



The Making of Our Cover: Japanese Gardens

Our inspiration for this month's cover sprang from the sophistication and delicate beauty found in Japanese gardens. Australian nail tech Viv Simmonds sent me photos of her 3-D acrylic work, which was simply amazing. Even more amazing, Simmonds was going to be in Los Angeles when we were planning our shoot! With little more communication than a few emails back and forth, Simmonds toiled away to create stunning nails. Because her designs were so time-intensive, she built the nail tips at home and carefully carried them with her on the plane. She inlaid sculpted flowers in acrylic nails, built an extremely detailed bridge and created a bonsai tree—complete with tiny individually sculpted leaves! In our studio, she built cherry blossoms and attached the tips to our model. Makeup artist Taylor Babaian made up our model with simple yet chic makeup, and hairstylist Will Carrillo gave a modern twist to a geisha-style hairdo with a crimping iron and subtle highlights. Photographer Richard Radstone made sure to get close to the nails to show off Simmonds' artistry, resulting in a powerful image.



Nail Artist

Viv Simmonds hails from Victoria, Australia. She is a salon owner, educator, competition champion and excels in 3-D nail art.



Photographer

Richard Radstone is an award-winning photographer who works with magazines, design firms and advertisers worldwide.



Creating the Cover Nails

- 1 Extend the nail using clear or natural acrylic. Bring the free edge out to a 45-degree angle and create a jagged edge that comes to a peak at one end. Apply a thin coat of red acrylic over the entire nail.
- 2 Using black acrylic, form the branches on the nails. Keep the product thin and use the tip of your brush to cut the product to eliminate bleeding. Apply black acrylic to the tip.
- 3 Using soft pink acrylic, create flower petals by applying a small dry bead and pressing it down with your brush to flatten out the petal. With the same technique, use green acrylic to create leaves.
- 4 Apply a small amount of gold glitter acrylic to the area where the black acrylic on the tip meets the red.
- 5 Apply clear acrylic over the entire nail to encase the design. File and buff to a high shine. Complete the nails by adding more black acrylic over the black tipped area to give a raised, matte finish.
- 6 To make cherry blossoms: use small beads of white acrylic. Thin out each one and curve it before it sets. Place a small bead of pink on a form and attach the petals. Use resin if needed. Secure with more pink in the center.
- 7 Create designs like bridges, bonsai trees and cranes with acrylic and attach them to the nails with resin. The only limit is your own imagination!



Hairstylist

Will Carillo has worked as a hairstylist for 10 years. His client list includes top celebrities and fashion magazines.



Makeup

Taylor Babaian is a prominent makeup artist in the entertainment industry. Her first book, *Asian Faces*, was released last summer.

