



The Ultimate Complexion

By Belinda Zollo

A flawless face is the ultimate accessory for both day and night.

Whether using the warmth from fingers to help smooth foundation evenly or using a brush to create your masterpiece, polished skin will always be in demand. Once you master the art of creating complexion perfection, the rest is icing on the cake!

BACK TO BASE

Forget the olden days of trying to erase your face, and then painting it back on with foundation to completely cover it, like a mask. The modern idea of wearing a base is to simply even out the skin tone, minimize problem areas and lighten up any dark patches. To have makeup look invisible and feel weightless on the skin is the ultimate.

Today's products are more improved with versatile formulas, offering soft, natural veils of colour, lighter ingredients and silicones, such as jojoba and extracts of rosehip oil to give a more silky texture. The light diffusing particles allow for good coverage without the heavy feeling, almost giving you that refined 'airy' look. They are easier to apply and give a balance between dewy and matte. What more could we ask for!

A gorgeous complexion, glowing from within, is part of a model's resume, but it takes a lot of buffing, layering and polishing to bring out that perfect radiance. Makeup artists are credited with working wonder and magic, applying what seems like the barest minimum to give that 'no makeup' look, but in truth we are using a whole boutique of products, coating thin layers of foundations, highlighters, concealers and powders to sculpt and give brilliance to the skin.

The real key is to take your time, applying each product gently, in layers, pressing and melting onto the surface, so makeup and skin become one.

Here is my 4 step plan to achieve the ultimate complexion:

STEP ONE FOUNDATION - THE PERFECT MATCH

Firstly, find the right shade and type of foundation to give the best look.

Select the foundation according to how much coverage is needed and from there, decide which formula will best suit. Take your pick from a variety of oil free, moisturising, mineral and luminizing products, from powder, to creams and liquid options. The importance lies in the level of coverage and finish. Whatever you decide, foundation shouldn't look like you have splattered pancake mix over the entire face!

TIP - To achieve glistening natural skin, without looking like there is a lot of makeup, the face must be well moisturised before you even open a foundation bottle. I can't stress enough the power of hydrated skin as your base for makeup application. Apply a little more than usual to help foundation glide and blend easily.

To find the perfect match, swipe 2 or 3 colours along the jaw line and the one that vanishes into the skin, is the right one. I love Laura Mercier tinted moisturiser for a light invisible coverage, but it won't hide imperfections. A more opaque, liquid foundation is needed, so try Chanel Vitalumiere to give you a buildable coverage yet remain

dewy. For a little extra, check out my favourite cream stick foundation by Shiseido.

TIP - My secret trick for covering red or blotchy skin in the most flattering way, is to choose a golden tint foundation to balance and bring it back to a 'skin' colour.

BLENDING IN

For a natural fresh look, start applying liquid foundation to the centre of the face, forehead and chin, slowly fading outward toward the hair and jaw line, applying less and less as you get to the edges. Blend well using a medium fluffy brush in swirling motions so all the bristles hit the skin at the same time to help diffuse.

For a cream base, I recommend using a damp wedge-shaped sponge and blend the foundation using semi-circles, lightly buffing as you move, working gradually to reveal skin that glistens, looks healthy and beautiful.

Creams are one of the most versatile products to use. Don't be put off by them as they can be easily sheered out with lots of moisturiser and moulded onto the skin to flawlessly disguise imperfections.

TIP - Take care to avoid painting foundation on in strokes. The corners of a sponge are great to manoeuvre around the nose or close to the lash lines.

If you would like to read more about foundation go to www.makeupbeauty.co

STEP TWO - CONCEALER 101

DARK UNDER EYE CIRCLES

There are 3 important aspects to covering dark circles well.

1. Choose a concealer with smooth velvet texture - not too creamy, not too dry, but super blendable without dragging over the skin.
3. The colour should be one shade lighter than your foundation, closely matching your skin tone, to help lift and even out your complexion
2. Lastly, for really dark shadows, use a corrective colour to neutralise the shadow. For instance - if you have a little grey or brown cast under the eye, go with a pink based concealer. With a more blue tone it is best to wear a peach or salmon colour. And if you are a little more on the purple side, use a yellow toned concealer. Can't go past the full range of colours by Bobbi Brown.

TIP - Apply after foundation so you don't rub it off.

Dab on with fingers or small brush, using a patting, pressing motion, hugging into the inner corner of the eye and only apply on top of the dark areas. Make sure to stop at the iris, don't go all the way under the eye as the lighter colour will create puffiness to the outer eye.

TIP - Apply in the natural light where possible and keep your head upright, don't put chin down as this creates a greater shadow, especially if the room is top lit.

BLEMISHES

Concealing spots, discoloration, pigmentation or redness, on the other hand, has its own set of rules.

I prefer a slightly thicker, matte consistency such as the clever compact by Becca Cosmetics and Laura Mercier's secret camouflage. They both contain 2 mixable shades of highly pigmented, medium cover and extra cover concealers that will work on just about everything.

To apply effectively, use a fine pointed brush to cover any

blemishes, painting directly on top of each individual spot and blending around the edges.

TIP - The experts way to camouflage large sunspots is with a salmon / peach shade. Anything else will cause the spot to look a little grey toned.

For more expert tips and tricks go to www.makeupbeauty.co

STEP THREE – CATCH THE LIGHT

Next, we add highlight and shine to certain areas of the face to give a radiant glow and look of hyper real perfection.

Powder shimmers add just enough oomph to catch the light. Pick a colour that is one tone lighter than the foundation or a close match. Take a small brush, dust a shimmery nude, vanilla or champagne colour over the cheekbone, cupid's bow above the peaks of the lips, under the brow and a light splash just above the temple area. The results look very candle light luminescence!

TIP - Cream formulas give a softer effect. Use one finger to pat on a subtle peach colour to the brow and cheekbone area, forming a sideways V shape. Then use another finger to blend and soften around the edges.

STEP FOUR – AIRBRUSH FINISH

Finish off by dusting loose powder on top to set and give you an airbrushed look.

Powder only where needed, the forehead, nose, chin and under eye area to ensure base stays smooth. Leave the cheekbones dewy and fresh and don't powder over all your highlight areas!

TIP - Take a medium sized clean eye shadow brush and delicately apply loose powder under the eye area, avoid too much so it won't settle into any fine lines.

When powdering the larger areas of the face, use a medium brush, so it picks up just enough powder to evenly dispense on the skin.

TIP - Use a sponge to apply powder on oily skin, dabbing and rocking action as you move around. It works two fold, absorbing excess oils from the skin and subduing shine, picking up any residue of powder, without settling into lines. Fast and easy does it.



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