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Tricks of the Trade – Applying Make-up Like a Professional

By Adem Martin del Campo

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There are a number of different tricks and techniques that we have developed to make applying make-up easier, as well as more appealing. Let's start with the basics.

Always start your make-up with your foundation. This will even out your complexion and give you a good base to start with. Now for the trick. Use a make-up sponge to apply your foundation. This way your foundation will not change colors due to the oils on your fingers, and you will not contaminate your foundation. Another trick is to use a large Complexion Brush to smooth out your foundation around the hairline and jaw line. This way you will not have a line of demarcation around the edge of your foundation. Next apply your brow color. Follow up with a Brow Gel to keep your brows looking nice all day or night. Apply your highlighter next. The trick here is to use a highlighter like our Beige Eye-lite that is creamy instead of a waxy cover-up. When you are trying to hide lines on the face, using a waxy substance will not move with your face, thus causing creases and other wrinkles to form in the product. Using a creamy highlighter will get into the lines to lighten them and make them less visible. Again use your Complexion Brush to blend your highlighting after you have applied it.

Now it is time to concentrate on your eyes. Applying make-up is like being an Illusionist or Magician. It is not like an artist that paints, because we are working with three dimensions. This is why it is important to use three different eye shadows. Starting from the top eyelash choose a color of a medium tone. Apply that from the lashes to the crease in the eye. The next shadow should be two shades darker than the the first. Apply this shadow from the top of the first to the brow bone. The next shadow should be one shade lighter than the first to highlight the eye brows, because the eye brows are what gives you your expressions. Apply this shadow from the top of the second shadow to the bottom of the eye brows. This is how you give your eyes dimension, by going light, dark, lightest with your shadows. Now apply your eye-liner. The trick here is to use a shadow and firm bristle brush. This will give a more natural appearance. Always start from the outside going toward the center on the top and bottom. Another trick to this is to make sure you do not make the top and bottom meet at the corners both inside and outside. By doing this you will make you eyes appear larger. Something else you can do to your eyes if you would like them to appear whiter, is to use a white pencil on the inside of the lower lid. This way light will reflect off of the white onto your eyes. This is especially helpful for

people that tend to have a lot of redness in their eyes. Now it is time once again to blend with your large complexion brush.

We are almost done. Your next step will be your blush. The blush is applied to the cheek bone, and if you stare at yourself in the mirror find the place where your cheek goes from flat and starts to curve back. This is where you should start your blush, then follow the cheek bone back. Now let's do your lips. Make sure that your blush color and lipstick complement each other when you hold them together. If they do not look good side by side they will not look good on your face. This is also important for the next trick. Use your blush as a base color for your lipstick. This will help your lipstick last longer and prevent it from bleeding. The next trick for your lips is to use a soft bristle brush like our Gold Lip Brush to apply your lipstick. You will have more control this way, and your lipstick will stay on better. Like your eye-liner start from the outside and work in towards the center on the top and bottom lip. If you have

small lips and you want to make them larger apply your liner just outside your lips. Conversely if you have large lips you can line just inside to make them appear smaller.

Now that you know some of the tricks of the trade you can apply your make-up like a professional.

Make-up by Armando – Your Beauty Solution
<http://www.makeupbyarmando.com/>

Armando's son, Adem, received his cosmetology license in 1994 and began managing Armando's Salon. Adem brings a strong sense of family values to his father's business. He now manages Make-up by Armando as well as contributing to the site's Beauty Advice, answering make-up and skin care questions and writing the monthly newsletter, pulling from his experience to offer his skills and knowledge to the Internet audience.

To Be Or Not To Be A Professional Or An Amateur Magician

By Preston Houer

An amateur magician is anyone who has a minimum amount of talent, skill and knowledge when it comes to performing magic tricks. He or she may be anyone who knows one magic trick or at least three magic tricks.

But basically, a more technical definition of an amateur magician is anyone who does not in any way practice magic as their trade, even if he or she knows four, five, six or more than a number of magic tricks. This is regardless of how good, better or excellent he or she may be in performing flourishes, sleight of hand or optical illusions.

However, there are those amateur magicians who try their very best to expand their current knowledge as well as repertoire and still practice magic as their primary source of income. People who do this are usually called hedge magicians. This is in order to differentiate them from authentic professional magicians who make practicing and performing magic as a trade and make an actual living doing so.

Meanwhile a professional magician is anyone who has a little bit more knowledge and talent compared to an amateur magician. These professional magicians know sufficient magic that makes it enough for them to use it as their primary source of trade and income, as well as not using magic to assist them in a trade other than magic.

So technically, even if a barber performs his job using magic and no matter how many tricks he or she knows and is capable of, that barber is still not considered as a professional magician because his primary trade is cutting hairs and not necessarily being a magician. Another way to differentiate a professional magician from an amateur is by the way he or she does flourishes.

According to the Online Encyclopedia of Magic, a flourish is any sleight that is performed for the purpose of entertaining an audience and does not in any way contain any moves that are hidden. Most sleights that are performed are done so in order to deceive a captive audience and to do something that can not be detected. Meanwhile, a flourish is any trick that is done to draw the audience's attention away from where an actual sleight is simultaneously being performed.

There are some magicians who consider the performance of a flourish as simply a finger exercise and not really actual pieces of performance. But those magicians who do put in and include flourishes in their act are considered by some of their fellow magicians as a seriously skilled performer.

If a performance consists of a card trick wherein the cards are spread out on the table and when a performer does a pressure card fan, the image that that performer projects is one of professionalism and experience. But a performer of magic who simply holds the cards and then spreads them slightly, may then be considered more as an amateur. Although this may or may not be true or this may not be considered as a hard fact, this is the perception and the impression that a performing magician usually gives to an audience.

Flourishes are done not just as a form of show-off to the audience, a flourish is also done for the purpose of presenting just how a performer is truly dedicated to the magic act. It also shows the degree of professionalism one has for the performance.

When a flourish is done, it makes it easier to know the difference between a magic trick performed by an expert magician and your friendly neighborhood Jim who is doing a card trick.

A skilled performer comes off as a natural and will ultimately receive more credit for his or her performance as well as recognition, not to mention that good old respect for the skills he or she has.

When a spectator is looking at a magic trick where the occasional flourish is done, that performer is also seen as more than a magician but a person who is passionate at what he or she is doing. It is therefore so much easier to hire a magician who has more skills and experience than one who needs to practice his or her craft more.

Preston Houer has been involved with the art of illusion and sleight of hand for over 30 years. Let Preston show you how to Have Fun With Magic. Visit His Site Today!



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