

# The Nail Files

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU CHALLENGE FOUR TOP NAIL ARTISTS TO CREATE TIPS INSPIRED BY FINE JEWELS? PURE MAGIC

BY NYKIA SPRADLEY  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICAELA ROSSATO

## Emerald Elegance

ARTIST: MAYUMI ABUKU  
@MAYMISAN

Talk about natural beauty! The sparkling emerald-colored crystals found on the surface of this vibrant Kimberly McDonald pendant actually grew there. Abuku went for a greenish gold base topped with sharp white triangles in the center of the nails—a graphic contrast to the round edges of both the pendant and the opal ring. The backs of the nails were painted white for a surprise.

# BEAUTY

HAIR: DERICK MONROE. MAKEUP: FRANK GUYTON/KENBARBOZA.COM AND MIYAKO /KENBARBOZA.COM. MANICURE: MAYUMI ABUKU USING DIOR VERNIS/RONA REPRESENTS. DANA CODY/TIPIPIETOSINC.COM; GINA EDWARDS FOR KISS/KATE RYAN, INC.; MEI KAWAJIRI/ORME SQUARE.

## Snake Charmer

ARTIST: DANA CODY  
@TIPPIETOEDIVA

To play up the dark and mysterious feel of Madyha Farooqui's serpent ring, Cody went for a deep oxblood polish. The ring and hand chain are delicate pieces, so the accent on the nails was focused mainly on or near the tips. On the middle nail, Cody placed a round gold appliqué with a Swarovski ruby crystal on the inside—similar to the rubies on the eyes of the snake. “The wrist all the way down to the ring on the center of the nail tells a story,” says Cody. ▷

Opening page: **Kimberly McDonald**  
Yowah opal and emerald ring  
and uvarovite garnet pendant.

This page: **Madyha Farooqui** rose gold  
serpent ring and amethyst hand chain.

## Simply Stellar

**ARTIST:**  
**GINA EDWARDS**  
**@GINAEDWARDS\_**

Inspired by the moon-shaped circles on this Casa Reale ring, Edwards did a silvery blue ombre paint job on four fingers, topping them with chunky glitter and circular stones. The ring finger was painted a deep navy. It accents the celestial-like jewelry pieces without being an exact interpretation of it. ▷

**Casa Reale** white gold  
black rhodium ring  
with diamonds.



## Smokin' Aces

**ARTIST:**  
**MEI KAWAJIRI**  
**@CIAOMANHATTAN2012**

When it comes to next-level creativity, Kawajiri overflows with it. So when we asked her to create an abstract version of Alison Lou's playful fine jewelry, she happily accepted the challenge. Since the same design on each finger would be boring (right?!), Kawajiri used Lou's #1 diamond ring as a starting point for a different mini masterpiece on each finger. "I wanted to make the nails feel like an extension of Alison's collection: elegant yet youthful," says Kawajiri.

**Alison Lou** "#1" gold ring with black enamel and diamonds.

For jewelry details, see [Where to Buy](#).