

CLAIRE HANSON'S TIPS FOR MAKE-UP APPLICATION

SKIN PREPARATION The key to a gorgeous complexion and perfectly natural make-up is to begin with clean, well-moisturised skin. Your make-up will also last longer.

FOUNDATION For flawless skin that will photograph well, apply a non oil-based foundation (oil-based products can make you appear shiny) in a colour that matches your skin tone. The correct colour will blend well and you will not detect it at the jaw line. If you don't like to wear a base, mix a little with your moisturiser. Warm on the back of your hand before applying. Apply a little at a time blending as you go. If you apply it too thickly foundation can streak.

ALL-OVER GLOW Use a little bronzer on forehead, nose and chin to give you a healthy glow – but use very lightly to avoid a shine.

SHINE To avoid shine and be powder free, try using an all-in-one foundation and powder. Alternatively, with a brush, apply a small sweep of translucent reflective powder over the base. Do not use a shimmer which will make you look shiny, and do not pile the powder on. Sweep in a downward motion over cheeks, nose and chin, and across the forehead. Do not use a powder puff. Take a small powder compact in your bag to blot any shine later in the day, or a sachet of shine control papers.

DARK CIRCLES Be careful not to overdo it with the concealer on dark circles. A light dab starting from the inner corner of the eye is enough. Light-reflecting powder is also an excellent way to reduce darkness. Apply with a sweep of a brush under the eye.

BREAKOUTS Don't panic, don't pop it – just cover it over! Apply a little antiseptic cream to any spots and pat them dry. Or a tiny, tiny amount of toothpaste will instantly dry up a spot. Apply a dab of light concealer or a cover-up stick, blend with foundation and finish with a dash of powder. But do not over-cover blemishes – that's when you draw attention to them.

EYELINER To create different colours line the rim of the eye nearest the lashes with a thin line of black or brown. Then apply your eye shadow.

EYE SHADOW For long-lasting eyes apply a colour-free lid foundation. Dab loose powder around

the lashes and on cheek bones so that you can brush away any residue that falls from the lids as you apply your eye make-up. Apply a small amount of light reflecting powder to the eye sockets, nearest the nose, to open your eyes and make them appear brighter. Then blend and apply your colour, beginning with a natural shade on the lid. You can build up-and-out slightly deeper shades, finishing with the darkest shade at the outer edge of the eye socket. The secret is to build gradually and blend as you go.

The eyes are naturally warm and greasy and no matter how fantastic your make-up, so if you are wearing it all day, the eyes will crease and you will need to freshen them up.

LASHES Vaseline on the lashes last thing at night will condition them by morning leaving them soft and perfect for a sweep of mascara. Use an eyelash curler first. To avoid 'clumping' wipe the wand first to remove any excess. Take the mascara brush deep to the root, both above and below the top lashes, and give a little wiggle from side to side.

BLUSHER Apply using a large brush and with a sweep to each cheek, the temples and forehead. Do not apply to your nose or chin.

LIPS Don't forget your lips in your skin care regime – especially if they are dry. Apply Vaseline or a lip balm night and morning. Once a week exfoliate by applying a generous amount of Vaseline with a toothbrush, wipe and soothe with lip balm. There are some great 'lip plump' products available to promote a pout – but be sure to test them well in advance of the big day.

LIP COLOUR Before applying colour, line the lips with a dab of foundation – this fixes the colour. Use a lipstick shade similar to your blusher to avoid a multitude of colours. To keep lipstick long-lasting apply a natural lip liner (not a coloured one, but a shade similar to your lips) and then fill in with your lipstick using a lip brush. Blot with a tissue and apply a second coat. For sensual, luscious, kissable lips finish with a coat of gloss. However, if wearing a nude gloss or sheen do not use a lip liner.

EYEBROWS Don't forget them – they really do frame the face. Reshape a month before the wedding and then keep them in shape. No plucking on the day – it causes redness. Finish with a brow comb after your make-up has been applied.