Short dark-cherry nails with a negative-space detail

Plan a small unpainted strip or crescent on short nails, keep the same boundary on every nail, and paint around it with ordinary lacquer. The practice sheet has short-nail outlines, two example open-area shapes, blank outlines for your own plan and a step checklist.

What you need

- Dark-cherry pearl lacquer; check the selected shade and bottle size
- Base coat and top coat
- Thin striping tape or negative-space nail stencils
- Small flat clean-up brush and nail polish remover
- A separate practice nail tip

Steps

1. Choose one open shape
On the short outlines, mark either a diagonal strip or a small crescent at the base, and copy the same boundary to every nail. On short nails, keep the open area narrow so the dark cherry still covers most of the nail.

2. Tape the boundary, then paint
On a separate practice tip first, apply base coat and let it dry, then press striping tape or a stencil along the boundary. Apply thin coats of the selected lacquer as its label directs, including the free edge. Remove tape as its directions say.

3. Tidy the edge and seal
On the practice tip, tidy the edge with a small brush and remover. Let the color dry as the product label directs, then apply top coat over the whole tip, including the open area.

4. Check it at arm’s length
Hold the finished practice tip at arm's length. If the open strip disappears, widen it on the sheet and retry the practice tip. Only then repeat on natural nails if desired. Work with ventilation, keep products away from flames, heat and eyes, and stop if irritation occurs.

Tips

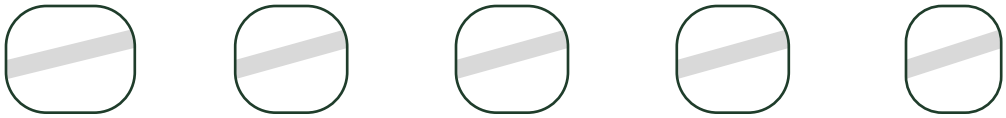
- Striping tape, stencils and the practice tip are separate from the optional polish; check what is included and the current seller's return terms.
- The FDA advises good ventilation when using nail products and notes that some can catch fire near a heat source.
- The practice sheet is free. The optional Amazon link is an affiliate link.

Full guide: https://figurenook.com/guides/short-dark-cherry-nails-with-a-negative-space-detail/

Your worksheet

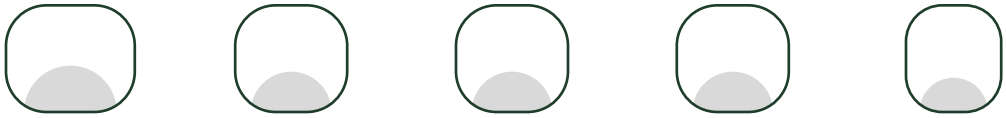
Example A: diagonal strip (shaded area stays unpainted)

Example



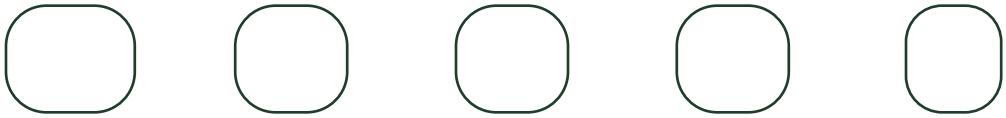
Example B: base crescent (shaded area stays unpainted)

Example

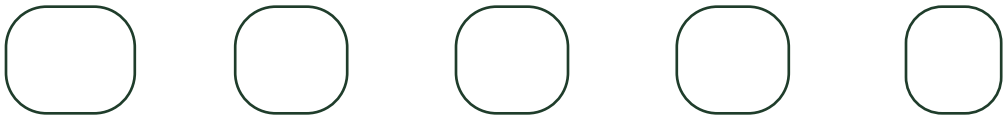


Your plan: draw the same boundary on each short outline

Left hand



Right hand



Step order

- ☐ Base coat, dry
- ☐ Tape or stencil along the boundary
- ☐ Thin color coats as the product directs, free edge coated
- ☐ Tape removed as its directions say
- ☐ Edge tidied with remover
- ☐ Top coat over the whole nail

Open shape chosen and width _____

Lacquer shade and size _____

About this sheet

Original AI editorial illustration depicting a design concept; review manufacturer specifications and product details for final suitability. Accessories, exact colour, fit and performance are not established by the image.

The guide and this sheet are free; no account, email address or purchase is needed. Product links on the guide are optional Amazon affiliate links.

Sources

• U.S. FDA, Nail Care Products, saved 9 November 2026: https://www.fda.gov/cosmetics/cosmetic-products/nail-care-products