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FRENCH TWIST

Let your fingers do the walking toward an updated take on a classic manicure

Until recently, a request for a French manicure would result in a predictable outcome: 10 crisp white tips set on a nearly nude base defined only by a layer of shine. But ever since the fall 2012 runways ushered in coloured tips contrasted with both dark and light base shades, A-list style stars have been stepping onto the red carpet with digits decked out in the new à la mode mani. The emergence of this old-meets-new treatment seems to signal a temporary ban on traditional French tips. In its place lies an endless possibility of polish pairings. The only shade not at your fingertips these days? White.

CND Nail Colour in Silver Chrome, \$11, select salons, cnd.com

M.A.C Nail Lacquer in Delicate, \$19, M.A.C counters and stores, maccosmetics.com

Sally Hansen Nail Art Pen in Silver, \$8, drugstores, sallyhansen.com

Jessica Biel showed off the silver lining to this type of manicure when she matched her sugary sweet Dior Haute Couture gown with nails painted a pale shade of pink dipped in a reflective metal polish. How to get the look at home if your hands are a tad shaky: "Take your time and do not rush!" says Melissa Forrest, Canadian beauty expert for Sally Hansen. For the easiest application, draw on the tip with a nail-art pen.



CROWN JEWELS

A rich coat of aubergine finely edged in gilded gold set the mood for the season at Badgley Mischka's fall show, where celebrity manicurist Deborah Lippmann classified the look as "a French edge, not a French manicure." A dash of metallic adds dimension, says Melissa, especially when paired with the deep wine-hued shade.

Revlon Brilliant Strength Nail Enamel in Hypnotize, \$7, drugstores, revlon.ca



Estée Lauder Pure Colour Nail Lacquer in Smashed, \$25, Estée Lauder counters, esteelauder.ca

Deborah Lippmann Nail Lacquer in Dark Side of the Moon, \$20, Holt Renfrew, lippmanncollection.com

BORDERED BY BLACK

White tips were swapped for vampy noir rims at Thakoon, where two coats of a sheer buttercream were edged in high-shine onyx. Keep more black on your tip and less on your skin by brushing up and down the edge instead of sideways suggests Melissa. "Then, take a little art brush dipped in nail polish remover and trace it along your polish to ensure your edges are crisp." **H**

Chanel Le Vernis in Beige, \$27, Chanel counters, chanel.com

Sally Hansen Diamond Strength Polish in Barely There, \$10 for manicure kit, drugstores, sallyhansen.com

Nicole by Opi Polish in Razzle Dazzler, \$11, ebeauty.ca

