

Comparison Guide to Quality Dry E-File Manicure Tools

Hey! Welcome.

Here's a bit about this guide.

As an educator, and content creator, and former full time nail tech, I've had the luxury to buy and try A LOT of brands. I felt like it was my reasonable service to help my fellow nailist save time, money, and frustration deciding on the best choice for their hard-earned money... that I went ahead and created this comprehensive guide to help you compare all of the details before you buy anything. I hope it is of great use for you. <3

For the best dry efile mani, you need the best, tried and tested, nail tools.

Of the brands I'll list below, you must know that these companies have been around for YEARS and you can trust just about any of the products they sell.

Efiles are an investment, I know. But I do believe that if you are a busy-booked-solid-bee 🐝 you'll need to own not just one, but two efiles, in case one needs to go in for service. Efiles should be serviced once per year if in constant use, as it is very easy for dust to get into your handpiece, even with dust caps on (dust caps are mentioned at the end of this guide.).

Use this guide to help you try two brands of efiles and compare for yourself!... I also highly recommend you own a cord and cordless option. My current corded option is the Saeshin Strong 210 /120 (... unless you absolutely cannot deal with cords on your table). My current cordless option is the Saeshin Cordless B170 /H170 (Charted below. These machines have been regarded as the gold standard of efile machines for European nail techs specializing in "Russian Manicures"). I've been operating these for at least three years now,

and I am very happy with them and do recommend them. [Just also invested again in the Kupa Manipro Hanna, I've owned three Manipros in the last 10 years and do like them.) By the way, to see me in action with my items, do [check out my YouTube Channel here](#).

Lastly, I do want to mention a brief thing about the efile bits I use. I've gone through trying so many different ones, and whether they be carbide, ceramic, diamond, sanding bands... whatever. Types & Brands, both I've explored.

... And I always come to the same ol' ones for prep and removal (my conscience still doesn't allow me to fully commit to prepping with a sanding band):

- For full removal: A medium grit carbide or ceramic and a fine grit ceramic for when getting close to the natural nail (ceramic is a lot more forgiving on the nail)
- For cuticle prep: A slim cylinder safety diamond bit or a wider flat-top cylinder bit (see my cuticle prep bit recommendations in the chart).

And when it comes to your efile bits, just know that these typically need to be changed monthly (sooner or later depending on your use) so make sure to keep a schedule on your bits to ensure you are working optimally during every dry mani (or pedi) service. Otherwise, you'll be doing the extra work when your tools are dull and not at their optimal stage.

[For about a year now, I've taken up a flame or more pointed bit, and finally barely liking it (I even developed my own [Modified Russian Mani Mini Course!](#)). So in case a flame bit puts you on edge (pun intended) just know you have other options.]

While there are many brands in the market, these are the ones I've stuck to over the course of my 10 years in the industry.

I hope you find the chart below helpful, and feel free to reach out to me @paolaponcenails on IG with any questions about it.

Enjoy!

- Paola Ponce

NOTES:

If a box is left blank the company does not sell a similar item. The chart shows comparison per brand across.

For implements and bits, Staleks Products (made in Ukraine) are my absolute favorite. [Watch this clip](#), as I think they will become yours too.

Whether ceramic, carbide, or diamond, I don't work w/ anything past medium grit, as I work exclusively with soft gel (soak-off gel).

The suppliers at the front of the chart are the ones I order the most from.

While shopping for efile bits, the color band around the shank tells us their grit as follows:

-green = coarse - blue = medium - red = fine - yellow = extra fine

Use the "search" bar on the websites listed with the part of the exact title of each item to find them easily.

| GUIDE | Staleks nashlynails.com <i>(use code PPN10 for 10% off!)</i> | Nail Labo Nailabostore.com | Melodysusie melodysusie.com | Daily Charme Dailycharme.com <i>(use code PPN10 for 10% off!)</i> |
|--|--|---|--|---|
| EFiles (corded) For salon work & heavy usage | SAESHIN STRONG 210 /120  -30,000 RPM -\$180 Or | NL-X  -20,000 RPM -\$399 | Kanon Nail Drill  -35,000 RPM -\$200 | |

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| | <p>SAESHIN STRONG 90 /120</p> <p>-30,000 RPM -\$160</p>  <p>AMAZING price for the quality (+ use code PPN5 for 5% off Saeshin efiles!)</p> | | | |
| <p>EFiles (cordless)</p> <p>For student, natural nail care, light usage or personal use.</p> | <p>SAESHIN B170 / H170</p>  <p>-30,000 RPM -\$350</p> | <p>NL-X PORTABLE</p>  <p>-Portable (4 hrs) -20,000 RPM -\$379</p> | <p>SM200F Plus Rechargeable</p>  <p>-35000 RPM -\$80</p> | <p>KUPA MANIPro Passport Portable Nail E-File / White</p>  <p>-Portable -30,000 RPM -\$435</p> <p>Or shop MANIPro efiles directly at kupainc.com</p> |
| <p>Nippers (Cuticle)</p> <p>5 mm cutting end is about 'half-jaw' size.</p> <p>Choose any size but 5mm jaw size is most comfortable to me.</p> | <p>STALEKS PRO Smart 30 cuticle nipper,</p> | <p>UTSUMI Acrylic Nipper A601</p> | <p>Nail 4-in-1 Kit</p> | <p>Professional Nail Cuticle Nipper</p> |

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| |  <p>-\$25 -5mm</p> <p>This is just the one I use, but all are very similar.</p> <p>P.S. All Staleks brand items can also be found at foxnailsusa.com (code PPN10 for 10% off)</p> |  <p>-\$45 -4.1 mm</p> |  <p>-\$17</p> |  <p>-\$33 -5mm -Made in Japan</p> |
| <p>Nippers (Nail)</p> <p>Nail nippers are great to get in the side of the nail, where it is otherwise hard to get a bulky nail clipper to fit, or cut a straight line. These are also simply great to cut ANYTHING other than skin and nails. Great for both manis and pedis.</p> | <p>STALEKS PRO Smart 70 or 71 nail nipper</p>  <p>-\$25 -14mm</p> | <p>Same as above, but make sure you designate it only one use. i.e. will it be for skin or for cutting material.</p> | <p>N/A</p> | <p>NAIL PARTNER Tsumetakumi Professional Nail Cutter</p>  <p>-\$33 -11mm -Made in South Korea</p> |
| <p>Pushers</p> <p>(Preferably sharpened at</p> | <p>STALEKS PRO Expert 30 Nail pusher</p> | <p>UTSUMI Cuticle Pusher P-011</p> | <p>Nail 4-in-1 Kit</p> | <p>NAIL PARTNER Tsumetakumi Professional Cuticle Pusher</p> |

the pusher area, they'll help scrape cuticle and lift the eponychium)

Choose any but I do prefer a standard flattened scraper end.



-\$10

Or

STALEKS EXPERT 90 Type 4.2



-\$11



-\$35

Or

NAIL LABO Cuticle Pusher



-\$20



-\$17



-\$16

-Slightly sharpened edge
-Lightweight
-Very popular in Japan

Removal Bits (carbide)

Use barrel to remove bulk, and cone-shaped or tapered bits to get close to the edges during removal.

Also use cone-shaped or tapered bits to remove product from underneath the nail.

Carbide Barrel



-medium
-\$12

Or

NAIL LABO Gold Bit Barrel



-Medium
-24k gold plated!
-\$19

Large Barrel Smooth Top Tungsten Carbide



-Medium
-\$10

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| | <p>STALEKS Carbide Cone 4mm "frustum"</p>  <p>-medium -\$23 (Nashlynails) -\$27 (Fox Nails)</p> | | <p>Or</p> <p>Tapered Nib Multi-function Carbide Tungsten Bit</p>  <p>-medium or fine -\$15</p> | |
| <p>Removal Bits (ceramic)</p> <p>Use medium to remove bulk, and fine for when getting close to the natural nail</p> | <p>Ceramic Cone</p>  <p>-coarse Medium -\$13</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Ceramic Cone</p> | <p>NAIL LABO Pink Bit Barrel</p>  <p>-Medium -\$20</p> <p>Or</p> <p>NAIL LABO Fill White</p>  <p>-Medium and fine -\$11</p> | <p>Ceramic Nail Drill Bits Set (7pcs)</p>  <p>-\$20</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Ceramic Nail Bits Pink</p> | <p>Ceramic Rounded Barrel / (7pcs)</p>  <p>-Medium -\$15</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Ceramic Typhoon</p> |

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| |  <p>-Medium and fine -\$13</p> | |  <p>-Medium and fine -\$10</p> |  <p>-Medium -\$15</p> |
| <p>Tapering (finish-filing)</p> | <p>Very gentle use of any of the carbide or ceramic bits mentioned above.</p> | <p>Very gentle use of any of the carbide or ceramic bits mentioned above.</p> | <p>Very gentle use of any of the carbide or ceramic bits mentioned above.</p> | <p>Very gentle use of any of the carbide or ceramic bits mentioned above.</p> |
| <p>Natural Nail Prep</p> <p><u>For Smoothing:</u> Light use, if nails have splitting or delamination <i>before</i> etching or buffing the nail for gel application.</p> <p><u>For Prepping:</u> Most gels require a bit of texture before application. I often prep the nails manually with a buffer or file.</p> <p>... but sometimes I do like to prep with a large barrel diamond bit. In this chart I</p> | <p><u>For Prepping:</u> Diamond Large Cone</p>  <p>-Fine or medium -\$9</p> | <p><u>For Smoothing:</u> NAIL LABO Fill White</p>  <p>-Extra Fine -\$11</p> | <p><u>For Smoothing:</u> Tungsten Carbide Buffer Nail Bit</p>  <p>-\$10</p> <p>Or</p> | <p><u>For Smoothing:</u></p>  <p>Included Drill Bits</p> <p>-fine ceramic kit</p> |

recommend the ones I like most.

21Pcs Ceramic Diamond Carbide Nail Bits Set
-Use extra-fine corn (yellow band)



-\$10

For Prepping:
5mm Round Tapered Carbide Diamond Cleaner Nail Bit



-Fine
-\$10

Cuticle Prep
(diamond bit)

STALEKS PRO
Cone/Cylinder Diamond 2.5
mm
(baby barrel)

NAIL LABO Diamond Baby
Barrel Bit

2mm Barrel Shape Carbide
Diamond Under Nail Cleaner
Nail Bit

Diamond Baby Barrel



- Medium grit
 -\$9 (Nashlynails)
 -\$4 (Fox Nails)

Or

STALEKS PRO
 Cone/Cylinder Diamond
 2.3mm
 (thin cylinder)



-Fine or medium grit
 -\$9 (Nashlynails)
 -\$4 (Fox Nails)

Or

NASHLYNAILS
 Diamond 5mm Cone
 -Fine or medium



- \$10

Or

NAIL LABO Skin Smoother Bit



- \$15

Or

NAIL LABO Candle Bit
 (Russian mani-type bit)



- \$15



-Medium
 -\$10

Or

1.8mm Round Tapered Carbide
 Diamond Under Nail Cleaner
 Nail Bit



-Fine
 -\$10



-Medium
 -\$10

Or

Diamond Safety Sciver



-Medium
 -\$10

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|--|---|--|--|--|
| |  -\$9 Or STALEKS Flame Bit 2.1mm  - \$9 (Nashlynails) - \$4 (Fox Nails) | | | |
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Extra 411 on Efile Dry Mani Faves:

I love-me a wearable **manicure brush**, but many do not fit my fingers. Check out my [Amazon Store's Dry Efile Manicure list](#) to find a bundle of black ones that fit, or also shop Bio Sculpture for theirs.

I rarely use **cuticle remover**, but if I have to for a semi-dry manicure, [it is this one from Leafgel Premium](#). (Code PPN10 saves you 10% OFF!)

The **dust bit caps** that keep particles out of your unit you can find at Atwood Industries or Medicoool, or also on my [Amazon Store's Dry Efile Manicure list](#).

Brass **metal brushes** to remove any debris on the flutes (teeth) of your bits can be found with Nail Labo, Atwood, or Melodysusie.

I wish you could shop everything listed above with an affiliate discount code. But at the moment I only have an affiliation with Nashlynails or FOX Nails where you can shop for [Staleks Products](#), or [Daily Charme](#) Products at 10% off with code PPN10.

Shopping with our affiliate codes helps me to continue creating valuable resources like this one for you.

I'm thankful for your support <3

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