

hangouts.

# Full of Flavours, Straight off the *Griddle*

RASHA JAMEEL

Months into lockdown, I came to notice the staggering lack of decent fast food from all the home delivery options available in my area. I, therefore, began scouring the internet, hoping to hit the jackpot with my findings there. Eventually, I came across food blogger Nazia aka *Whatsin-mybox's* review of Griddle, a fast-food eatery operating out of their cloud kitchen located in Gulshan, Dhaka.

I quickly got down to business and ordered some of everything from their three-part menu.

Starting with the appetisers, I got myself a box of their "Assorted Appetisers" which served about two people, priced at BDT 400. The box contained generous servings of french fries and sauteed garlic mushrooms, alongside three equal portions of wings in the flavours peri-peri, buffalo, and plain fried, and finally, some cheesy chicken fingers. My favourite was probably the mushrooms, given how juicy and flavoursome they were, just the right kind of finger-licking garlicky taste. The fries, wedges, and wings were quite average. It was the two pieces of cheesy chicken fingers that disappointed me the most, considering they barely had any cheese.

Next, I reached for one of their most-recommended bestsellers: a single "Halal Snack Pack", often abbreviated as the "HSP", which was priced at BDT 350 and also served up to two people. This dish was a delightful surprise since I wasn't expecting the chicken to be so tender and well-smoked, having grown used to the taste of frozen chicken in fast food. Billed as an "Australian and Lebanese



PHOTO: RASHA JAMEEL

fusion" dish, the HSP consisted of three layers: mayo and your choice of a secondary sauce at the top, coal-smoked shredded chicken in the middle, and crispy French fries at the bottom. The only downside: excessive mayo, slathered

in heaps on top of the shredded chicken.

Getting into the meat of it all, I ordered two burgers off of their menu: the "mighty mushroom", priced at BDT 250 and the "cheese blast", priced at BDT 300. I had opted for chicken patties for both. The pricing seemed quite reasonable to me, based on the reasonably-large proportions of mushrooms and the cheese in the respective burgers. The tender chicken patties had an excellent, mouth-watering smoky flavour. The burgers came in buttery and soft brioche buns which added just the slightest hint of sweetness to complement the savouriness of all the meat and cheese.

Despite the great flavour profile, portion sizes, and the superb cook of the meat, I still contacted the kitchen with one complaint: why the burgers weren't as spicy as I'd asked for. In response to my query, the staff politely responded with a rather simple explanation: the spiciness I'd asked for would've overpowered the signature smoky flavour all of their meats tend to have. Having understood their reasoning, I have refrained from asking for my burgers to be made "extra spicy", and I advise you to do the same to properly savour everything Griddle has to offer.

If you're looking to feast on an absolutely delectable array of fast-food offerings that won't hurt your wallet, Griddle is delivering to a handful of selected locations all over Dhaka through their Personal Home Delivery Service (PHD), as well as through major delivery apps.

*The author meticulously plans out her 13 daily meals on a regular basis. Drop a 'good luck' note for her overworked digestive system at [rasha.jameel@outlook.com](mailto:rasha.jameel@outlook.com)*

# A Beginner's Guide to Nail Art

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Everyone loves nice, polished nails. For a beginner, however, starting out with nail art can be fretting when all the tools those YouTube tutorials call for, aren't there at your fingertips. Nail art has been a mainstream fashion trend for quite some time now, and the countless photos plastered over the internet make anyone want to choose this over a plain manicure.

Let's talk about nail polishes. For basic nail designs, you can't go wrong with crème-based varnishes. Nail polishes like this offer a variety of finishes starting from matte to shimmery to holographic. Metallic polishes are a great addition to the arsenal. Glitter or chrome polishes work great to create accent nails.

For starters, buying one of each of the primary colors along with a base coat, topcoat, and a few glitter polishes is enough to create a range of stunning looks. Applying a base coat is a must because it protects the natural nail beds from staining and makes the polish adhere to the surface better. Sealing your design with a top coat gives it a smooth finish and prevents chipping.

When it comes to tools, striping brushes and dotting tools are to you what a katana is to a samurai. Nail art brushes come in different tips and sizes for effortlessly pulling off free-hand designs and intricate patterns. Nail decals, stencils, and stamping plates are easy ways to get the perfect outcome by putting in the least effort. Toothpicks, orange sticks,

old eyeliner brushes, and bobby pins work as good substitutes to these handy yet moderately expensive instruments. Besides these, it is necessary to keep nail clippers, Q-tips, adhesive tape, nail buffer, and a nail filer within reach in case you need them. A nail polish correcting pen is a great product to invest in. It makes cleaning up the edges of the nails a piece of cake.

Rhinestones and nail stickers give life to any boring nail art. Caviar beads, metallic studs, and loose glitters add pizzazz to lifeless manicures even though they are painful to get off. Invest in good quality, moisturizing nail polish remover, and cotton pads to get a hassle-free clean-up.

Some more tips:

1. Always use a base coat. Always.
2. If you find drawing lines hard, use a toothpick in a stippling motion to form your designs.
3. Do not place tape or any stencils on your nails unless the base is completely dried.
4. Acrylic paints work wonders in drawing characters and designs. Working with polishes can sometimes be challenging.
5. Even if your designs look raggedy, don't be disappointed because topcoats generally hide all imperfections.
6. Don't forget to clean around your cuticles.

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"There is a nail artist among us."

PHOTO: FARNAZ FAWAD HASAN