

# SELF TAUGHT SOPHOMORE

SOPHOMORE NAIL ARTIST LUCY MEDINA REFINES HER SKILLS FOR PROM

**S**ophomore Lucy Medina has discovered a love and interest in designing complex and unique nail art. Lucy is self-taught and uses her talent to benefit her friends and herself.

“It was cheaper to do my nails. It was hard for me to find the stuff that I wanted for a reasonable price. I was like, I’ll just try and do it myself and it turned out fine,” Lucy said.

The cost of getting her nails done was a big motivator for Lucy to push herself to learn nail art. Lucy has found that a product being expensive doesn’t always mean it’s better quality, she has discovered ways to mimic designs she likes cost-effectively. One resource Lucy uses is Pinterest.

“I go on Pinterest a lot and then I look at designs. You can look at the picture and use the feature where you tap on an item in the picture, it can show you where it’s from,” Lucy said.

Resources, like Pinterest, have allowed Lucy to save money and enjoy quality nails. Lucy goes further with her talent and uses it to help her family and friends save money as well.

“I do many of my friend’s nails, especially for events. A bunch of them pay me but it’s not as expensive as it could be. It’s better for them and fun because we’re hanging out,” Lucy said.

Lucy’s passion for doing nails connects her with her friends and gives her more chances to perfect her process and skill.

“Many of them give me an idea, and then I just kind of go off of it because they’re indecisive,” Lucy said.

Many of Lucy’s friends and family describe the experience as different than going to a salon, like her sister, junior Lily Medina.

“I would not be so picky at a regular salon. I know she won’t be offended, and since she’s my sister, she can tolerate if I combine more than one design or tell her I don’t like how something is done. Sometimes, when she gets a cool new tool she uses me as the test subject to test

it out, unlike a salon experience. We’re both having fun in the end,” Lily said.

Having a sister gives Lucy more time to improve her skills and creativity. Lucy gets to experiment with ideas for designs for her friends too, like senior Kayleigh Rush.

“I typically let her have creative freedom because she does my nails so often I run out of ideas. I prefer going to Lucy because it is cheap for very intricate nails, she is so talented,” Rush said.

Rush has been getting her nails done by Lucy for six months.

“She asks what I want done, preps my nails, glues on the fake nails, uses a rubber base and then paints them. My favorite nails have been my Wizard of Oz-themed nails, they are simple compared to what she usually does but I love these so much,” Rush said.

Lucy has an efficient and quality process and has diversity in her designs, often leaving her friends and family very satisfied with their nails.

“I think I take advantage of having my nails done by her because I let her know if I don’t like the way something looks, but I don’t care how she fixes it, so she has freedom in that area,” Lily said.

Lucy’s skill causes her to stay busy with clients, especially with prom coming up.

“I’ll probably do a lot of people’s from my dance studio, my sister’s, you know fully booked,” Lucy said.

Doing nails and making jewelry has been a fun and useful hobby that Lucy recommends learning, even though the learning process can be intimidating to start.

“There’s no harm in trying it. If it doesn’t work out, it’s no big deal,” Lucy said.

Being a self-taught nail artist serves as a powerful reminder of the passion and determination that can drive individuals to achieve their goals. Lucy has a unique talent that sets her apart.

**Written by Natalie Reed and photo courtesy of Lucy Medina**



**SKILL SUPPLIES:** Sophomore Lucy Medina shows off the supplies she uses to create unique nail art. Lucy has curated a collection of products as her skill advances.



**TIS' THE SEASON:** Sophomore Bliss Jordan has red nails with white bows for Christmas. Lucy does many nails around the holidays, like Jordan, and her designs reflect the holiday themes.