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## DIY Nail Art with Taylor of SF Party Nails

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### Chapter 1 - DIY Nail Art

#### Overview

(pleasant upbeat music) - Hi, I'm Taylor Watson from SF Party Nails. I love art. I love pattern. I love bringing design to every aspect of my life. And so I became a nail artist. I love getting to work with my clients to co-create amazing designs that can range from super simple to extremely complicated extravagant designs. In this class, I'm going to show you four different designs that range from a simple set with glitter to a complicated hand-painted piece. There's no need to be overwhelmed. I'm going to break it down for you step by step and show you all the tools that you need to create your own fabulous design.

#### Materials

- Here are the materials that you're going to use for your nail art creations. You're going to be using a range of different colors. We've got a bunch of bright colors and a few neutrals. You're also gonna want to make sure for these looks that you're going to have some that are sheer and some that are opaque. You're also going to want to use a sheer base coat, as well as a top coat. They are different and very important. A few different striper brushes, as well as a small dish for your acetone. Over here, I have two different plastic palettes for your paints. A few different dotting tools for a few of the designs. Dry glitter for one of the looks. Gold foil for a different look. Orange wood sticks for cleanup and a flat brush for application. When you're done with all of your designs, you're going to re-moisturize your cuticles with cuticle oil. But of course, when we start, we need a clean slate so you're going to use 100% acetone and either nail wipes or a paper towel to clean your nails. I'll be showing you a design on my nails and I'll also be painting my friends, Cobrina and Iris's nails.

#### Prepare your space and nails

- Make sure you give yourself enough time to do your nails. It can take 30 minutes to an hour to paint your nails, but you probably wanna be careful with your nails for an hour after. So I sometimes like to put on a podcast or watch a movie while I do my nails, so you don't feel rushed at all. Before you get started, make sure you're comfortable. You can grab some water, get a snack, use the bathroom. Also make sure you're comfortable with what you're wearing. You don't wanna take a sweater off halfway through while you're doing your nails. Also, you don't wanna wear anything with flowy sleeves or a really fuzzy sweater that might get some lint into your design. You might want to prep your nails by trimming them, filing them, using a buffer, or pushing back your cuticles. But if all of that is way too overwhelming, you don't need to worry about it. You just wanna make sure that you always start by dehydrating your nails with acetone and nail wipes or just some paper towel. What I will show you next is the foundation for all four nail looks. You're going to cleanse your nails with acetone and then apply a base coat. I'll demonstrate this on Cobrina. To cleanse, we're going to use 100% acetone and some nail wipes that I have here. If you don't have 100% acetone, you can use regular nail polish remover. I recommend 100% acetone because it does a better job of dehydrating the nail. We're just going to remove the natural oils that tend to be on top of our nail bed. And this is going to allow the polish to stick better and last longer. Next, I'm going to pick a base coat for Cobrina. Often base coats are clear, but you'll see that these have a tint. They're very sheerly tinted and you won't really notice a difference. So I'm going to pick one of the light pink base coats for

Cobrina. Anytime you paint your nails, you wanna make sure that you're not getting too much product on the brush ahead of time. You can always grab more if you need it. This will prevent getting a big glob of polish on your nails. Most base coats are clear, the one I'm using today has a slight tint to it, but it doesn't really matter because we're going to be covering it up. And that's it, you just need one layer of base coat. It's amazing how great your nails can look with just a base coat.

#### Look 1: dry glitter

- This first look is one of my favorites. It's super easy to do, but it's a great way to bring in a bunch of color. It's really fast and always makes me really happy. On my table, I have a bunch of different dry glitters that I'm going to be using in my design, a palette to put my glitter and my clear polish, a dotting tool, a neutral base color and some top coat. I have cleansed both my hands and applied base coat, so I'm going to get started. The first thing I'm going to do is grab this amazing dry glitter and scoop some out onto my palette. The most important thing to keep in mind when you're looking for glitter like this for your nails is that it's super thin. We don't want these to stick up from the nail at all. Once we have all of our glitter in the palette, I'm going to take some clear top coat and just place it in one of the sections of my palette. I'm going to be using this clear top coat to apply the glitter onto my nails. For this design, I'm going to use a really sheer neutral base color, because I want the glitter to pop. I'm using my orangewood stick to just clean up a little bit of polish that I got on the edge of my nail. For this design, I want to work pretty quickly because I want this base coat to be a little bit wet. So now I'm grabbing my dotting tool and you're going to grab a dot of clear polish and pick up a piece of glitter. As you can see, this glitter lays super flat on the nail. Make sure you're using light pressure when you're grabbing the glitter and pressing it on the nail. You don't wanna make any indents in the base color. And just like that, I've got one nail done. I like to do this one nail at a time so that the base layer is still a little bit tacky when I'm applying the glitter. So now I'm ready to move on to the next nail. Once again, I'm going to grab my dotting tool, pick up a little bit of clear polish and lightly pick up a piece of glitter. Similar to when you're applying the base coat, you wanna make sure that you're not picking up too much polish on your brush. Less is always going to be more. I also love this design for anyone who wants to get into nail art but they're a little intimidated by the idea of painting designs. I picked a sheer nude as my base because I wanted the glitter to be the only color in the design, but you could definitely switch it up if you wanna make a super high impact look. You can use as much or as little glitter as you want. You just wanna make sure that there's space in between them. You don't wanna layer it up too much because you wanna make sure the glitter is very flat on the nail. Now I'm ready for top coat. I like using a top coat that has a thicker consistency. This is a little bit different than when you're using your base coat. With top coat, you wanna make sure that you're floating the top coat over the design. If you have too little polish on your brush, you're going to streak the design or pull the glitter. So you're going to use a little more top coat than you would base coat. When you're applying top coat, you want to make sure that you're getting the entire nail covered, and your last step should be that you're going to lightly cap the free edge of your nail with your brush. This is going to help fully encapsulate your nail with top coat. I got a little bit of polish on my skin next to my nail, so I'm going to use my orangewood stick to clean up around the nail. This is a completely customizable look, which is super fun. You could use any glitter that you find that works well, so the options are sort of endless. Painting your non-dominant hand can be really tricky. My best advice is just figure out how to keep it as still as possible, whether you're keeping it nice and flat on the table

in front of you, or raising it up on a stack of books, whatever you need to do to keep it still so you can do your best work.

### Look 2: washy blend with gold foil

- For this next look, I'm going to be creating a very washy, blendy design, but with really bright colors. So I picked out some of my favorite bright shades, but they are sheer so I can overlap them a little bit. I'm also gonna add in some black accents and then I'm going to finish off with some really pretty gold foil to make it pop. For this look, I'm going to work with one nail at a time. I like doing this because I'm using sheer shades so I want to work quickly if I wanna blend them while they're still a little bit wet. I'm doing a two-tone look and it's intentionally a little bit messy so you don't have to worry about the nail being perfectly covered with polish each time and you want the color to overlap just a little bit. And you can see that I painted on Cobrina's skin a little bit, so I'm just grabbing my wood stick to clean up any excess polish. I like these colors because they're sheer, but still really bright and punchy. Once I finish the first layer, I let them dry for just about a minute. They should dry quickly because I was only doing one thin layer of base color. Now I'm going to add some black accent. I'm going to do some nice sort of abstract black lines. So for this, I'm going to use my striper brush. And since I want these lines to be really light, I want to make sure I don't have too much polish on my brush so I'm just passing the brush on the side of the bottle to make sure that there isn't too much polish. And then using very light pressure, I'm going to lightly swipe on the nail. The less pressure, the better. You'll notice I'm not dipping the brush back into the bottle because I don't want any extra polish on the brush right now. Next we get to add the gold leaf, super fun. I love this stuff. It's really light so you're going to want to gently grab it with some tweezers and I'm gonna pull some onto my palette. Looks like this wants to come in one big piece. This stuff is a little sticky so I'm going to grab my orange wood stick to help me out and I'm just going to gently pull it apart. I just wanna make tinier pieces. As you can see, some are falling to the base. You're just sort of lightly breaking it up. And now that you've got some smaller pieces on your palette, you're going to grab a flat brush and pick up the pieces with your brush. I'm using very light pressure to pick up the gold with my brush and also using light pressure when I'm patting it on the surface of the nail. As you can see, it can kind of have a mind of its own. I like to get a few pieces of gold on each nail. Isn't this fun? Next we're going to finish up with some top coat. The gold foil is laying super flat on the nail so you don't really have to worry about it. Basically just sticks with static cling. And just like before, we wanna use a good amount of top coat so we're just floating it over the top, making sure to cap the edge of the nail to seal in all that goodness. And now you can go ahead and paint your other hand.

### Look 3: abstract modern with negative space

- This look is an abstract modern design. It is a little bit more difficult. I would call this intermediate level. We're going to get into some hand painting skills. The first two looks we did are definitely easier to master and this one is going to take a little bit of practice, a little bit of patience, but you can totally do it. I have a variety of colors for this look. I wanted really bright, bold colors, also high contrast. I'll be using black and white. I'm also using entirely opaque colors for this look and it can be tricky to tell in the bottle if a color is opaque or not, so you often might have to test it ahead of time on your nail or a piece of paper to be sure. As always, we're starting with prepped nails. I've already dehydrated Cobrina's nails and added a base coat before starting. This design is going to have some negative space, so I'm not painting all the way to the cuticle. I'm going to leave some

empty space between her cuticle and the polish. This is cute design-wise, but then it also grows out really well. And this can take a little bit of practice, but I start by painting the longest stroke in the middle of the nail and then rounding out the corners. It's almost like I'm painting a nail that's slightly smaller than her natural nail. I'm going to let this layer dry for a few minutes before I add any other details. While Cobrina's nails are drying, I'm going to set up my palette. I like using a palette for a design like this because I'm going to be using a dotting tool and thin brushes with my polish and putting some polish in the palette ahead of time just makes it easier to work. Now that Cobrina's nails have had some time to dry, I'm going to start working on the abstract designs. I'm going to be working with a black striper brush, a white striper brush, but then I also have a striper brush that I've cleaned out so I can use it in other colors as well. So I'm going to grab my clean striper brush and start with the bright pink paint. And what's fun about this design is you really can just decide where you want to put different shapes. I like to overlap with the base color while also going into the negative space as well. It can take some practice to get used to using the striper brush, but it's pretty similar to painting on any other surface. Also, since this is an abstract design, it can look a little funky and mismatched. Since I'm done using this brush with pink, I'm going to clean it in my cup with acetone by just swirling it around. Next, I'm going to work with the deep blue. And again, I just want to create some random shapes on the nail. When working with a striper brush, just remember that the more pressure you use, the thicker the line is going to be. Going to clean my brush again. Now I'm gonna work with the light blue. Time to grab my dotting tool, and I love this because it's got a big end as well as a small end, and I'm going to use both of those. So first, I'm going to start with the bigger end and I'm going to dip into the red, and on a few of the nails, I'm going to create a flower shape. To create a flower, you're just going to start with one dot and then move around in a circle, creating four or five dots to create a flower shape. With the dotting tool, you want to remember less pressure is going to create a smaller dot. More pressure is going to create a bigger dot. Now I'm going to use the smaller end of the dotting tool. I'm a big fan of taking contrasting colors and layering them on top of each other. Now I'm going to use the larger side of the dotting tool again. I'm going to grab some white to create the center of the flowers and I'm just gonna add some other dots on the design while I'm at it. Next, I'm going to grab my black striper brush. I'm going to create some shapes in black on the nail. Going to switch over to my white striping brush and I'm going to add some white shapes. When you're working with a striper brush, you want to make sure you don't have too much polish on the brush. And to create some contrast on this nail, I'm going to mirror this blue squiggly line. I'm going to give these shapes about a minute to dry before I add anything on top. For some last details, I'm going to add a little more contrasting pieces, grabbing my dotting tool again, and I'm going to use white, and I'm going to put white dots in the black spaces. And this is my style. You could stop here, but I think more is more. You can always make it your own. Going to clean off my dotting tool and then go right back into the black. I'm pretty happy with how these look. I'm going to do one more pass of the few last details and then we'll be all done. Going to use my white, just to go in. I want to narrow this blue line over here. So you can see, I just had a little too much polish on the brush and it dripped onto my hand. This happens. I'm just gonna quickly clean up. Also, the nice thing about polish is that you can just let it dry and then go back over. So you can see, I sort of overdrew my white a little bit here. Once this is dry, I'm just going to retrace the blue to fix it. While this nail is drying, I'm going to add a few more red dots because more is more and I love this red color so much. Cleaning off my dotting tool and then I'm gonna go back in with my striper brush. So I'm just retracing the line. And there you go. Make sure to give your nails a few minutes to dry before you add your top coat and then you'll be

all done.

#### Look 4: mix and match patterns

- This last look is definitely our most advanced look, but it's really fun because it's a mix of a few different patterns. So once you get to learn this, you might figure out one is your favorite, and you can do a whole manicure with just one design. Or if you're a maximalist, you can mix it up and have lots of different patterns on your hands. All right. So I have Iris' hands, and they are prepped and ready to go with their base coat. And since I'm going to do a different design on almost every nail, I'm going to start with my background colors on each nail. And they're gonna be a little bit different. So I'm gonna start with my white polish, and I'm going to paint two of her nails white. Painting with white polish and painting with black polish are definitely less forgiving, so you want to go nice and slow. And as always, you want to make sure you don't have too much polish on the brush. So I'm gonna let this dry because I definitely want to do a second coat of white on each nail. While I wait for the white to dry, I'm going to grab my black polish and paint two of the nails black. I'm going to grab my wood stick to clean the cuticles, just to get some of that polish that flowed onto the skin. I'm also going to paint her thumb black for this design. I'm trying to push the polish up towards the cuticle. Now I'm gonna go back to the white nails and go in for a second coat. Now I'm gonna go back with a second coat for the nails that are black. And grab my wood stick, and just again, clean up any polish that flowed over the edge. Now I'm going to do an off-white cream color on the middle nail. All right. Now we're gonna let these base colors dry for just a few minutes more before we go in with designs. These are all dry. So I'm going to start with a design on one of the white nails. I'm going to grab my black striper brush, and make sure that I don't have too much polish on the brush. And I'm just going to create some line-based shapes on the nail. And I tend to always start with a straight line. So I'll do some shapes where the line is straight. We're almost doing like an open triangle. And then you can have another straight line and a curved line. It's always fun to have some shapes stay in the middle of the nail, and have some shapes start from the sides. Some people feel like they need to hold their breath while they're painting shapes, but I don't think that's necessary. Now we're ready to move on to the next nail. I'm going to work on our middle nail right now with the off-white tan background. And for this look, I'm going to grab my palette, and I'm going to add some black polish to the palette. Going to grab one of my dotting tools with one of the smaller dots, dip it in the black polish, and I'm going to create a grid on Iris' nail. So I'm gonna start going right down the center of the nail, making sure I'm using light pressure to create the dots. And then once you have your first line down, you can just create another one right next to it, and continue until you hit the edge of the nail. And I'm going to add more to this nail, but I want the dots to dry first. So we'll come back to it. Now I'm going to clean off my dotting tool, and we're gonna move on to the other white nail. For this look, I'm gonna grab my palette again, and I'm going to add some blue, a brighter blue, and a warm red. I'm going to create abstract shapes on the nail, just like I did on the first white nail, but these are going to be a little bit thicker. For this look, I'm going to grab my striper brush that I've already cleaned with acetone, and I'm going to start with the light blue color. Just like before, I'm going to create some shapes, but I'm going to use a little more pressure with the striper brush to get a thicker line. And just like before, I'm going to have some shapes that are in the middle of the nail, and some shapes that are coming off from the side. Going to clean off my brush. Now I'm going to work with the red color. Lastly, I'm using the blue, the deeper blue in the empty spaces I've left. And you'll see there's some irregularity in these shapes. And I'm gonna show you a trick to clean that up. Now I'm gonna go back to the center nail, and I'm gonna be creating



some bright neon yellow dots. But the neon yellow is a sheer polish, and I want it to look opaque. So I'm gonna show you a trick, which is that I'm going to grab my palette and the white polish, grab my dotting tool. I'm going to add some white dots that slightly overlap with the black dots. I'm not going to do it on every single dot. Maybe about a third of the design. I'm doing white first. So this is gonna create a nice, fresh background for the neon yellow to really pop. Let's work on a different nail while we wait for this to dry. I'm going to use my thin striper brush and the white polish that I already have in my palette. This is going to be similar to the first design I did on the white nail, but even more simple. Rather than worrying about making shapes with sharp lines, I'm going to create a few gently curved lines on the nail. Super simple. Let's repeat that design on the thumbnail as well. You can see there's some messy edges that I'm going to clean up. And I'm gonna show you how to do that in just a few minutes. Now let's go back to the center nail. The white dots are dry, and they're ready for me to add some neon yellow. Grabbing my trusty dotting tool, and going right over the white dots that I created with the neon. This helps the neon really pop. There it is. Now that the other nails have dried, let's go back in to clean up some of the messy edges. I've got my white striper brush. And I'm just painting right around the shapes that I created. This helps clean everything up and erases any mistakes I may have made. Let's move on to the other white nail. Do the same kind of cleanup. Great. Each nail is a little bit different, but still super cohesive. This is because we used some similar background colors on each of the nails. And now you can go ahead and paint your other hand. You did it. I'm sure you're super excited, but I need you to be a little bit patient while your nails dry. We want to protect your creation. So give yourself some time, chill out, listen to some music, and wait at least an hour, if you can, so your nails are perfectly dry before you go out into the world. You now have the tools to create wearable art on yourself and on your friends.