

TECHNIQUE

# GIULIA BALLARÉ

## On Fake Nails



WATCH THE LESSON  
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*“IT’S **REALLY** IMPORTANT FOR A GUITARIST TO KNOW HOW TO REPAIR A NAIL OR SURVIVE WITH A FAKE NAIL. I’D LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU WHAT I’VE LEARNED IN THE PAST TEN YEARS OF USING FAKE NAILS”.*

## **LESSON DESCRIPTION**

No matter how strong your nails may be, it's important to know how to rebuild a nail from scratch in case disaster strikes!

In this lesson, Giulia Ballaré will go through two methods for constructing fake nails. She will go step-by-step through two methods for building fake nails- acrylic reconstruction and application of fake tips. All the necessary items and tools are included in a list, including a link to the item she uses in this video.

Finally, she gives a useful technique for repairing one of these fake nails when they break. By the end of the video you'll have information to help you make a decision on the best way to care for your own nails, with information from a world renowned guitar soloist.





# ABOUT YOUR INSTRUCTOR



Giulia Ballaré is considered one of the most promising soloists of her generation. She is regularly invited to play all over Europe in prestigious venues. As a competitor, she has won more than 30 prizes in international competitions among them, first prize: Andrès Segovia (Linares, 2018), Ciudad de Coria (Spain, 2017), and Forum Gitarre Wien (Austria, 2016).

In 2013, she released her first album with the label dotGuitar titled "Lirically Spain." She is a D'Addario Artist.

## OUTLINE

1. Introduction
2. Shopping List
3. Applying Acrylics
4. Finishing Touches
5. False Nail Tips
6. Reconstruction



# INTRODUCTION

Giulia Ballaré is here today to talk about how to build fake nails and repair broken ones. She has been using fake nails herself for a very long time, and wants to share the information she's learned. She begins with two methods to construct fake nails, acrylics and fake tips.

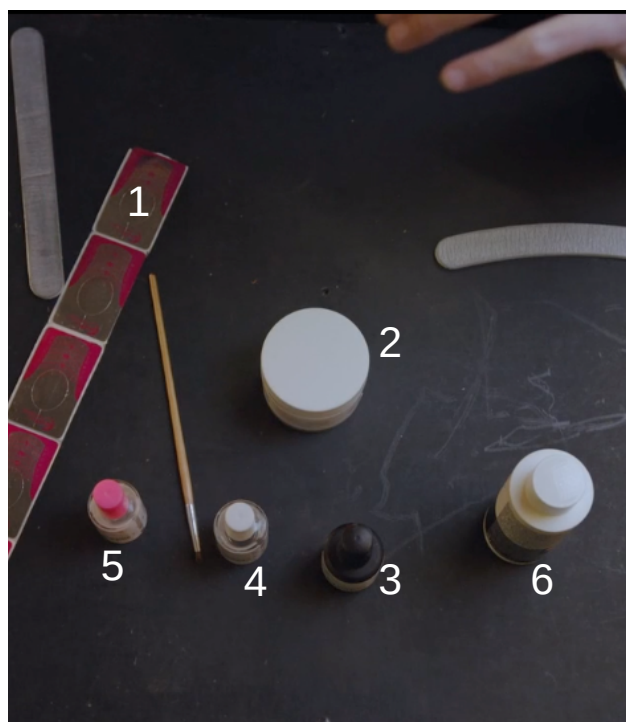
## SHOPPING LIST

Before you can begin, there are a number of materials you'll need. Below are links to the specific products Giulia uses, but you can find similar ones at your local store or online that should work just as well. A star is marked next to items that are strictly optional.

*None of the products linked are affiliated with or sponsors of tonebase.*

### Acrylic nail

1. Paper Support
2. Acrylic Powder
3. Nail preparation
4. Base
5. Activator
6. Solvent
7. Micro-Mesh Nail Paper\*
8. Waterproof Abrasive Paper\*



You may also want nail files, a thin paintbrush, a small bowl for the solvent, small scissors, and a paper towel for drying brushes.

## Plastic tips

1. Plastic tips
2. Savarez super glue

## Repair

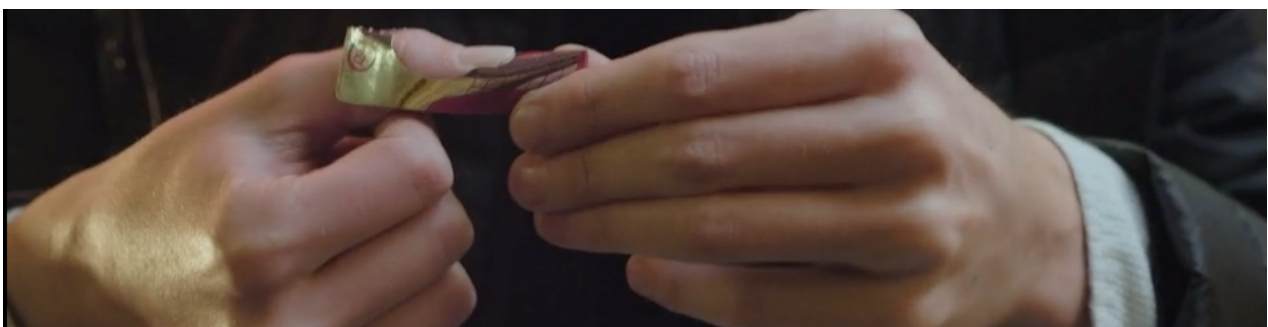
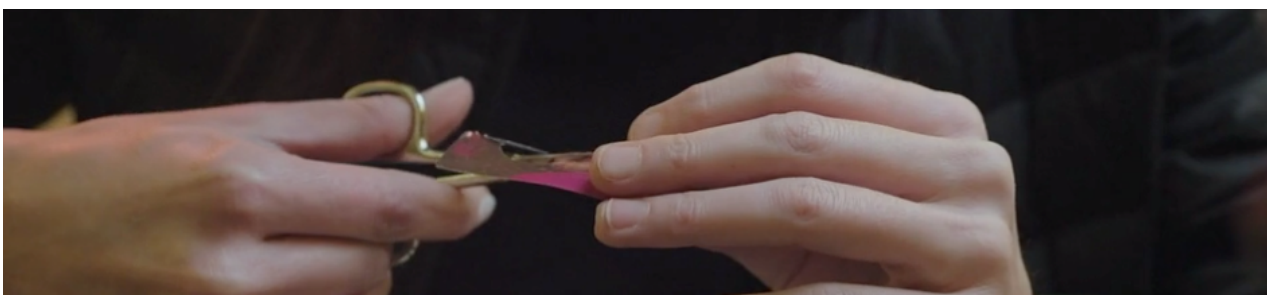
1. Savarez nail kit

# APPLYING ACRYLICS



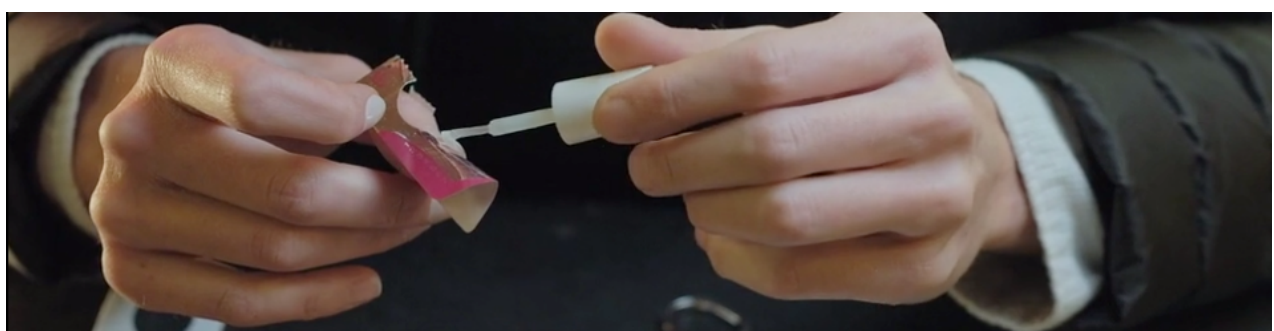
Open all the bottles first- it's harder than you might think with one hand later when preparing your nail. Since her natural nails are virtually gone, she will remake her thumb nail from scratch.

Place one of the paper supports around your thumb, using a pair of scissors to trim the paper to meet the shape of your thumb if necessary. The thumb should sit on top of the paper, so the paper's adhesive sticks to the bottom of your thumb.



First, use a layer of nail preparation to clean your nail. Apply until covered. This degreases and sanitizes the nail, getting it in the best condition for other liquids to stick. Use a file to shorten your natural nail for maximum comfort.

Next we'll use the nail base to create a bowl of plastic that will make up the nail. Take the brush from the nail base, make sure it's covered, and dip it gently into the acrylic nail powder.



Clean the brush immediately once this is done. Squeeze the cleaning liquid into a small bowl or cup and rinse the brush in it. Dry the brush on the paper towel.

Giulia suggests an alternative method if you don't want to mix your nail base brush in two liquids.

Put the liquid base directly on the nail, and dip the nail directly into the acrylic powder. Wait for the base to dry, and then repeat this process once or twice more. A white plastic starts to form quickly.



She may also use the paintbrush to get the finer details of the nail more accurate. Rinse all brushes in between use!

Now, use the activator liquid on the surface of the nail- cover it lightly, and clean the brush immediately. You'll know the tip is dry when the paper comes off no problem and the acrylic stays in place.



It will not have a good shape at first, but you can use some sewing scissors to cut the extra bits off.



# FINISHING TOUCHES



Next, if you would like, you can apply another layer of nail above the existing one.

Brush some nail base on top of the existing acrylic. Dip the nail into the powder, and then apply another layer of activator.

Repeat any of these steps until you have the shape you desire. You can always add more layers of acrylic to get a thicker nail. Always remember to wash the brushes in between use so they don't stick to the bottles and ruin them! Clean the activator bottle itself, as well.

The nail created is strong- significantly stronger than your natural nails. You can press and push and it won't budge. Once it's dry you can use a nail file. She recommends using multiple files to have more possibilities for different shaped edges.



She uses micro-mesh paper to shape the nail as well. The 3200 is very strong paper, the 1000 is a little less strong, and the p400 is a very strong sandpaper. Use these, or any paper you like, to provide a finer shape and consistency to the edges.

She applies one final layer of nail at the end to get an even thicker consistency, but this is not necessary.

Once everything is dry and shaped to your liking, the nail is ready for use!



## KEY TAKEAWAYS

Remember to wash the brushes in between every use so they don't stick to the bottles and ruin them!

Add a layer of preparation and base to the nail before every layer, and use the activator before letting it dry.

# FALSE NAIL TIPS



Second, you can order false fingernail tips online and glue them to your finger. It doesn't matter how long the nails are- you can always cut them with a pair of scissors and file them- but the roundness of the nail is important, and difficult to change. Be sure to order different sizes of nails, so you can try them all out.

Find a size that naturally fits the curve of your nail very well, and adjust their length and shape first. Small adjustments are always best; you can always remove move, but it's very difficult to add pieces back.

To check the length before gluing, hold the fake nail against your finger and compare the size to the other fingers. Then cut them shorter if they're too long.



Clean and file your natural nail a bit before application. While any super glue will do the job, Giulia likes to use a super glue by Savarez, contained in his nail kit.

She'll apply a small layer of the glue directly on the nail, taking care to not get any on the skin.



Immediately after, she sets the nail on her finger, pressing on top and on the two sides, lightly with her other fingers, for about thirty seconds.

It's already done! File away to get the shape you would like. After the files, she'll use the p400 and/or Micromesh paper to clean out the plastic that might've gotten stuck underneath the nails.

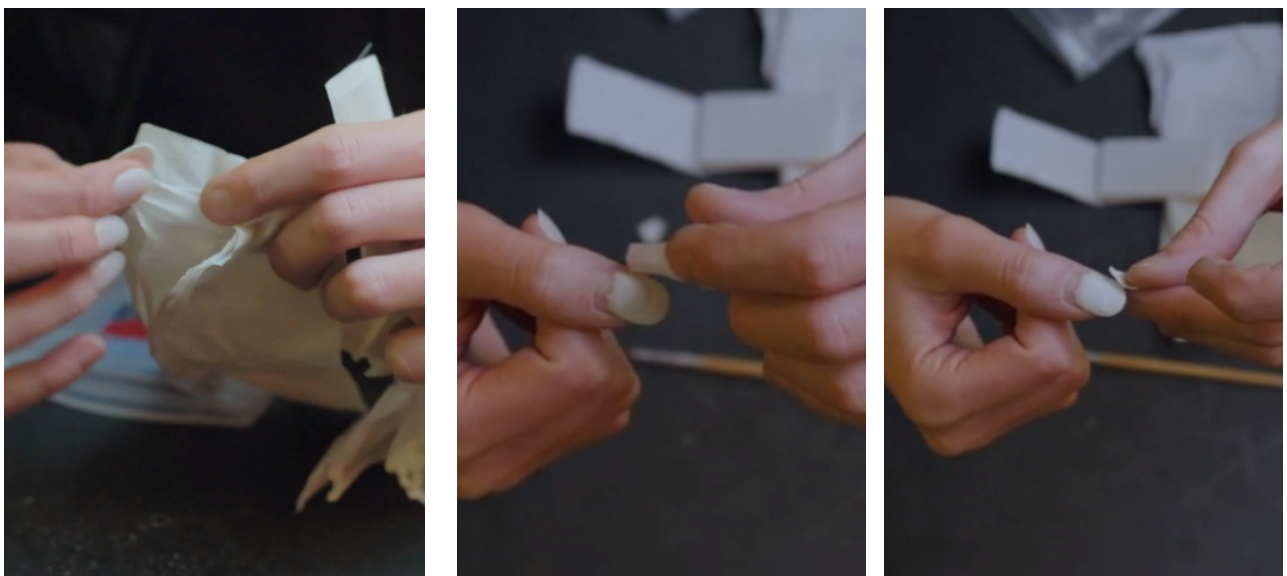
# RECONSTRUCTION



Finally, Giulia mentions how to reconstruct ripped or cracked nail tips. Nails often broken while playing guitar, but can also break throughout daily activities.

Acrylics and fake tips can be invasive and potentially harmful to your natural nails if done too often or for too long. If a nail chips or cracks, this is the method she recommends.

The above Savarez kit contains some silk to use, but you can also use a very small piece of toilet paper or any silk. Add a small amount of super glue to the surface of the nail and put down the piece of paper.



This will strengthen that part of the nail without anything invasive. That's all there is to it! Hopefully you are able to use one of these methods to ensure your nails are ready to make music.

Happy manicuring!!

# RESOURCES



## **Aniello Desiderio's lesson on Sound Production**

Get help finding your personal sound on the guitar in this lesson, where Aniello delves deeper into effective finger nail shapes and using sandpaper for polishing.

## **Bahar Ossareh's lesson on Nails**

Enrich your knowledge of nails from another perspective. In this lesson, Bahar discusses nail length, how to measure nails, and different tools she uses for maintaining them.

## **Our blog post 10 Tips for Terrific Nails**

Chris from tonebase, with almost twenty years as a classical guitarist, shares ten essential nail tips on shaping, maintaining, strengthening your nails. A must-read for players of all levels.



