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Daylight's Ultra-Slim Manicure Lamp

Five busy nail techs challenged Daylight's new lamp in their working environments ~ here are the verdicts

If looks are anything to go by then the new Ultra-Slim Manicure Lamp from Daylight is one of the most stunning nail station lamps we've clapped our eyes on. But does the lamp's performance in a salon environment live up to its good looks? We decided to put it to the test and invited nail techs across the UK to see how it performs when working under pressure.

Daylight Ultra-slim Manicure Lamp Fact File

Launched: June 06

Designed and distributed by: Daylight Company Ltd

Finish: Chrome

Benefits: an extremely flexible arm ensures the lamp can be adjusted for optimum effectiveness and comfort. The slender structure eliminates shadows and glare while allowing a clear and uninterrupted view of the client's nails, thereby creating a professional and intimate environment. The controllable spread of even low heat ensures both client and tech see polish colours and finishes in true light and nail tech's eyes are helped to cope with long periods of concentrated and intricate work. The Ultra-Slim is equipped with a strong table clamp and stem so it can be easily fitted to all makes and designs of nail station worktops

Cost: £64 + VAT





LIEN THI DANG

Salon owner and nail tech

THI Dang Nails, 159 Kettering Road
Northampton, NN1 4BS
T: 01604 621 162

Number of staff: 3

Nail stations: 3

Clients per week: 90

Established: Nearly 5 years

Current lighting: Overhead lighting with occasional use of Daylight Portable Lamps

Lien uses workstation lamps when competing in nail competitions but prefers to rely on overhead lighting in a salon environment.

Lien's verdict

"Firstly I like the design because the flexible arm allows you to focus the light where you need it, it can spread the whole length of the table without getting in the way because it's so slim – and it looks great.

"The only downside for me was that we found ourselves constantly moving the lamp around, backwards or forwards and twisting it around, which eventually loosened the screw on the table. I think it's very suitable for the job it's designed for and is stylish as well as practical; the quality is also very good. I do think the price is slightly high for a table lamp and you would need to truly value the benefits of the lamp to justify purchasing this style of manicure lamp.

"The Ultra-Slim would make any salon look stylish and professional, as the design is attractive in a simple way. It benefits techs by providing us with a true light that also picks up imperfections on nails that an ordinary lamp would not show and clients' nails look the same in the salon as they do outdoors under the sun. I think another major benefit is the drastic reduction in heat generated by the lamp, which creates a much more comfortable working environment.

"I would definitely use the Ultra-Slim in the future, especially for nail competition work. Judges scrutinise your nails under Daylight lamps in competition conditions to show up scratches, flat spots and dust."

"...I LIKE THE DESIGN BECAUSE THE FLEXIBLE ARM ALLOWS YOU TO FOCUS THE LIGHT WHERE YOU NEED IT. IT CAN SPREAD THE WHOLE LENGTH OF THE TABLE WITHOUT GETTING IN THE WAY BECAUSE IT'S SO SLIM..."



TARA OLDHAM

Senior educator

Lena White UK Ltd
Education division
www.lenawhite.co.uk
T: 01932 240 010

Number of staff: 10 educators

Nail stations: N/A ~ classroom

Clients per week: N/A

Established: 23 years

Current lighting: Daylight Portable Lamps

As senior educator for Lena White, Tara sets very high standards in both her work environment and nail treatments.

Lena White at Selfridges



Tara's verdict

"The unobtrusive design is slim and elegant and with the strong current trend of clean and contemporary salon interiors it's sure to be popular with salon owners. I like the wide pool of white light cast by the Ultra-Slim and the low heat is extremely important when working with nail products, particularly acrylic, as heat can easily cause air bubbles. Dean, head nail tech at our Selfridges salon, has also commented on how, in a busy salon environment, where a lot of lamps are located in close proximity, low heat emission is a 'must-have' in order to maintain a comfortable room temperature.

"On a precautionary note, the lamp is extremely unobtrusive to the extent that you could easily forget it's there! I would say that you would need to be careful when checking enhancements, holding hands upside down when using sculpting gels and clients' nails up to assess and inspect work as you could potentially knock the lamp. The arm is very flexible but you need to work with it to position it where the angle of the light and the position of the lamp is right for you."

Denise Wright



Denise Wright





DENISE WRIGHT

Salon owner, trainer and nail journalist

Perfect 10, 5 Cherry Trees, Hartley
Kent DA3 8DS
T: 01474 707 077

Number of staff: 9

Nail stations: 5 (plus two beauty rooms, one spray tanning room and a sun shower)
Clients per week: 50-60

Established: five years (Perfect 10 opened in 2002 with just Denise and one part-timer)

Current lighting: Halogen desk lights

Denise has been in the nail and beauty industry for 19 years and during that time has won many awards. She is hands-on in the salon, works for the media and for governing bodies in education. She believes in reinvesting in her salon to ensure that the salon environment is maintained at an optimum level – creating a relaxing and professional atmosphere for both clients and staff.

Denise explains, "I spend a great deal of time in the salon and therefore it's important for me to be in pleasant surroundings. I regularly upgrade my equipment as I feel that it benefits the clients as well as the techs and therapists. Clients notice reinvestment and it sends a clear message to everyone who visits that it's a modern salon. I believe this is particularly important as this is a very visual industry."

Denise's verdict

"After testing several lamps, in my opinion this is the best I have used to date. I do not have any eyestrain and for close up work it is like permanently working in a well-lit room. This is important for my line of work, which encompasses working on clients; magazine articles and photographic step by steps as well as 3D nail art.

"I have strong views on health & safety and Daylight helps nail techs avoid the eyestrain that can cause severe headaches.

"The Ultra-Slim has some unique benefits. For instance using the lamp eliminates shadowing on the nail during product application allowing precise positioning, which is important when creating smile lines. In addition to this, accurate filing can be achieved and it's superb for competition or photographic work. It also removes the heat produced by traditional lamps that can affect the setting times of acrylic.

"And finally, the design of the lamp speaks for itself – it's modern and stylish in appearance and placing it in the salon has given a feeling of space as it doesn't intrude into my working area."



STEFANNIE MCREYNOLDS

Self employed mobile nail technician

15 Weaver Road, Earlsilton,
Leicestershire, LE9 7BC
T: 07903 254 322

Nail stations: 1 (mobile)

Clients per week: 10

Established: 2 years

Current lighting: Daylight Portable Lamp

Stefannie trained with Creative Nail Design two and a half years ago and since then she hasn't looked back. She was the first ever competitor to win 'Novice' with fibreglass in a national competition and she placed 11th at the Nailympics in 2005 – no mean feat for a newcomer – and at ExCel in 2006 she was awarded first place in fibreglass.

"MANY OF MY CLIENTS HAVE COMMENTED ON HOW STYLISH THE LAMP IS AND I BELIEVE THIS ENDORSES THE FACT THAT BY USING IT I'M CREATING A PROFESSIONAL ENVIRONMENT."

The Ultra-Slim Manicure Lamp is designed for use in a salon environment but Stefannie was keen to see if she could use it in her mobile business and discovered that it was very effective. The slim design has ensured that it folds neatly into her case and she finds it easy to set up in lots of different environments.

Stefannie's verdict

"I really like the design; it's trendy and fits with the style and finish of the equipment I use when I set up my workstation. My manicure bowl, utensils and utensil holders are all chrome and I take pride in creating a salon environment in my clients' homes. Many of my clients have commented on how stylish the lamp is and I believe this endorses the fact that by using it I'm creating a professional environment. "It's better than any other lamp I have ever worked with. Traditional manicure lamps take up a lot of room but this design gives you much more space to work in. I'm a Daylight fan anyway and usually use my Daylight Portable Lamp so I am sold on the benefits of low heat and how the light shows up absolutely everything. I also think it's good value for money and so I would be very happy to purchase one, in fact I don't think I could now use anything else!"



ELISE SCHOLES

Salon owner and nail tech

Flawless Nails, 16 High Street
Maybank, Newcastle-Under-Lyme ST5 0JB
T: 01782 740 104

Number of staff: 1

Nail stations: 1

Clients per week: 25

Established: 2 years

Current lighting: Overhead and Daylight Portable Lamp

Elise, who is a self confessed perfectionist, has a series of competition wins under her belt and is particularly impressed by the Ultra-Slim's unobtrusive design.

Elise's verdict

"The lamp is very sleek and stylish, it took me a while to get it to a comfortable height but once I did it was perfect! It's great for salon work because it's so easy to maintain. "The lamp looks good and I think it's excellent value for money as it's all chrome and the 'on' switch is neatly hidden away at the side of your desk.

"Even compared to my old lamp, which was a Daylight Portable, it has given me a lot more room on my desk and no clutter to work in, which projects a more professional appearance – clean and tidy. It's easy to clean and has brilliant flexibility so you can move it around as much as you like. All my clients noticed the lamp and gave their approval. I will definitely be using it in the future – I love it!"

