

Lesson #3: Know your powder – and apply it sparingly. The right powder can set your look and reduce shine after you've applied foundation. Loose powder works well on most complexion types, except for skin that's on the oilier side; if this is your skin type, opt instead for pressed powder and reapply as necessary. Choose a powder that's a shade lighter than your skin tone in order to prevent darkening throughout the day as it absorbs oil.

Editor's favorites: Shiseido The Makeup Enriched Loose Powder (\$30; 800-7-BEAUTY) and Prescriptives Traceless Skin Responsive Powder (\$28; prescriptives.com)

Lesson #4: Don't overdo cheeks.

Over-application of blush is a sure way to date your look; instead, cheeks should be subdued, says New York City-based makeup artist Robert Jones, author of *Simple Beauté* (Simple Beauté, 2004), a hands-on makeup guide. When choosing a color, look for one that will give you a natural flush,

says Jones, who recommends hues of peach or apricot. To apply powder blushes, start at the hairline and brush the color forward toward the apples of the cheeks. Cream blushes should be dotted starting at the apples of the cheeks, then blended back toward the hairline. *Editor's favorites:* Chanel Powder Blush in peachy-apricot Reflex (\$38.50; gloss.com) and Revlon Cream Blush in Just Peachy (\$9.79; at drugstores)

Lesson #5: Be more daring with eye shadow. If there's one part of the face that can afford a little experimentation, it's the eyes. The key:

HOMESCHOOL HELPERS

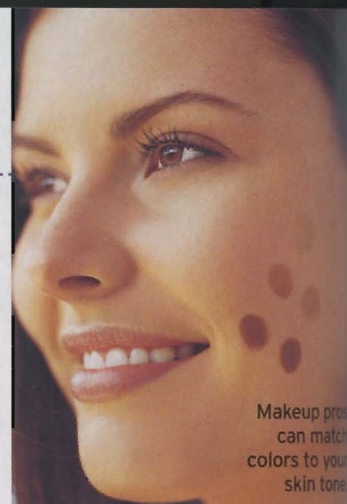
With a little help, you can duplicate the work of the pros at home. Turn to one of these books or classes to help you pass the test.

BOOKS

- *Makeup Your Mind*, by François Nars (Powerhouse Books, 2002; \$40) A bevy of women are photographed before and after their makeovers. Each "after" photo has a transparent overlay detailing which products were used and how to apply them.
- *Real Beauty*, by Sonia Kashuk (Clarkson Potter, 2003; \$27.50) In Kashuk's book and accompanying instructional DVD, she shares secrets from 20-plus years on the job. One mantra from the book: "Lips don't lie: The natural pigmentation of your lips is the underlying tint of every lip color you wear."
- *Simple Beauté*, by Robert Jones (Simple Beauté, 2004; \$40) In this book, loaded with fabulous before-and-after makeover photos, Jones details how he enhances the best features of his clientele. Find the client who most resembles you and follow the easy step-by-step instructions.

HANDS-ON WITH THE PROS

- *Bobbi Brown Beauty Team* (bobbibrowncosmetics.com) Log on to find out when one of these artists, hand-selected by Brown herself, will be at your local department store to offer beauty tips and free makeovers.
- *Shiseido Studio*, 155 Spring St., New York City (877-99-STUDIO), and 425 Broadway, Santa Monica, Calif. (877-989-1800). Here, you can play with and explore Shiseido makeup, skin-care products and fragrance; attend a seminar (try the two-hour Everyday Makeup course); or be treated to a 10-minute makeup touch-up – all free of charge.



Makeup pros can match colors to your skin tone.



The Makeup Powder from Shiseido



Revlon Cream Blush in Just Peachy

Apply color sparingly to begin with, and then slowly add on for intensity. First, start with a base eye shadow in a natural color close to your skin tone; this will set the stage for more-dramatic, lasting shadow. After applying base, use a sponge-tip applicator to smudge an intense application of color across the lash line, Jones says. Start at the outside corner and work your way gradually toward the inner corner. *Editor's favorites:* Nars Single Eyeshadow in Barbuda, an amethyst hue (\$18; narscosmetics.com); Urban Decay Eyeshadow in Shattered, a greenish turquoise (\$14; sephora.com); and Aveda Shadow Plus Vitamins in Fjord, a rich blue (\$10; aveda.com) – and as a base, try Neutrogena's



Eye shadows from Urban Decay and Aveda

Skin Soothing Eye Tints (\$9 each; at drugstores), available in two neutral shades. A bonus: These tints also can help reduce puffy eyes.

Lesson #6: Know your liners. Eyeliners – whether you opt for liquid or pencils – are tricky to apply correctly. What's important to remember: Apply eyeliner *after* eye shadow, and draw very close to the top lash line.

If you're unable to draw a straight