

# The Schippers Success Story

The rise of nail professional **HOLLY SCHIPPERS** is an inspirational, heart-warming journey that many will appreciate and connect with...

**BY SALLY FRANCES LATCHAM**



**A**s much as she might be reminded of the high esteem her name holds in the nail industry, Holly Schippers, CND ambassador in the USA, confesses she doesn't consider herself any more successful than any other nail tech or educator, claiming she would simply hope to be considered accessible, helpful and empathetic.

Having lived through some years of it, the nail industry could certainly be described as her passion, along with what the Texas-born tekkie describes as, "Doing what little bits I can to work towards improving it and helping to empower other nail professionals to do the same". And modesty would definitely be another label firmly adhering to the tech who tells *Scratch*, "I always have to laugh a little when asked how my nail and education careers began. It was actually just what seemed like a fluke at the time, but what I now like to consider to be my destiny."

## Polished Professional

It all came to pass during a visit to her grandmother's house for Christmas when her cousin, a salon owner, mentioned she was not able to find a nail tech for her salon. "My first thoughts were, how hard could going to school and polishing nails all day really be?" recalls Holly. A little feedback and encouragement from her cousin and husband and she soon found herself studying nails at college where she quickly discovered there was more to nails than what she remembers was her initial narrow assumption. "It was hard!" she admits. "The academics were easy, anyone can learn with

motivation, but the nails were a challenge - to put it nicely. I remember when, just before graduating, our class attended a small trade show where a fellow student and I attempted to enter the class of the manufacturer whose product we used in school. The name badges at the show were colour-coded and ours showed we were students. Unfortunately, the educator chose to make fun of us and asked us not to bother even sitting down as



we would be wasting the time of the real professionals in class. This was our first taste of the industry outside school and it was a shock! My fellow student chose to leave the show and I was shown into another classroom where the show's education director thought I might fit in better."

Alicia Bryant-Mayes, who was teaching that class, approached Holly to fill her in on what she had missed in the class so far and offered to help in any way she could. "That was the day that I was introduced to Creative Nail Design," remembers Holly.

## Tools of the Trade

Holly had caught the nail bug and, out in the big wide real nail world, she set about building the foundations of her future career as a nail tech. "I started to slowly buy one thing after another - you know how it is when you're in school, then you get out of school and have little to no income!" she recounts. "I still continued to play around, test out products other than CND - you know it - new tech curiosity and all that! It was my hunger to understand this whole new world of chemistry and intriguing knowledge. I found kindred spirits online at BeautyTech.com and theNailGeek.com ([www.salongeek.com](http://www.salongeek.com)) spending hours some days just reading over the questions and answers, sometimes lurking and sometimes posting. During this time, I developed a bit of hero worship for Debbie D, Doug Schoon, Nikki B, Sam and Sam, as they were so knowledgeable and had really invested in the industry!"

Inspired by her nail heroes, despite feeling that her nail tekking wasn't improving, Holly's enthusiasm wasn't to be culled and she sought out positive means of bettering her embryonic talon talents. "I started hunting down classes within a six-hour driving range from home. Each class got me a little closer to producing average salon nails, but they were not staying on for two weeks. I eventually went to a Creative class on liquid & powder. I was a little annoyed at the cost of buying a kit when I had product at the salon, but figured it would get used eventually. When it came time for hands-on and the facilitator was walking around, I waved her over to ask what I could >>

