1.10. Describe the different consultation techniques used to identify treatment objectives	• Positive body language • Positioning of the client (no barriers between self and client) • Good communication skills (asking open and/or closed questions where appropriate) • Verbal and non-verbal communication
	1.11. Explain the importance of carrying out a detailed nail and skin analysis	• Skin type and condition • Nail type, shape, thickness, formation, condition and size i.e. dry, hook, fan, ski jump, wide • Contra-indications • Scope of treatment(s) • Establish client's desires are realistic • Identification of airbrush design and product suitability • Agreement of necessary adaptations to designs to meet desired outcomes • Home care advice • Aftercare advice
	1.12. Describe how to select products, tools and equipment to suit client treatment needs, nail and skin conditions	• Couch or chair • Trolley or manicure table • Stool • Towels • Additional support if appropriate • Bedroll • Disposable slippers • Disinfecting fluid • Magnifying lamp

		• Tissues • Paper towels • Lint free pads • Sterilising solution • UV cabinet • Autoclave • Hot bead steriliser • Chemical immersion equipment • Waste disposal • PPE: face mask, protective glasses • Files • Buffers • Orange wood stick • Cuticle tools • Clippers • Scissors • Compressor or appropriate air supply • Air hose • Airbrush equipment i.e. cup feed or gravity feed airbrushes • Stencils i.e. lace (including pre-cut paper/card, tailor made) mesh • Masking paper/frisket film • Knife and cutting board • Cleaning brush • Cleaning station • Appropriate airbrush cleanser • Base coat • Bond coat • Topcoat/sealer • Nail enamels • Adhesives • Oils • Natural nail cleanser • Nail polish remover • Paints i.e. acrylic, water-based, metallic • Products for the following: - Airbrushing techniques ▪ Contouring ▪ Stencilling
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	1.13. Explain the contra-indications to airbrush nail treatments	• Contra-indications requiring medical permission – in circumstances where medical permission cannot be obtained clients must sign an informed consent form stating that the treatment and its effects have been fully explained to them and confirm that they are willing to proceed without permission from their GP: - Any condition already being treated by a GP, dermatologist or another practitioner - Acute arthritis - Nervous or psychotic conditions - Recent operations on the area - Undiagnosed pain - Acute rheumatism - Asthma • Contra-indications that restrict treatment - Fever - Infectious or contagious diseases - Infectious or contagious diseases of the skin and nails - Under the influence of recreational drugs or alcohol - Diarrhoea and/or vomiting - Any known allergies - Undiagnosed lumps and bumps - Inflammation - Cuts - Bruises

		- Abrasions - Scar tissue (2 years for major operations and 6 months for a small scar) - Recent fractures (minimum 3 months) - Sunburn - Repetitive strain injury - Carpal tunnel syndrome - Loss of skin sensation - Severely bitten/damaged nails - Nail separation - Eczema - Psoriasis - Dermatitis - Broken bones - Warts - Verrucae
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LO2 Be able to provide airbrush nail art services	2.1. Communicate and behave in a professional manner	• Checking consultations and contra-indications • Explaining the treatment and agreeing the treatment plan • Benefits, limitations and co-operation required • Assisting the client throughout the treatment • Positioning the client correctly • Sanitising client's hands as appropriate • Sanitising own hands as appropriate throughout treatment • Protecting the client's modesty at all times • Ensuring that the client is comfortable • Using appropriate covered supports • Adapt the airbrush nail art treatments to suit the needs of the client • Ensuring client does not stand on floor with bare feet (where applicable) • Client care • Communication • Correct working posture, hygiene and a professional approach to the client throughout treatment
	2.2. Follow health and safety working practices	• Fire Precautions Act • Health and Safety at Work Act

		• Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations • The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations • The Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations • The Manual Handling Operations Regulations • The Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations (PPE) • The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations • The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH) • The Electricity at Work Regulations • Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) • Disability Discrimination Act • Data Protection Act/General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) • Adhere to all product safety precautions and manufacturer's instructions
	2.3. Position self and client correctly throughout the treatment	• Positioning of the client • Client comfort • Application of the airbrush nail art design • Airbrush nail artist self-care - Maintain correct working posture throughout the service - Airbrush nail artist self-care
	2.4. Use products, tools, equipment and techniques to meet design plan and to suit clients treatment needs, nail and skin conditions	• Couch or chair • Trolley or manicure table • Stool • Towels • Additional support if appropriate • Bedroll • Disposable slippers • Disinfecting fluid • Magnifying lamp • Tissues • Paper towels • Lint free ads • Sterilising solution • UV cabinet • Autoclave • Hot bead steriliser

		• Chemical immersion equipment • Waste disposal • PPE: face mask, protective glasses • Files • Buffers • Orange wood stick • Cuticle tools • Clippers • Scissors • Compressor or appropriate air supply • Air hose • Airbrush equipment i.e. cup feed or gravity feed airbrushes • Stencils i.e. lace (including pre-cut paper/card, tailor made) mesh • Masking paper/frisket film • Knife and cutting board • Cleaning brush • Cleaning station • Appropriate airbrush cleanser • Base coat • Bond coat • Topcoat/sealer • Nail enamels • Adhesives • Oils • Natural nail cleanser • Nail polish remover • Paints i.e. acrylic, water-based, metallic • Products for the following: - Airbrushing techniques ▪ Contouring ▪ Stencilling ▪ Masking ▪ Colour fading ▪ Blending ▪ Freehand - Airbrushing designs ▪ Soft French ▪ Chevron French
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		▪ Fancy French ▪ Animal print ▪ Flowers ▪ Flames ▪ Tropical ▪ Seasonal ▪ Abstract designs
	2.5. Complete the treatment to the satisfaction of the client	• Conclusion of treatment in appropriate manner to meet client's needs, airbrush nail art design plan and manufacturer's instructions • Check finished results with client • Ensure a commercially acceptable result is achieved in-line with client requirements
	2.6. Record and evaluate the results of the treatment	• Reviewing and recording airbrush nail art design plan and treatment outcomes • Client response and feedback • Treatment recommendations • Product advice • Home care advice • Store records in line with current data protection legislation
	2.7. Provide suitable aftercare advice	• Recommendations for immediate aftercare and maintenance of finished result • Product recommendations • Lifestyle • Recommendation of further salon maintenance treatments and advice on removal including possible contra-actions is correct • removal procedures are not followed
	2.8. Explain how to communicate and behave in a professional manner	• Consultation • Treatment explanation • Client care • Hygiene • Good communication skills
	2.9. Describe health and safety working practices	• Fire Precautions Act • Health and Safety at Work Act • Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations • The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations

		• The Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations • The Manual Handling Operations Regulations • The Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations (PPE) • The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations • The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH) • The Electricity at Work Regulations • Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) • Disability Discrimination Act • Data Protection Act/General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) • Adhere to all safety precautions and manufacturer's instructions
	2.10. Explain the importance of positioning self and the client correctly throughout the treatment	• Ensuring the client is comfortable and correctly supported • Applying the treatments as appropriate to the client's needs • Airbrush nail artist maintaining correct working posture throughout treatment • Airbrush nail artist self-care
	2.11. Explain the importance of using products, tools, equipment and techniques to meet design plan and to suit clients treatment needs, nail and skin conditions	• Couch or chair • Trolley or manicure table • Stool • Towels • Additional support if appropriate • Bedroll • Disposable slippers • Disinfecting fluid • Magnifying lamp • Tissues • Paper towels • Lint free pads • Sterilising solution • UV cabinet • Autoclave • Hot bead steriliser • Chemical immersion equipment • Waste disposal • PPE: face mask, protective glasses • Files

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		▪ Tropical ▪ Seasonal ▪ Abstract designs
	2.12. Describe how the treatment can be adapted to suit client treatment needs	• Restrictions – contra-indications and contra-actions • Nail shapes, types, size and conditions • Skin condition • Client preferences and commitment • Airbrush nail art design plan • Product availability and suitability • Time scales • Costs • Adapting the treatment to suit the needs of the client
	2.13. State the contra-actions that may occur during and following treatments and how to respond	• Excessive erythema • Skin irritation • Allergic reaction • Itching • Inflammation • Premature loss of airbrush nail art design • Client abuse; biting/picking • Chipping • Discolouration • Staining of the natural nail plate • Air bubbles • Smudging • Immediate removal of products • Referral procedures
	2.14. Explain the importance of completing the treatment to the satisfaction of the client	• Concluding the treatment in appropriate manner to meet client's needs and airbrush design plan • Ongoing treatments
	2.15. Explain the importance of completing treatment records	• Maintaining records • Aftercare • Home care • Product advice • Compliance with data protection
	2.16. Describe the methods of evaluating the effectiveness of the treatment	• Maintaining records for accurate future treatment • Aftercare

		• Home care • Product advice • Compliance with current data protection legislation • Concluding the treatment in the correct manner to meet client's requirements, airbrush design plan and manufacturer's instructions • The treatment should be performed for the required amount of time efficiently and professionally ensuring the working area remains clean and tidy throughout
	2.17. Describe the aftercare advice that should be provided	• Based upon consultation, skin and nail analysis and airbrush design plan - Recommendations for immediate aftercare, treatment maintenance and homecare - Product recommendations - Lifestyle - Smoking habits - Hobbies - Stress levels - Recommendation of further salon treatments - Recommendations regarding maintenance and removal including possible contra-actions of incorrect maintenance and removal
	2.18. Describe the structure and functions of the nail and skin	• The nail - Free edge - Hyponychium - Eponychium - Peronychium - Lunula - Mantle - Cuticle - Nail plate - Nail bed - Nail fold - Matrix - Nail wall - Nail growth - Protection • The skin

		- Epidermis ▪ Stratum corneum ▪ Stratum lucidum ▪ Stratum granulosum ▪ Stratum spinosum/malpighian ▪ Stratum germinativum/basal layer - Dermis ▪ Blood supply ▪ Lymphatic supply ▪ Hair follicle ▪ Hair ▪ Sebaceous gland ▪ Sweat gland: eccrine and apocrine ▪ Sensory nerve endings ▪ Dermal papilla ▪ Collagen ▪ Elastin ▪ Histiocytes ▪ Mast cells ▪ Fibroblasts ▪ Erector pili muscle ▪ Melanocytes - Subcutaneous/adipose layer ▪ The fatty layer underneath the dermis - Functions ▪ Secretion ▪ Heat regulation ▪ Absorption ▪ Protection/acid mantle (composition and formation) ▪ Elimination/excretion ▪ Sensation ▪ Vitamin D formation (7-dehydro-cholesterol)
	2.19. Describe the different skin and nail conditions	• Beau's lines • Bitten nails • Blue nail • Brittle nails • Bruised nails

		• Discoloured nails • Dry nails • Flaking nails • Hang nails • Koilonychia • Lamella dystrophy • Leuconychia • Misshapen nails • Bacterial infection (Mould) • Onychatrophia • Onychauxis • Onychia • Onychocryptosis • Onychogryphosis • Onycholysis • Onychomycosis (Tinea unguium) • Onychophagy • Onychophyma • Onychoptosis • Onychorrhaxis • Paronychia (whitlow) • Pitting • Pterygium • Sepsis • Split nails • Transverse ridges • Vertical ridges • Weak nails • Mature skin • Young skin • Sensitive skin • Dehydrated skin • Dry skin • Dermatitis • Eczema • Psoriasis • Corns
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		• Chilblains • Warts • Verrucae
	2.20. Describe the different natural nail shapes	• Fan • Hook • Oval • Pointed • Round • Ski jump/spoon • Square

Assessment

Portfolio of evidence containing: • Treatment evidence (4 treatments) • Assignment	These treatment evidence are internally assessed by the college lecturer and verified by the external examiner to include: • Consultation including medical history • Nail and skin analysis • Airbrush nail art design plan and treatment details including procedures and specific products used • Client feedback • Aftercare and home care advice including advice for maintenance and further treatments • Learner and client signatures • Treatment date
Practical examination	Treatments must include all airbrush nail art techniques as listed in the unit specification, one to include an abstract design (a combination of horizontal, vertical and diagonal lines) Treatments must be evidenced through the use of signed and dated treatment evidence forms. See www.vtctskills.org.uk for sample form Practical assessment forms and marking criteria may be downloaded from www.vtctskills.org.uk

Guide to taught content

The content contained within the unit specification is not prescriptive or exhaustive but is intended to provide helpful guidance to teachers and learners with the key areas that will be covered within the unit, and, relating to the kinds of evidence that should be provided for each assessment objective specific to the unit learning outcomes.

Document History

Version	Issue Date	Changes	Role
v1	17/09/2019	First published	Qualifications and Regulation Co-ordinator
v2	18/06/2026	Rebranding	Development Administrator