

## Use makeup brushes for the best results

### DISCOVERING BEAUTY



MARY ANNE TOCCALINO

It's probably a good time to take inventory of our makeup brushes. We have all the summer essentials in our makeup kit and are awaiting the debut of fall colors. Brushes are the secret behind makeup that looks like it's been done by a professional, and makeup artists are extremely attached, figuratively and literally speaking, to their makeup brushes.

A brush brings life, dimension and precision to the application of color cosmetics. I believe the right brush can transform a less than remarkable face into a work of art. Brushes come in different shapes and sizes, from a thick dome of European goat hair to a fine strand of Russian sable hair, for a variety of uses. So the question is: Which brush is the right one for a particular job?

Unfortunately, the answer to that question varies as much as the brushes themselves. There are no set rules about makeup brushes, only guidelines.

Beyond those basic guidelines, however, makeup artists do consider certain characteristics when selecting brushes. They are: hair type, density, cut, shape, size and handle weight.

In the end, matching up particular characteristics is a personal choice based on the brush feel. But, generally speaking, makeup artists are looking for balance, control, strength and softness when using the brush.

### Splitting hairs

The type of hair used to make a brush is probably the most important factor for consideration.

There are three general categories of brush hair: synthetic, natural and bristle.

Manufactured (acrylic) hair has a coarse feeling and a tendency to get stiffer, rather than softer, with use. Therefore, they usually are not the best choice.

Natural animal hair brushes in general are ideal. Natural hair has a middle structure called the medulla, which is covered by a thick sheath and covered by a shell of scales called the cuticle. The scales in the cuticle structure hold and trap various makeup matter when picked up. They then release the matter when pressure is applied through the brush.

Bristle is a category of natural hair most often made from a hog or a boar. It is stiff and firm in texture. Its interlocking structure gives the hair a natural curve and a split tip called a flag. The flag allows the brush to hold a maximum amount of color and act as a "paint brush" during application. Both of these features make it ideal for grooming and laying down makeup at the same time.

Hair type has a tremendous effect on brush prices. A fine Kolinsky Russian sable hair brush, for instance, is one of the most costly available. A common boar bristle brush, on the other hand, would be relatively inexpensive.

While expensive brushes are nice to have, you can own a set of high quality brushes without spending a fortune.

Decent quality brushes are made from pony and goat hairs. Hair blends such as squirrel, mink and weasel, are also used in higher quality brushes.

In general, the better the grade of hair, the better release and control of makeup product by the brush. A good release gives you the control needed to apply and blend a pigment.

Hair texture has a great deal to do with the amount of product it holds. The softer the hair, the less it picks up and delivers to the surface for blending, which nets a lighter, more sheer application.

### A cut above

The method used to harvest hair also makes a big difference in brush quality.

Top grade brushes use the softest hair of first-cut animal fur. Brushes using first-cut hair are made from the tip of the horn animal fur, a process considered to be cruelty-free. Less expensive brushes are obtained using the blunt-cut process, which involves a second cut of animal fur. Though these brushes are cheaper, their hair is more coarse in texture.

### Basic kit

There's an overwhelming selection of makeup brushes from which to choose. I recommend purchasing a core set and relying on them for consistent results. Based on my own use, I suggest the following basic brushes:

■ A powder brush should have soft hair, a full dome shape and a beveled tip. It can be used to apply loose or pressed powder or to dust off excess powder.

■ A blush brush with a small, compact dome shape, tight hairs and rounded tip works best for sweeping color across the cheeks.

■ An eye shadow brush with a chisel style is a popular choice. Those with a "fluffy" shape sweep on color, while a flatter brush will define and blend.

■ Look for a crease/contour brush with an angled chisel shape and either a flat or small round head. Use the brush to create depth in the eye lid crease and blend a contour on to the eye area's outer corner.

■ Eyeliner brushes come in a variety of styles. It's ideal to have two, one with a plume shape tip for blending and the other with an ultra-fine tip like a pen for applying eyeliner. Small angle or bullet tip brushes are my favorites.

■ Lip brushes, either one with a nylon tip that is round, has a knife-shaped edge and flat sides, or one with a natural bristle tip that is flat but more rounded. These brushes enable high definition lining of the lips and aid in shaping and making corrections.

■ A camouflage or concealing brush made with a synthetic blend like taklon work best. You will need a brush that enables you to take up and move creams and oils on the skin without absorbing them. It should also remain firm and flexible when used.

Regardless of chosen hair type and cut, these essential brushes will deliver speed and accuracy when applying makeup, not to mention, beautifully finished results. With practice and the right tools you'll be looking like a pro in no time.

Mary Anne Toccalino is a professional makeup artist and skin care consultant. She studied at Joe Blasco's School of Cosmetics in Hollywood where her training included work in special effects for film and print. Send your questions to Mary Anne by e-mail at [matmkup@yahoo.com](mailto:matmkup@yahoo.com).

## Fall style

### Tahari favors a plentiful dose of denim and classic black

Don't toss out those black wardrobe basics; retrieve denim jackets, skirts and jeans from the back of the closet, too. At least one major designer, Elie Tahari, is reviving the comfortable classics. His fall 2001 collection and designs for the Theory label, both of which were shown Friday at the annual Concours Du Mode fashion show at Meadow Brook Hall in Rochester Hills, seemed to revolve around black and denim, the most American of fabrics.

But Tahari's denim dodges any association with ordinary blue jeans. In shades of blue and chocolate, it looks more like a heather fabric. Shaping and design produce a good and tidy stretch fit, too.

Aside from traditionally cut denim jeans and jean jackets, of which there were many in his collections, tied-at-the-waist trench coats and even a tailored jacket were done in denim. Other denim jeans were embellished with modern jacquard prints, which created texture and sheen.

All but three of Tahari's evening ensembles were black, and of course several pairs of denim jeans were black.

— Staff Writer Nicole Stafford



Old favorites: Elie Tahari's fall designs, which were presented Friday by Saks Fifth Avenue at Meadow Brook Hall in Rochester Hills as part of the Concours d'Elegance weekend, both favored denim and the color black. Other comfortable favorites included pants in stretch twill and corduroy and jersey tops.

STAFF PHOTOS BY MELANIE MAXWELL



## Non-profit groups set up shop, courtesy of Schostak Brothers

Schostak Brothers, a commercial real estate and property management firm based in Southfield, is taking an unusual step to aid Michigan children, families and animals.

On August 1, three Schostak Brothers properties, Laurel Park Place in Livonia, Macomb Mall in Roseville and Pointe Plaza in Grosse Pointe Woods, turned over store space to the non-profit world.

Dubbed Store of Dreams, the program will provide free store space to non-profit organizations, enabling the groups to raise awareness and shoppers to help favorite charities.

The program is slated to run through Dec. 31. Five non-profit organizations will be simultaneously housed at each of the participating shopping malls.

The schedule is as follows:

■ Michigan Department of Education, in conjunction with Wayne RESA, Macomb Intermediate School District and Grosse Pointe Public Schools, will offer free R.E.A.D.Y. children's reading kits to the public.

Entertainment and education events are also slated for shoppers. In addition, the public is encouraged to bring in gently used books, especially children's, for donation.

■ September – Capuchin Soup Kitchen's Earth Works Garden, a unique program that helps underprivileged families to farm their own food, will collect canned goods to help feed the homeless.

■ October – Michigan Humane Society, a private organization that has been serving animals since 1877, will sell merchandise to collect needed funds.

In addition, the organization will host animal adoptions on weekends.

■ November – St. Vincent DePaul, one of the oldest social service agencies in Michigan, will collect donated clothing to help those in need during the winter months. Coats are especially needed by the organization.

■ December – Covenant House, a facility that offers shelter to young people from abusive homes and the streets, will encourage shoppers to sponsor a child during the holidays.

Founded in 1920, Schostak Brothers' Michigan developments include Laurel Park Place in Livonia, Macomb Mall in Roseville, Pointe Plaza in Grosse Pointe Woods, Shelby Corners in Utica, and Cherryland Mall in Traverse City.

Retail, style and special store events are listed in this calendar. Please send information to: Malls & Mainstreets c/o Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. By fax, (248) 644-1314. E-mail, [nstafford@oe.homecomm.net](mailto:nstafford@oe.homecomm.net). Deadline for publication is two weeks in advance.

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 5

#### CONCERTS IN PARK

The Plymouth Symphony Orchestra presents the second in a free, two-concert series for families, 2 p.m. in Plymouth's Heritage Park. For more information, call (734) 451-2112.

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 7

#### CHILDREN'S STORY TIME

Livonia Mall, 29514 Seven Mile Road, hosts "Wanted OK Kids," a children's entertainment program featuring puppetry, clown capers and storytelling, 11 a.m. For details, call (248) 478-1180.

#### CHILDREN'S STORY TIME

Friends from the Macomb Literacy Program read a story to kids of all ages at Lakeside Mall in Sterling Heights, non-children's play area. For details, call (810) 247-1744.

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8

#### KIDS ENTERTAINMENT

Lakeside Mall in Sterling Heights presents "You're Wonderful" as part of the shopping center's Imagination Celebration, a series of music, story and theater shows for children. Shows are slated for 7 p.m. every Wednesday through Aug. 22, Fountain Court. In addition, non-perishable goods will be collected for donation to the Macomb Food Program.

## ADDED ATTRACTIONS

Each child who brings a box or can of food will be entered into a prize drawing. For more details, call (810) 247-1744.

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 9

#### ST. JOHN ON RUNWAY

Saks Fifth Avenue, the Somerset Collection in Troy, presents St. John's fall 2001 collection to benefit the Junior League of Birmingham, wine and hors d'oeuvre reception at 5 p.m., fashion show at 6 p.m., St. John Boutique, second floor. Tickets are \$35 and \$50. To purchase tickets, call (248) 614-3317.

#### TRUNK SHOW

Sally's Design at the Orchard Mall in West Bloomfield hosts trunk shows of Garfield & Marks and Flenski, through Aug. 11. Show hours are 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Thursday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday. For more information, call, (248) 626-0886.

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 11

Art Van Furniture stores throughout metropolitan Detroit offer child identification fingerprinting at no charge to parents, 1-3 p.m. (materials provided by AAA of Michigan). For more information, stop by a nearby Art Van Furniture store, visit the retailer's web site at [www.artvan.com](http://www.artvan.com) or call the Warren store at (810) 983-2189.

#### BODY & SPIRIT EVENT

The Tree House for Earth's Children, 22906

Mooney Street in Farmington, presents spiritual art work, tarot readers, body workers, arts, crafts, organic foods and more, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. For more information, call (248) 473-0624.

#### TOY SHOW

Vendors and collectors sell new, used, antique and collectible toys of all kinds from the 1950s, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Plymouth V.F.W. Hall, 1428 South Mill Street in Plymouth. Admission is \$4 for adults. Children under age 10 are admitted free. For additional information, call (734) 455-2110.

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15

#### FRAGRANCE DINNER

Enjoy dinner and learn about the fragrances of the season at Nordstrom, the Somerset Collection in Troy, 6:30-8 p.m., Cafe Nordstrom, third floor. Cost is \$25 per person. Customers who purchase \$75 or more during the event will receive a collection of miniature fragrances. To make a reservation, call (248) 816-5100, ext. 1690.

#### PLYMOUTH RESTAURANT CRAWL

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce presents the 2nd Annual Old Village Restaurant Crawl, 6-9 p.m., featuring 10 local restaurants. Advance tickets are available by calling (734) 453-1540. Tickets are \$15 per person and \$5 for children under age 12.

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 25

#### STUART WEITZMAN VISITS

Well-known shoe designer Stuart Weitzman visits Roz & Sherm, 6538 Telegraph Road in Bloomfield Township, to celebrate the store's remodeled shoe salon, meet with customers and talk about his fall 2001 collection, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For details, call (248) 855-8877.