

Tried and tested: foundation



GOSH Natural Touch Foundation (available in 10 shades), £8.99 (Superdrug)
This super-light product is a great compromise between foundation and tinted moisturiser. Best reserved for those who prefer a natural, no make-up finish.

3/5

Bourjois Foundation Bio Detox Organic (available in 7 shades), £11.99 (0800 269 836)
We love the fact this foundation has natural organic origins but found the mineral pigment formulation thicker than anticipated. Great coverage, though.

3/5



Bobbi Brown Natural Finish Long Lasting Foundation SPF15 (available in 16 shades), £28 (www.bobbibrown.co.uk)
This oil-free formulation absorbed quickly into our skin for a flattering soft matte effect. If you don't get along with heavy foundation, this is ideal for lighter coverage that lasts.

5/5



Fashion-conscious women know that it's no longer enough to wear the latest styles.

Nowadays, keeping up with current looks extends to your face – and that means bold, dramatic eyebrows.

Which is all very well for women with naturally thick brows, or those who do not mind drawing them on every day with a pencil.

However, an increasing number of women are choosing to follow the example of American celebrities Penelope Cruz, Jennifer Lopez and Oprah by having semi-permanent eyebrow tattoos.

Wendy Stallard, a semi-permanent make-up artist who works at Fresh Clinics in Clifton, Bristol, says there has been a noticeable increase in women having the treatment. "I started about 14 years ago, when semi-permanent tattoo equipment was very basic and battery-operated. Today it's all digital," she says.

"Back then, semi-permanent make-up was hard to market because few people had heard of it, but nowadays lots of women are having treatments like fillers and Botox, and they're more aware of the sort of treatments celebrities are having."

Wendy uses a Nouveau Contour machine, which produces a form of tattooing that isn't as deep as a traditional tattoo, and which uses pigments designed to be removed by the body.

"I trained to be a beauty therapist, but I like detailed, delicate work. I've got a steady hand and I'm very good at painting miniatures. I went into semi-permanent make-up because it suited my artistic side," she says.

When Wendy begins to work on Julie Brackenbury, the aesthetic nurse manager at Fresh Clinics, who has chosen to get her eyebrows enhanced, it becomes clear that she does not draw eyebrows on as single, thick lines. Instead, she skilfully draws on lots of fine, little lines that look like real eyebrow hairs.

"Thick black lines look so old fashioned. I'm a also a great believer than less is more and it's better to add to an eyebrow than make it too heavy in the first place," she says.

"You're drawing on people's

Semi-permanent make-up

Tattoo your way to natural beauty

Semi-permanent eyebrow tattooing has become the latest beauty trend. Suzanne Savill meets a practitioner with an eye for detail and a steady hand. Pictures by Dave Betts



FINE DETAIL: Wendy applies lots of little lines to mimic the hairs

faces with semi-permanent ink, so I can understand why people are wary. It takes 12 to 18 months to fade, so if someone gets a bad treatment they'll have to live with it for some time."

What sort of people come to her for semi-permanent make-up?

Wendy replies: "I get ladies who have tweezered too much and the hair hasn't grown back, or who have tweezered their eyebrows into a shape that isn't flattering."

"Some of them are ladies whose eyebrows and eyelashes have become sparser as they have got older, because as we age we don't just get wrinkles – the hair on our eyebrows and eyelashes becomes thinner."

"A lot of ladies pencil them in every morning, but they don't look natural and if they accidentally wipe off part of a pencilled-in brow during the day it can be a problem."

"They come to me for semi-permanent tattoos because they want the freedom of being able to wake up and look good without having to put on eyebrow pencil."

"I also get ladies coming in who have lost their eyebrows and eyelashes because of chemotherapy. If they start growing back again then they can just blend in with the



MADE UP: Julie Brackenbury receives permanent make-up on her eyebrows from Wendy Stallard. Below, Julie after her treatment



eyebrows that have been created by semi-permanent tattoos.

"Without eyebrows people's faces can look quite strange. One client likened it to looking like a boiled egg, and someone else described it as looking like a golf ball."

As well as semi-permanent eyebrows, Wendy also does semi-permanent eyeliner, which she draws very close to the eyelashes.

"One of my clients had to see an eye surgeon in Swindon, and she told me he was full of praise for my work. "Again, it's good for women whose eyelashes have got sparser because of age or chemotherapy, and also good for women with very fair lashes."

It takes Wendy about two hours to create semi-permanent eyebrow tattoos, which includes a

consultation and pencilling in the shape that the client wants.

Julie, who wanted her eyebrows to look more symmetrical and dramatic, is delighted with the results once her treatment has been completed.

"I thought the treatment was actually quite relaxing! It didn't hurt at all – I'd describe it as slightly tickly!," she says. "My eyebrows look more defined and shapely. I could never get them like this when I tweezed."

"They don't look too dark or false, just natural and subtle!"

Semi-permanent tattooing by Wendy Stallard starts from £350 for eyebrows or eyeliner. For further information contact Fresh Clinics, 33 Alma Road, Clifton, Bristol, BS8 2HL. Telephone 0117 973 2600 or go to www.freshclinics.com.

Without eyebrows people's faces can look quite strange

Wendy Stallard

Lovely lashes

Star by Julien Macdonald lash leopard/feather, £8.50 each, Debenhams



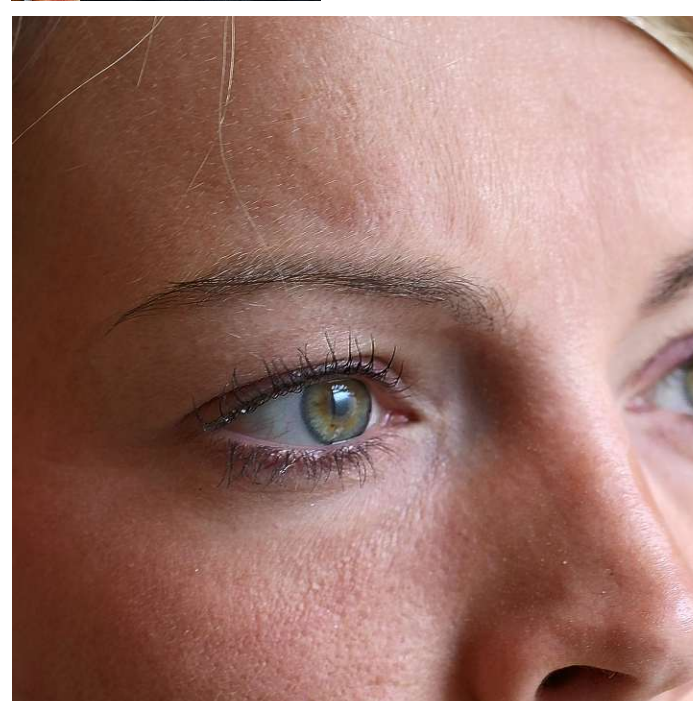
Whiplash, Luv Lashes and 9 1/2 Winks mascaras, £2 each, Primark



Renewal Lash Serum, £10.99, L'Oreal Paris



Shu Uemura Fleur-Ever feather lashes, £55 (www.shu-uemura.co.uk)



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