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How to do

FALSE LASHES

WITH RAE MORRIS

The make-up goddess gives us a guide to getting fiddly falsies flawless.

False lashes are officially mainstream. After several seasons of catwalk sightings and their ubiquitous red-carpet appearances (on any celebrity with eyelids), falsies have shaken off the last vestiges of their draggy/cheerleader connotations once and for all. They're back in the fashion limelight again this season, after make-up maestro Pat McGrath created a *look de résistance* at Valentino's spring show and announced: "It's all about the lashes."

Australian make-up artist Rae Morris is the global make-up director for L'Oréal and has just released her third book, *Express Make-up* (Arena). She agrees with McGrath, insisting false lashes are an evening essential and, done naturally, can be incredibly feminine and elegant. "I view lashes as accessories, like a fabulous diamond ring or a gorgeous pair of shoes," she says. "Just like shoes, you have to find the right shape and size for you." And, like walking in four-inch McQueen heels, practice makes perfect.

"LASHES ARE ACCESSORIES, LIKE A DIAMOND RING OR A PAIR OF SHOES"

HOW TO DO IT

1 Choose your lashes. Individual lash clusters look more natural, but can be tricky to apply, while strip lashes can be trimmed to suit your eye and are easier to manoeuvre. With strip lashes, buy the ones with a clear band where the hairs are secured; the black band looks like eyeliner and it might not be the right shape for your eye. Clear bands are also more flexible and can follow your lash line more easily. Choose the short or medium length, otherwise they won't match your real lashes.

2 Curl your real lashes and apply a light layer of mascara, then comb them through with an eyelash comb (or use an old clean mascara brush) to separate.

3 If you're using a strip lash, check the length against your natural eyelash line. If they differ, trim the strip down until it fits.

4 Apply some latex glue to the back of your hand. Most lash packs come with a small tube, but pick up some M.A.C. Duo glue, which is waterproof and can be found in every make-up artist's kit. Choose the white one – it dries clear.

5 Wait until the glue is a bit tacky, then dip the bottom of the lash into the glue. I use an eyelash applicator, which allows you to clamp them together with

Manicare Glameyes lashes in Rihanna, \$12.

your natural lashes, but if you don't have one of these, then opt for a blunt pair of tweezers.

6 Tilt your head back and look down into the mirror so you can see your lash line. Position the lash strips on the base of your lashes, not the skin of your eyelids.

7 Hold a hand mirror underneath and check that they blend with your natural lashes. If not, move them into the correct position. Hold them in place for a second. Don't close your eyes while they dry, or they can stick together – just look down. Move eyes from side to side, which will stretch the latex and make them more comfortable. The glue is dry when it turns clear.

8 Put on another couple of coats of mascara to blend your real lashes with the false lashes, being careful not to rip them out.

9 If you make a mistake, just hold a cotton tip dipped in warm water on the glue to dissolve and try again.

10 To remove lashes, hold a cotton pad soaked in warm water on your eyes, or have a shower and the latex should dissolve. You can reuse strip lashes; just soak them first in warm water for five minutes to remove old glue.

Clockwise from top left: Shu Uemura eyelash applicator, \$50; Shu Uemura lashes in black velvet feather, \$52; M.A.C. Duo latex adhesive, \$16; Shu Uemura lash curler, \$40; M.A.C. false eyelash set, \$28; NP Set lashes in Manchester, \$12; Tweezerman folding eyelash comb, \$20.

Rae Morris



L'Oréal Telescopic Mascara, \$10.

