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elect



WE TRIED IT

THE PRODUCT: Cindi Nails base coat and top coat.

THE PITCH: Follow directions on bottles and Cindi Nails — billed as an alternative to acrylic nails — will strengthen and improve the health of damaged or brittle fingernails. And it will make your manicure last longer.

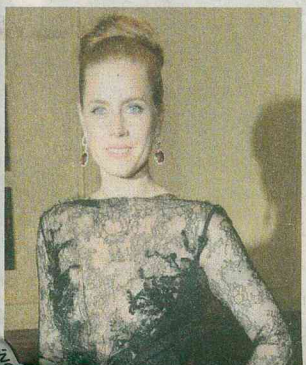
THE PRICE: \$12 each. To find a store or shop online: www.cindinails.com.

THE PROS: It really does strengthen. Kept my polish — I get a regular manicure, not a shellac or gel — from flaking off for almost two weeks.

THE CONS: You'll have to make a special trip to a beauty supply store or shop online as opposed to picking it up at Target or a pharmacy. A little pricey — but it will save your manicure and, in the end, save you money.

THE BOTTOM LINE: Worth it.

— Georgea Kovanis



OSCAR FASHIONS

What the stars will be wearing on the red carpet

There are many reasons to watch tonight's Oscar telecast.

Host Seth McFarlane will be witty and clever and madly mischievous.

Angelina Jolie may affect another crazy red carpet pose — remember last year when she thrust her leg through the waist-high slit of her dress, baring her thigh for all to see?

And there will be all sorts of seemingly heartfelt and dramatic speeches as winners try to thank the Academy, their managers, parents, significant others, co-stars, hairdressers, drycleaners and just about everyone else on the planet before being escorted from the stage.

But the biggest and best reason to watch the telecast (red carpet coverage starts at 7 p.m.

dress award for "Shakespeare in Love.")

Good, bad or ugly — many of us love a glimpse into the world of celebrity.

So, what to expect from this year's Oscar nominees?

What to expect from Jennifer Lawrence, Anne Hathaway, Naomi Watts, Amy Adams, Helen Hunt and all the rest of the women who will attend?

Christos Garkinos — a former Grosse Pointe who now owns Decades, a Los Angeles store that

specializes in vintage couture and is a favorite of celebrities, stylists and fashionistas everywhere — has an idea about a couple of the actresses.

He says representatives for two nominated actresses have



GEORGEA KOVANIS ON STYLE



Anne Hathaway arrives at the Golden Globe Awards.