

& LEGENDS

ANNA LAJOURDIE



It's easy to move around but once you wipe the smile line, the white doesn't run. I enjoy working with gels as they have amazing shine, file easily and have no smell. I feel very comfortable with gels, but I see myself working with acrylics as well in the future."

DEDICATION'S WHAT YA NEED

Dedication, determination (sprinkled with a dash of stubbornness) and an internal desire to teach others, has driven Anna to achieve. But she's quick to credit those who have inspired her: Vicki Peters, Barb 'Nailsplash', Marti Pruess, the UK's Samuel Sweet and Deb Jacklin, distributor of Akzentz in Alberta. Anna's keen eye towards detail also allows her to excel in photography and sewing. But for as long as she can remember, she was painting her girlfriend's nails and tinting and shaping their eyebrows, which explains her route into nails. Last year, Anna became a distributor of Akzentz products (www.akzentz.com) which is a Canadian company in British Columbia (BC).

In March 2003 Anna was featured in *Nailpro's* article, *Top Finishers* where she was highlighted alongside Tom Holcomb and Gail Booth as "Having their filing down to a science". Her other accomplishments have afforded her the opportunity to travel to Poland to teach gel skills. (She was amazed that some of the students had traveled four-10 hours just to attend her class.)

On 18 October 2003 Anna won first place in the www.beautytech.com 'Strut your Stuff 3' Enhancement Jr. category. You can check out her work, along with other winners at: <http://www.beautytech.com/contest/strut2003/winners.htm>

STRIVING TO BE THE BEST

With her own company, Polished.ca, Anna travels to Europe a couple of times a year to teach small classes and offers one-on-one classes locally in Canada. Each class costs attendees \$30 per hour. She focuses on how to create 'real' salon nails, not just a perfect, imaginary rebalance. She also demonstrates how to fix problems such as lifting, free edge separation, chipped corners and how to shape the nail properly.

Presently, she is perfecting her pink and white gels, saying there is always room for improvement. At the same time, she'd like to curb her timing from 90 minutes for new sets down to 60 minutes max. An avid internet junkie (like myself), Anna spends four-six hours a day on the internet, mostly answering emails and tending to her two web sites: www.beautypro.ca and www.polished.ca. The former showcases pictures of her work, general information about enhancements, maintenance tips and price lists. The latter is her newest project, dedicated to the education of fellow nail technicians. It features step-by-step picture tutorials, a message board, product information, application tips and an online store. "I'm also planning on adding short video clips to my web sites because sometimes still pictures don't show everything the way I would like to," confesses Anna. "I find it hard to explain how the white gels are applied. Techs that are new to gel can find it very frustrating because it is so different from acrylics. Many still believe it's not possible to sculpt with gels or to achieve a nice, crisp Forever French look with them. I guess that's why I'm trying to prove that it is possible."

Anna insists she lives life one day at a time. Her best advice to those seeking fulfillment is, "Do what you love and you'll not work a day in your life!"

Anna Lajourdie Esthetics
3106 Cambourne Cr
Mississauga, Ontario L5N 5E6
Canada
E: anna@polished.ca
www.beautypro.ca
www.polished.ca

Footnote:

Thank you Anna, for inspiring and educating those who seek sound knowledge in the study of gel nails. Your dedication to this effort is evident in your online tutorial pages. May you continue to have decades of success! - Gina.

