

EVERY MAKEUP ARTIST NEEDS TO KNOW

Cable of **CONTENTS**



YOUR MAGIC WANDS

Every good makeup artist needs key tools, their brushes! I call them my magic wands as I can literally transform any feature, on any face with them! Find out why I choose the ones I do.



PRO-BLEND SPONGES

With so many options out there, what's the best choice for your needs? Are sponges all they are hyped up to be? I'll give you my two cents on that one!

PRIMER PREP

The Magic of Primer Prep, and why it's so important. Think of primer as the prep for your canvas before creating a masterpiece.



FOUNDATION OVERWHELM

Finding the right foundation can feel overwhelming to say the least with so many options, which one's right for your needs?



SETTING POWDERS

Lock It Down! First there's figuring out the best product, formula, and color to use. Then it's all about your application technique. Let me walk you through it!



Contents CONT....

06 PALETTE PLAYTIME

Picking the right eyeshadow palette doesn't have to be tricky. I'll show you the key elements to think about ...



BLENDING TECHNIQUES

Blending is the key to strong makeup artistry, which can totally make or break your look. It's not only about technique, there's a whole lot else to think about!

ESSENTIAL EYELINER TYPES

When it comes to eyeliner, the right type, color and formula can totally transform your look from basic to bombshell!



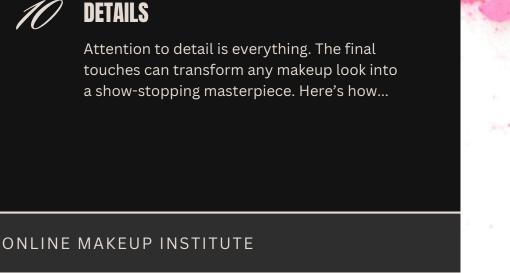
VERSATILE LIPS

Where do you start when trying to achieve the perfect lip look? It's like being a kid in a candy store with all the fun options out there! Let's start with first base.



DETAILS

Attention to detail is everything. The final touches can transform any makeup look into a show-stopping masterpiece. Here's how...





WELCOME TO ONLINE MAKEUP INSTITUTE

Hey there, future makeup mogul!

Ready to dive into the dazzling world of makeup artistry?

Whether you're just starting out or looking to level up your skills, I've got you covered!

As the founder of Online Makeup Institute, I've been training makeup artists with these techniques since 2003 with a special formula that works, and wanted to share some of my faves with you!

From must-have tools, to tips that'll make your makeup pop, this guide is your new beauty BFF!

Tara Cowles xo

MAKEUP GUIDE

CHAPTER

NUMBER 1

YOUR MAGIC WANDS AKA

HIGH QUALITY BRUSHES

Imagine yourse

as a makeup wizard – every magician needs their wand, right? Well, in the world of makeup, that's your brushes!



Material Matters

What makes a good makeup artist, great? The tools we use. I couldn't do what I do if I didn't have the amazing arsnol of brushes I have at my disposal! Here's a quick guide to what I use and why!

SYNTHETIC BRISTLES

These are a must in my kit. Made from manmade materials such as nylon or polyester, theY are ideal for cream and liquid products. Brushes made of hair will absorb cream based products, while synthetic fibres help creams to glide seamlessly onto the skin. Another bonus is they are much easier to clean, and often more affordable.

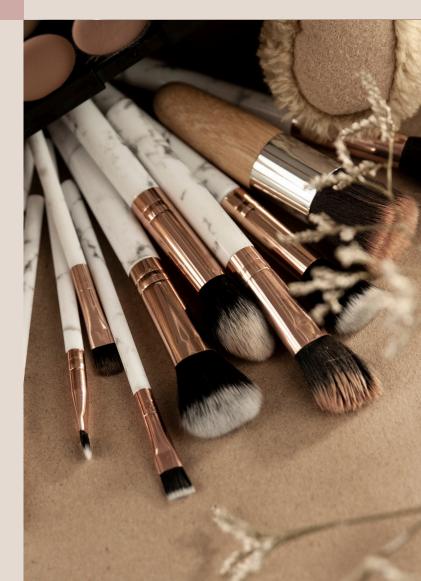
NATURAL BRISTLES

Often made from animal hair (like sable or goat), are excellent for powder products due to their ability to pick up pigments like a pro, and distribute product evenly.

Powder products phase out seamlessly, can be layered, or washed lightly onto the skin.

The longer the bristle, the softer a wash I can create, the shorter the bristle the more intensity I get.

They might be more expensive and require careful maintenance, but are an investment that is so worth it!



rushes

DIFFERENT STROKES

From fluffy blending brushes, to precise liner brushes, each serves a unique purpose helping to make your makeup game strong.

01 02 03 04

SOFTNESS

A high-quality brush should feel like it's gently caressing your skin. Say NO to cheap brushes that can make your flawless looks a challenge. Although comfort for your client is key, more importantly, quality brushes produce results needed.

DENSITY

When it comes to bristles, density matters! Dense brushes are your BFFs for that perfect foundation application, whereas lighter brushes are ideal for blending and creating soft finishes.

DURABILITY

No one likes a flaky friend, and the same goes for brushes! Make sure your brush has bristles that are in it for the long haul, and handles that feel sturdy and comfortable. Quality is everything.

VARIETY

Your brush set should be as versatile as your makeup skills! From foundation and contouring, to eyeshadow and blending, having a brush that works for you, for each task is a must. Brushes can be versatile so feel comfortable with interchanging them to suit you and your needs. PRO TIP



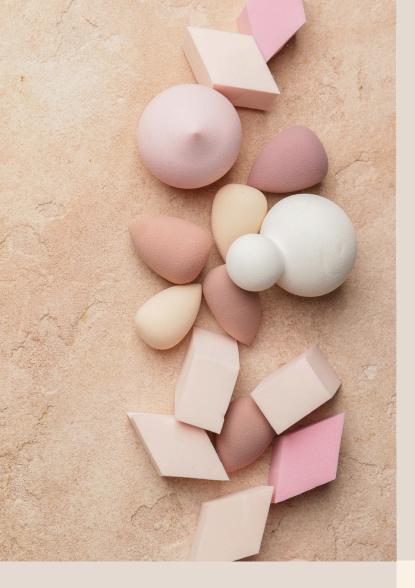
CHAPTER

NUMBER 2

PRO-BLEND SPONGES

Perfecting The Base

Blending is an art, and there are many ways to do it. I do love a good quality beauty blender for certain tasks, but I also love using my fingers, or a foundation brush at times.
Keep in mind that disposable, one use sponges for clients are great from a hygiene standpoint!



How to Choose

MATERIAL MATTERS

When using any sort of sponge, opt for latexfree sponges in case of sensitive skin or allergies. Opt for disposable sponges for hygiene reasons.

DENSITY

A denser sponge will create more intensity, giving a polished finish, while a softer one is great for a lighter finish.

Disposable sponges have both options with one end being more dense than the other.

FINGERS

Sponges are one way to blend, but I'm also a fan of starting with a foundation brush to create even distribution and coverage, and then finishing off with my fingers.

I like to tap and press all over the face, which melts the foundation into the skin so it looks like park of the skin, not makeup.

FOUNDATION BRUSH

Another go to technique I love, is using a brush when more coverage is required. I packing the product onto that one area by tapping it in with my brush.







SEAMLESS BLENDING

The unique texture of pro-blend sponges ensures your foundation sits perfectly on your skin, erasing any harsh lines or streakiness.



VERSITILITY

Use them not just for foundation, but for concealers, blush, and even setting powders. A true multitasker that leaves a beautiful, fresh, natural finish!



PRECISION

With their pointed tip, or corners, you can easily reach tricky areas like under the eyes and around the nose. The softer ends of a disposable sponge are perfect for this!



HYGIENE

Disposable one use sponges keep your kit hygienic and your clients safe. They are ideal for using when you can't clean a brush or sponge before using again.



PRO TIP

CHAPTER

NUMBER 3

PRIMER PREP

THE KEY TO LONGEVITY

The Magic

Think of primer as the prep for your canvas before creating your masterpiece. This is the key to making sure your makeup stays put all day & night!



TO CHOOSE

SKIN TYPE AND FORMULA MATTER



KNOW YOUR SKIN TYPE

IF YOU HAVE OILY SKIN, GO FOR A MATTIFYING PRIMER. FOR DRY SKIN, A HYDRATING PRIMER IS YOUR BEST FRIEND.



CHECK THE

LOOK FOR BENEFICIAL INGREDIENTS LIKE HYALURONIC ACID, VITAMIN E, OR SALICYLIC ACID BASED ON YOUR SKIN'S NEEDS.

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Primers

WHY YOU NEED THEM

Flawless Base

Primers fill in pores and fine lines, giving you a smooth base to work with. They also allow your foundation to sit on the surface of your skin so your foundation doesn't absorb throughout the day.

Let It Sit

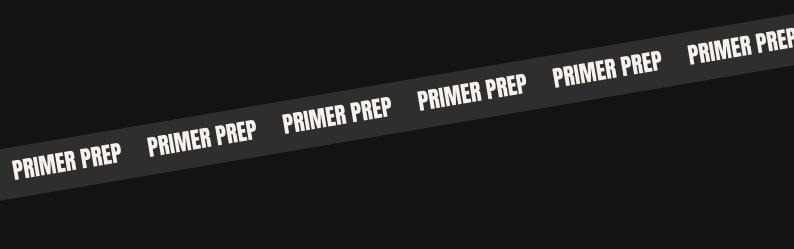
Let it sit for a minute before moving on to the next step. Foundation that lasts from dusk till dawn to follow!

Long-Lasting Wear

Primer helps your foundation and other products adhere better, meaning fewer touch-ups throughout the day.

Customized Results

There are primers for every need – mattifying, hydrating, poreminimizing, and more.



PRO TIP

PP thin LAYER OF PRIMER after MOISTURIZER **BEFORE YOU** FOUNDATION

TIP #3

CHAPTER

NUMBER 4

FOUNDATION OVERWHELM

TYPE SHADE MATCH

Finding Mour Match

Finding the right foundation can feel very overwhelming – so many options, but which one's the real deal? Don't worry, I've got the scoop on how to find your perfect match!





KNOW YOUR UNDERTONE

Is it yellow, pink, olive, or are you a deeper golden, red, or blue? This is key to picking a shade that blends seamlessly.

TEST IT OUT

Always swatch on your jawline, not your wrist. Your face must match your body, no floating heads! Natural light is your best friend here.

PRIME TIME

Always start with a primer to keep your foundation looking flawless all day. Primer will allow your foundation to literally float on the skin, so it doesn't absorb throughout the day, leaving you with flawless makeup from dusk till dawn!

BLEND, BABY, BLEND

Use a disposable sponge, or brush to apply, but finish melting into the skin with your fingertips. Remember, flawless foundation is the key to any strong look!



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DIFFERENT TYPES

Skin type plays a big part on the type of foundation you should be using. Let's touch on the different types of foundation and what is best depending on skin type.

01

LIQUID LOVE

Perfect for a dewy or lighter finish. Available if moisturizing or oil free formulas making it a great choice for all skin types, but particularly dry or combination.

02

POWDER POWER

Ideal for oily skin and when creating a matte look. Can be layered over a liquid foundation for more coverage or intensity. Set liquid with a translucent powder first to avoid patchy areas where texture of skin absorbs more.

03

CREAMY DREAMS

Best for dry skin, offering full coverage with a natural glow. Can be layered for more coverage or applied with a damp sponge for less.

04

BB & CC

BB or CC Creams give more coverage than a tinted moisturizer but not as much as a foundation. A great option for a light dewy finish on even skin.

PRO TIP

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TIP #4

NUMBER 19

SETTING POWDER

LOCK IT DOWN

lock It Down

Applying your makeup once and knowing it's going to last is every makeup artist's dream. Setting powder is part of the key. It's all about ensuring your look stays flawless from dusk till dawn.



Shade Match

INVISIBLE IS BEST

Once you match your foundation, don't mess with it by using a colored powder. Invisible works for every skin tone, and every situation.

Translucent doesn't show if it grabs hold of dry spots so it never looks patchy.

TRANSLUTED VS TINTED

Tinted powders are great if you need extra coverage or want to warm up the skin tone.

Try setting with a translucent powder, then add your tinted powder for the extra!

LOOSE VS PRESSED

Loose powders are great for a lightweight finish, I love a loose powder for my initial set to keep the finish light.

Pressed powders are perfect for on-thego touch-ups.



Jetting Lowder WHY YOU NEED THEM



OIL CONTROL

Setting powder absorb excess oil, keeping shine at bay. Focus on the t-zone area.



LONGEVITY

Setting powder sets your foundation and concealer, making sure everything stays in place. I love using a small brush in small areas to make sure every area is set well.



SMOOTH FINISH

With finely milled powders, a loose powder helps to achieve a smooth and velvety texture to the skin, blurring pores and imperfections.



CREATE A FRESH FINISH

Apply with a large brush or puff in a pressing motion to avoid disturbing your foundation. Dust off any excess to prevent a cakey finish.



CHAPTER



NUMBER 6

PALETTE PLAYTIME

Decoding the Rainbow

This is the fun part! There are many factors that come in to picking the right eyeshadow but it doesn't have to be tricky. Let's decode the rainbow of options out there.



COLOR POP

Contrasting eyeshadow colors with the eye color you are working on makes the eye pop. Think back to your color wheel, blue eyes look great in any orange or gold based shades. Green eyes work great with purlple or copper tones while Brown eyes thrive with blue or greens.

MIX & MATCH

Palettes with a mix of mattes, shimmers, and metallics are a great place to start. They give you endless possibilities.

Don't be afraid to mix texture. Try a glossy eye with a matte face, or a dewy, shimmery base and highlight with a bright matte lip!

How to Choose

TEXTURE

Much of this is determined by the model you are working on. the eye color, the age, is it fashion, is it bridal? Matte is going to recede, gloss is high maintenance, and liquid or creams are fresh and dewy.

NEUTRALS NEVER FAIL

Perfect for everyday looks and a good choice if you are a beginner. Think browns, beiges, and golds.

Work with colors close to the skin tone if you aren't sure, this is always a safe bet.







PRIME LIDS

Eye primer is no different than a face primer. It's going to reduce redness, darkness, and give an even, neutral tone so you get your true shadow color. A good eye primer makes colors pop and shadows stay put until you take them off.



LAYER AND LAYER SOME MORE

Don't be afraid to layer once shadow over the other until you have blended out harsh lines for a seamless look. You shouldn't see where one color stops and the next starts.



BLEND LIKE A BOSS

Build up color slowly, pressing rather than 'brushing' your shadow to avoid fallout. Pressing your shadow will give you more intensity, and zero mess. Once you have phased your colors then go in with a longer bristled bush with NO color added to phase out those edges.



TEXTURE MATTERS

Matte textures are always harder to blend seamlessly. They take more work but can create stunning strong looks. Try layering a shimmer or sheen over a matte shade to create interest and dimension.



PRO TIP

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NUMBER 7

MASTERING BLENDING TECHNIQUES

MUST HAVE TECHNIQUES

Make or Break

Blending is the key to makeup artistry. It can totally make or break your look. Ready to blend like a pro? Here are some must-know techniques for every aspiring makeup artist.



Blending

We've talked about how important your brushes are as a makeup artist. Brushes are your BFFs, your everything! Knowing the right brush for each job will take you from a good makeup artist to a fabulous makeup artist.

DENSITY

Dense brushes are your go to for packing on color, while a fluffy brush is what you need for creating softer textures or to blend out edges.

The softer a wash of color you want the longer and softer your bristles should be.

HOW MANY DO YOU NEED

When I started as a makeup artist I couldn't stop buying brushes, the longer I did this, the more I realized all I really needed was my key makeup brushes and I could do anything. I also realized the more brushes I used, the more brushes I had to clean!

Brushes can have multi uses. You don't have to use a lip brush just for lips, just as you don't have to use a bronzing brush only for bronzer. Don't be afraid to experiment and play with these techniques and your brushes.



Blending MUST HAVE TECHNIQUES

Let's look now at combining brushes together with various techniques.

01

THE WINDSHIELD WIPER MOTION

Your crease brush has long soft bristles with a tapered end, Instead of dabbing into your shadow, roll it in your shadow. Place in the eye crease and move back and forth like a windshield wiper. This simple move gives you a smooth, perfect transition that's does the blending for you!

CIRCULAR MONTIONS

Try small circular motions with your blending brush for soft diffusion. This technique is perfect for blurring out harsh lines and creating a gentle haze around your eyeshadow. Keep it light and gentle for the best results. Here's the key, use a brush with no color added to it for seamless diffusion!

03

02

LAYERING COLORS

Working with multiple shades? Start with the darkest color and a small smudge brush. Press your shadow, working it up the eye until the shadow has diffused. Now add your medium color but start half why up ht edarkest so it automatically phases in. Press in until you have no color on the brush. Keep repeating the process and finish off with circular motions with a blending brush with no color.

04

FEATHERING OUT EDGES

Eliminate harsh edges with a clean blending brush, that you gently flick outward to feather the edges of your shadow. This creates a natural fade that's perfect for smokey eyes or any soft transition you're going for.





PRESS & BLEND

For that intense color pop, press the eyeshadow onto your lid with a small dense brush, then blend the edges with a fluffy one. This way, you get that amazing pigmentation where you need it while making sure your edges are perfectly smooth.

HIGHLIGHT AND CONTOUR BLENDING

Blending isn't just for eyeshadow! Try a damp beauty sponge to phase our edges of a cream contour or highlight. Layering the edges of a powder highlight and contour and use a clean brush to blend together. A longer bristled brush works well for this as a soft edges is needed.

CREAM COLORS

When applying a cream eyeshadow, or blush, work with a nylon brush which will deposit the product smoothly and evenly, the edges can be phased out with a clean brush for seamless edges.





CHAPTER

NUMBER 8

ESSENTIAL EYELINER TYPES

LINE WING SM<u>OKE</u>

Finding Mour Match

When it comes to eyeliner, the right type can totally transform a look from basic to bombshell. Check out these must-have eyeliners every aspiring makeup artist should stash in their kit.

yeliner Breakdown

Each type of eyeliner brings something unique to your makeup game. Knowing their different vibes and strengths helps you choose the perfect one for any look you're dreaming up.



PENCIL EYELINER

Pencil eyeliners are super versatile and easy to use, a beginner favorite! Whether you're going for a sharp line or a sultry smudge, a good pencil liner has your back. Choose one that's soft enough to glide on like butter but firm enough to nail the precision you need. My favorite is a gel pencil which is the most buttery, giving great intensity, and versatility.

LIQUID EYELINER

Want to ace that fierce wing? Liquid eyeliner is the one!! Liquid liners can be can be activated with water or for longevity, a mixing liquid. Create whatever shape you want, go as big, or go small. Work with a nylon brush as fine or thick as needed.



GEL EYELINER

Gel eyeliners are like the rockstars of the eyeliner world. They can be applied with an angled or a thin liner brush. Perfect for creating bold, intense lines, of blended out for a sultry smoked eye. Gel liner makes dramatic looks a breeze. Plus, their creamy texture means smooth sailing during application.



KOHL EYELINER

Kohl eyeliners are known for their rich pigment and creamy texture. If you're all about that smoky eye, this is your jam! Super easy to blend, they give that soft, smoldering vibe. Smudge out with a mini smudge brush, a sponge or even your fingers.

Eyeliner Breakdown





WATERPROOF EYELINER

Tears or sweat, we've got you covered. Waterproof eyeliners are a must for longevity. They come in many forms - pencil, gel, you name it—offering flexibility and style that stays put through it all. These are my favorite for lining a lash line that lasts.



Each type of eyeliner brings something unique to your makeup game. Knowing their different vibes and strengths helps you choose the perfect one for any look you're dreaming up.



PRO TIP

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TIP #8

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CHAPTER

NUMBER 9

$\left(\right)$	VERSATILE LIP PRODUCTS	STAIN GLOSS	
\mathbf{i}		BALM	

The Perfect Lip

Achieving the perfect lip look? It's like being a kid in a candy store with all the fun options out there! Here are the must-haves for your kit:

Lip Varieties HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED

Each of these lip goodies brings something unique to the table, helping you create magical makeup looks. Knowing how to mix and match them is your ticket to becoming a true lip maestro!

01

02

03

04

LIP BALMS

Like a good skincare routine, moisturizing lip balms are the foundation for a smooth and soft canvas. Matte, non greasy formulas are the best. For super dry lips, try leaving for a few minutes and buffing off with a clean mascara wand.

LIP STAINS

For that "I woke up like this" natural chic vibe, lip stains are your BFF. They give a long-lasting, flushed color that survives through snacking and sipping. Perfect for those effortless, low-maintenance days.

LIPSTICK

The ultimate statement-maker. From vivacious reds to dreamy nudes, you need an assortment of colors and finishes (matte, satin, glossy). Matte will give you the most longevity.

LIPLINERS

For definition, to prevent feathering, or to correct or help achieve a plump, fuller lip effect. Working wth a lipliner close to your models natural lip color, avoids the need for numerous colors. Waterproof formulas are ideal.





LIP GLOSS

Add that extra drama or youthful vibe. Wear solo for a subtle sheen or layered over lipstick, or lipliner to add dimension. Sheer formulas give a natural sheen, while pigmented thicker formulas create impact. I love using thick, creamy formulas for cheeks too!

LIQUID LIPSTICK

They are packed with pigment, and dry down to a matte finish that won't budge all day. Perfect for when you need lips to stay put without the sheen.



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NUMBER 10

FINISHING TOUCHES

ELEVATE TRANSFORM COMPLETE

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Time to add those final touches that take your makeup to the next level. These touches really give you so many options to transform any look

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inishing WHY YOU NEED THEM

Setting Spray

Want your look to stay flawless from dusk 'til dawn? A good setting spray has your back, locking everything in place like magic. Whether you're into a matte or dewy finish, there's a spray for every vibe and every skin type!

Highlighter

Get ready to glow like a goddess! A touch of highlighter on your cheekbones, brow bones, and cupid's bow gives you that radiant, lit-from-within sparkle. Whether you prefer powder, liquid, or cream, each one brings its own dazzle to the table.

Contour Kits

Time to sculpt like a pro! Contour can transform a look, transform a face, from subtle definition to chisled bones structure. For dramatic difference opt for a cream formula whereas powder contour will give more subtle effects

FINISHING TOUCHES

False Lashes

Lashes are a must in any artists arsenal of tricks. From strip lashes, to singles, or bunches, each can create subtle or dramatic effects. My all time favorite is newer on the market, Lashify, which adheres underneath the lash for an invisible bond that can last for a week!

Brow Products

Brows are the frame for any face. With pencils, powders, pomades, and gels, the options are endless. A welldefined brow is a total game-changer and necessity for any look. Define your outer line, then fill in as necessary.

Makeup Remover

A good makeup remover is your best friend. Whether you are cleaning a face, or changing up looks on a photoshoot, you need something that will easily do job without irritation. An eye makeup remover and makeup wipes should always be available.

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Brush Cleanser

Clean brushes are an absolute must for hygiene, but also for brushes to be able to do their job properly. Use a brush cleanser in between clients, and also wash daily. These are your most important tools, take care of them!

Blotting Papers

Shine be gone! Blotting papers are lifesavers for quick touch-ups, absorbing excess oil without adding layers of powder. Perfect for keeping things matte yet fresh looking.

Palette Mixer

Ever wanted to create your own custom shades? Trust me you will want to! A palette mixer is your backstage pass to blending foundations, concealers, and cream products to personalize perfection.

FINISHING TOUCHES

Custom Pallete

Love those creations you mixed together? Keep them in a custom pallet!! Perfect for regular clients or custom oil colors. I smoosh my lipsticks into one and create custom cream contour shades in another. Amazing for ease, and saving space in your kit!

Tweezers

The unsung heroes of your kit! Tweezers are fab for grooming brows, applying false lashes, and adding tiny embellishments. They'll even save the day when you need to tweeze an unruly hair!

FINISHING TOUCHES



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PRO TIP

TIP #10



IT'S A WRAP!

As you embark on your journey to become a successful makeup artist, remember that the foundation of your success lies not only in the tools you use, but also in your dedication to continuous learning and practice.

The right tools can immensely enhance your artistry, allowing you to create looks that enhance your unique style. By familiarizing yourself with these essential tools, and incorporating the tips and techniques shared in this guide, you are taking a significant step towards mastering the art of makeup.

Whether you are just beginning your journey or looking to refine your skills, consistently experimenting and developing your techniques will set you apart in the competitive world of makeup artistry. I hope this guide has shown you that you don't need every palette that comes out, every trendy brush holder and 1000 brushes! I know how addicting Sephora is, but it isn't necessary to own half of it!! A strong makeup artist can do anything with very little.

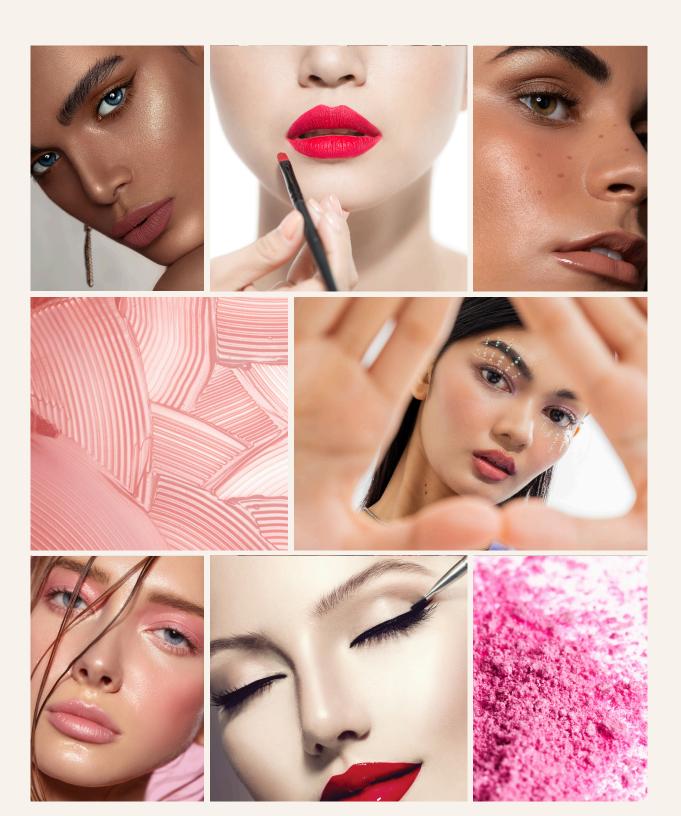
Stay connected with fellow artists, seek feedback, and never shy away from trying new things. The beauty industry is ever-evolving, and your adaptability and willingness to grow will be your strongest allies.

Thanks for joining me, I'm happy to share what I can from my 30+ years as a makeup artist to help you on your journey!

Tara va

Thanks for Joining Me

ONLINE MAKEUP INSTITUTE



YOUR NOTES:

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