



do about lifting as I could never get away from it. She mentioned that the mix ratio was most likely my issue." But Holly was perplexed as to how the facilitator could possibly guess this without seeing any of her work. "It turns out it was my brush, the special one that was so cute, but so not Creative!" she laughs. "The whole kit thing set off a light bulb in my head that day. When I grasped mix ratio using the brush that was designed to pick up liquid & powder beads and actually create nails in class that were not lifting while finish filing, I realised if the whole systems thing I'd been hearing about in classes had been Kool-aid. I needed a bigger pitcher because the taste of success was addictive!

And there was plenty more of that success to be tasted. It wasn't long before Creative became familiar with the Holly Schippers name that is now so well-recognised within the industry. And once the tech passed her Grand Master Certificate, CND's educators suggested she apply to join them. Despite having only worked a few shows, Holly was invited to attend Boot Camp in Manchester run by none other than the Master Geek himself, Samuel Sweet. Her memories of those days are nostalgic, "I fell in love with England and the people and the shared passion for nails," she recalls. "I met nail professionals from all over the globe and even found my long lost 'sister', Fee from Scotland who made Boot Camp more memorable just because she was there! We learned nails at the next level and heard from Doug Schoon about chemistry in ways that made me want to know more." And the fairytale just seemed to get better; "They made me a Creative education ambassador at the end of that week, which was an incredible honour. So I've been doing my best to grow and do them all proud ever since!"

### High-flying Holly

It seems there is no doubt that Holly's belief about her destiny rings true. The key that opened the door to the industry proved to

open up so many other doors with an ease that generated from her talent from that point forward. Though she could never be accused of boasting, she could certainly be forgiven for doing so. "I have achieved goals that I never even thought to set for myself like sending in pieces for Fashion Week in New York, having my work printed in things for CND, and being named the 2010 North American Education Ambassador of the Year. Topping that seems intimidating and impossible, so I'm looking more to doing those things justice and continue fighting for education for nail



professionals everywhere." This determined act of passion for nail teaching includes blogging twice a week for NAILS magazine online, joining a team of educators that influence the nail education in the State where she lives, and making a place on Facebook for nail professionals to feel comfortable about asking questions and not feel judged. "I feel that knowledge is power and power should be shared, my current plans involve figuring out how to empower as many nail professionals as I can!" An act that is bound to add yet another glowing addition to Holly's CV.

And the pearls of wisdom that the Texas-born tekkie and educator shares are delivered with the same prudent determination that she keeps in check, but very much alive. "My advice for upcoming techs and students is to 'hold your head high, natural talent is nice', wish I had some!" laughs the ever-humble Holly. "But with a lot of hard work and determination you can do a great job. Practice and classes are your fastest path to success even though they both take time. When you fail, dust yourself off, smile at the world, and work a little harder. When you no longer fail consistently, know it is a result of hard work and perseverance and allow yourself to take pride in your work."

So what do a good wine, cheese and a nail tech have in common? They get better with age! According to Holly, "As an experienced tech, practice will see results. If you keep a client for several years she should notice your improvement over the nails you did five, 10, 15, or even 20 years ago. It's important that if your passion has died you find out what you need to re-ignite it - it could be a class, some time online helping others, a new glitter to stoke the flames of your fire back into a passion that shines through your eyes to others!" inspires Holly. "I'll leave you with a quote and my best wishes for success, amazing nails and a never-ending thirst for knowledge for what you do," concludes Holly. 5

*"Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new" ~ Albert Einstein*

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