

The Nail Ninja

Production & Prompt Guide

A complete, repeatable workflow for a 15-second cinematic 3D beauty-transformation comedy — from character reference images to the final Seedance 2.0 render.

15 sec · 9:16 vertical · Pixar look · No dialogue · Built for virality

THE IDEA

A manicure performed like a martial art.

Every Nail Ninja video runs the same irresistible engine: a hook, a tiny character story, and a satisfying reveal. A mortified woman with catastrophically neglected nails sneaks into a sleek studio, hiding her hands under her thighs. Vera — a sharp, theatrical "nail ninja" — picks up her hand like crime-scene evidence, then unleashes a martial-arts manicure: filing, drilling, cuticle combat, a steaming spa soak, and a flawless color ceremony. Wrecked hands become glossy works of art. No dialogue — cartoon SFX only.

WORKFLOW AT A GLANCE

01. Design characters — Lock 2 reference images so identity stays consistent.
02. Build key frames — Three stills: the before, the action, the reveal.
03. Animate in Seedance 2.0 — Feed refs + master prompt, render 9:16 at 15s.
04. Polish & post — Cartoon SFX, gold title card, publish to Reels.

CHARACTER REFERENCE IMAGES

Consistency is everything — the same face, body and outfit must appear in every frame. Generate two clean reference images — one per character — and reuse them in every key frame and the final render. The fastest path is to lock the cast once in Nano Banana (Gemini) or GPT Image, then upload both into Seedance 2.0 as references.

Vera (The Nail Ninja) — Sharp-featured, fitted all-black uniform, slick dark hair. Handles every tool like a weapon of mass beautification.

Mia (The Disaster Client) — Disheveled, jagged nails, three colors of chipped polish, grey top. Hides her wrecked hands — until she can't stop staring at them.

STORYBOARD THE DISASTER, THE ACTION AND THE REVEAL

[BEFORE] Mortified client at the table, hands reluctantly out — jagged nails, three colors of chipped polish, cracked cuticles; nervous giggle.

[ACTION] Vera mid-performance — file flying, electric drill in a dust cloud, cuticle nippers snapping, tools held like weapons.

[REVEAL] Client spreads her fingers wide — perfectly shaped glossy nails, immaculate cuticles, glowing skin; she stares in disbelief, freeze-frame.

KEY FRAME · ACTION

[STYLE] Stylized 3D Pixar/Illumination cartoon, 9:16, glossy render.

[ACTION] VERA mid-strike with a nail drill, dramatic motion blur, "BZZZT" energy. MIA reacts wide-eyed.

[ENVIRONMENT] Bright nail studio, ring-light glow, glossy highlights, mirror reflections.

[NEGATIVE] No text, no logos, no inconsistent identity.

TIMELINE

0:00–0:02 Introduction — Vera lifts a wrecked hand like evidence, cracks her knuckles.

0:02–0:05 The great removal — file flying, electric drill "BZZZT", buffer "shhk-shhk-shhk."

0:05–0:08 Cuticle combat — nippers snap, each snip reveals a clean nail bed.

0:08–0:11 Spa spectacle — steaming soak, warm-towel wrap, "ahhh."

0:11–0:13 Color ceremony — base coat "swish", UV lamp "click", top coat "snap."

0:13–0:15 Match-cut reveal — flawless glossy nails + hero freeze-frame.

THE 15-SECOND MASTER PROMPT

This is the whole thing — copy it, swap the characters and the transformation, and you have your own series.

MASTER PROMPT · THE NAIL NINJA

STYLIZED 3D AI CARTOON MINI-STORY – THE NAIL NINJA AND THE DISASTER CLIENT

[STYLE] Stylized cinematic 3D animated comedy, high-end Pixar / Illumination-inspired look, exaggerated but clean cartoon anatomy, expressive faces, theatrical seriousness played for big comedy, clean glossy render, soft studio lighting. Duration: 15 seconds. Aspect ratio: 9:16. Resolution: 720p or higher. No dialogue. No speech. No subtitles. No logos. Cartoon SFX only.

[CHARACTERS – use the 2 uploaded reference images]

VERA (Nail Ninja): sharp-featured nail technician in a fitted all-black uniform, slick dark hair, precise and theatrical – more brush-wielding ninja than nail tech. Every tool handled like a weapon of mass beautification. Calm, focused, utterly unshockable.

MIA (Disaster Client): disheveled woman with catastrophically neglected hands – uneven jagged nails, chipped old polish in three colors, dry cracked cuticles, rough peeling skin. Sits hiding her hands under her thighs, eyes darting nervously. Mortified at first, amazed at the end.

[ENVIRONMENT] Modern nail studio. Clean minimal bright interior, white walls, soft accent lighting, light wood surfaces. Central manicure table under a ring light. Tools in perfect gleaming rows: files, buffers, cuticle nippers, electric drill, UV lamp. Polish bottles lined up like a tiny colorful army. Mirror wall reflecting every dramatic movement.

[MOOD] Nervous giggles and high drama. Client mortified, hiding her hands; master calm, focused, unshockable. Tension real, comedy huge, every move played with maximum theatrical seriousness.

[TIMELINE] 0:00-0:02 INTRODUCTION: client places her hands on the table reluctantly; Vera lifts a hand with two fingers like crime-scene evidence, one eyebrow up, cracks her knuckles, reaches for tools. · 0:02-0:05 THE GREAT REMOVAL: nail file flying, jagged tips become perfect ovals, electric drill "BZZZT", buffer flipped ninja-style "shhk-shhk-shhk." · 0:05-0:08 CUTICLE COMBAT: nippers snap open and shut once, client flinches, each snip reveals a clean nail bed, cuticle oil softens dry skin instantly. · 0:08-0:11 SPA SPECTACLE: hands dunked in a steaming bowl, client melts, warm-towel wrap, quick massage, rich cream. · 0:11-0:13 THE COLOR CEREMONY: polish bottle held up like a trophy, base coat "swish-swish", UV lamp "click", deep flawless color, top coat sealed, cap "snap." · 0:13-0:15 MATCH-CUT REVEAL: same angle, quick clean cut to flawless glossy nails, client spreads fingers in disbelief, raises both hands to the light, Vera spins the brush and folds her arms – freeze-frame.

[CAMERA] Tight intro close-up on the wrecked hands; fast theatrical inserts on file, drill and nippers; macro on the clean nail beds; steam-bowl wide; color-ceremony close-ups; clean match-cut reveal; final hero freeze-frame. Smooth, premium, readable.

[LIGHTING] Bright modern studio light, ring-light glow on the hands, soft accent lighting, glossy highlights on nails and tools, clean reflections in the mirror wall.

[AUDIO] Cartoon sound effects only, punchy and rhythmic: "bzzzt," "shhk," "snip," "click," "swish," "snap," soft spa "ahhh," steam hiss, towel whip. No speech, no subtitles.

[NEGATIVE] No subtitles, no logos, no on-screen text, no dialogue, no blood, no real injury, no changing faces or outfits, no inconsistent identity, no graphic close-ups of damaged skin – keep it clean, glossy and comedic.

QUALITY CHECKLIST

- [] Both characters look identical to their reference images in every beat (identity consistency)
- [] Clear before -> after on the hands — wrecked & chipped -> glossy & immaculate
- [] Every move reads as choreography — tools handled like weapons, theatrical timing

- [] Client's arc reads instantly: mortified -> flinching -> melting -> amazed
- [] Cartoon SFX only — no dialogue, no subtitles, no on-screen text
- [] Strong first 2 seconds (the "evidence" hand inspection) so it stops the scroll
- [] 9:16, 15 seconds, 720p or better, gold title used sparingly

Made with AI Toon Studio · Full guide: aitoonstudio.com/guides/nail-ninja