

SHOP

til you drop

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Super Sexy Hair* (in 2 minutes flat)

*no blow-drying skills required

SHOCKINGLY AFFORDABLE FASHION

(Marc Jacobs, Gucci,
Louis Vuitton included!)

New ways to eco chic

Lingerie Guide:

Smalls that make you look better
in your clothes (and out of them)

The Everything
UNDER
\$100
ISSUE!



MAKE-UP

ACE YOUR BASE No matter how much you drop on foundation (it's finding the perfect shade that's most important), you can make any base go further by using a brush. Added good news: the cheapie kind work just as great as their fancy friends. While natural-hair brushes feel luxe to the touch, bargain-priced synthetic bristles are actually easier to keep clean (read: bacteria-free) and glide your base on just as smoothly. Before you buy it, run your fingers over the brush to check for loose bristles, and look for ones with tapered edges to avoid leaving streaks in your foundation. Try Artiste Foundation Brush in #6, \$21.95, 1800 651 146, or Manicare Travel Foundation Brush, \$14.95, 1800 651 146.

PREP-PERFECT "Primers and concealers are not the products to penny-pinch on," says Burford. "Texture, hydration and quality are really important, so spend more on these, then have fun while experimenting with less expensive colour cosmetics."

COLOUR CHAMELEON Price isn't always indicative of the quality of colour cosmetics — a lower-priced electric blue shadow, like Bourjois Round Pot Eyeshadow in Indigo [1], \$20, 1800 181 040, can pack the same punch as

a designer equivalent. While it may sparkle with promise in the packaging, if it doesn't look the same on your skin, it's not worth your cash. Look for powder shadow palettes with a range of shades you can blend — you'll be amazed at how far it expands your make-up wardrobe. Try Sax International Colour Blockbuster Makeup Kit [2], \$24.95, (03) 9568 5999, and NP Set Champagne Set Mega Palette [3], \$39, 1300 814 572.

PAIN ISN'T BEAUTY It doesn't matter whether eyeliner is exy or cheap — as long as it glides on softly. Less waxy formulas will drag on delicate eyelids, and it's not worth saving the coin when your eyes are red-rimmed. Budget winners include: Bloom Eye Definer in Black [4], \$24, (03) 9421 0200, bloomcosmetics.com, and Styli-Style Flat Pencils (shown, left to right, in Athens and Chicago) [5], from \$9.98, 1800 251 215.

BUY A MAGIC WAND It's worth remembering that mascara has one of the shortest shelf lives at around three months. If you wear it occasionally, don't drop wads — try one worth your time and money, like Max Factor False Lash Effect Mascara [6], \$24.95, 1800 181 040. Apply one coat on all the lashes, then a second on the outer lashes to elongate your eyes.

TIP: *Powders last longer than liquids and creams. Check the bottom for the tin can symbol with a number that tells you how many months the product will keep for after opening,' says Napoleon Perdis make-up artist Kate Squires.*

HAIR

BE SIZE WISE Ever notice how you always finish your conditioner before your shampoo, or vice versa? Shop smart and buy one in regular and the other in jumbo, like Garnier Fructis Conditioner (400mL) [1], \$8.95 and Shampoo (250mL) [1], \$5.95, 1300 659 259 so you can pace your shopping as you near the end of both.

ROLL WITH IT If you want soft, bouncy hair without the big-bucks styling tools, consider hot rollers. They're consistent across the board (it's hard to find a set really superior to another) so you can safely choose a budget option and know it will work a treat. Try Remington Express Set 10 [2], \$33.95, 1800 623 118.

SET IT UP Hairspray doesn't contain particularly expensive ingredients, so all you need is to find a finish that suits your hair type. If we had \$5 for every hairstylist who suggested L'Oréal Paris Elneet Satin Normal Strength [3], \$9.95, 1300 659 359, we'd be Richard Branson. Bonus: it now comes in mini cans too. For a dressing table-friendly spray that looks retro-pretty and sets hair like the olden days (cos that's when






'Cheaper colours will wear longer and won't stain if you use a quality base and top coat,' says Squires. Try Ulta3 Nail Colour in Violet Rumble and Blue Heaven, \$2 each, 1800 181 040.

SMALL IN SIZE... AND PRICE

EMBRACE TRAVEL MINIS

They're cheaper than full-size versions and work just as well. The Body Shop Bamboo Mini Hairbrush [1], \$9.95, 1800 065 232, thebodyshop.com.au, is strong enough to comb knots and small enough for your bag, while the Salon Smart Traveller Dual Voltage Travel Dryer [2], from \$34.95, 1800 251 215, is a genius space-saver. Ecotools Bamboo 5pc Brush Set [3], \$25.95, (02) 9526 0777, makes easy work of a smoky eye in your bathroom or the back of a cab, and Tweezerman Matchbox Itty Bitty Files [4], from \$8.95, 1800 251 215, are so conveniently tiny, you'll never be caught out with a ragged edge. 

it was originally made), try the cheap-as-chips Cedel Extra Firm Hairspray [4], \$4.99, (03) 9550 1528. With extra holding power that remains non-sticky, it's no wonder this is a timeless classic.

FACT: *One John Frieda Frizz-Ease Hair Serum Extra-Strength Formula, \$23.99, 1800 468 318, sells every 30 seconds somewhere in the world. Just a couple of drops will cut down the time it takes to blow-dry your hair, which means you'll need less styling product and get more sleep-ins.*



So broke you're eating dinner at your mum's? Ask her beauty advice while you're there. "My nan was a great source of info on bargains because she was from the make-do war era," says Burford. "You'll be amazed at what you can find from places like the kitchen."

WHICH BRUSH DOES WHAT?

If you're not bothering with a hairdryer, choosing the correct brush will make all the difference to the result. Ever tried using a wide-tooth comb to whip up a slick pony? We rest our case.

SMOOTH STYLING A boar-bristle brush smooths down frizz for a silky finish. TRY: Kevin.Murphy Smoothing Brush, \$79.95, 1800 104 204.

VOLUME Brush hair against where it falls with a vented brush that lets air pass through. TRY: Brushworx Keratin Silk Vent Brush, from \$10.95, 1800 251 215.

DETANGLING Always go for a wide-tooth comb to prevent snapping hair while it's wet. TRY: Ghd Detangling Comb, \$12, 1300 880 209, ghddhair.com/au.



Rough-drying wet hair ruffles the cuticles, leaving it all fuzzy. Instead, wrap your head in a towel-turban. The heat from your scalp will calm frizz, making hair easier to style.



Salt – it's for more than hot chips.

If you want fast waves minus the red-hot tong, pick up a salt-packed spray. "Just like a swim at the beach, salt sprays activate any natural curl in your hair," says hairstylist Anthony Nader. "To get the best results, spritz generously into 90-per-cent-dry hair, and wait for it to transform into beachy waves." Want an even faster result? Wrap damp strands around your finger and hold for a few seconds before releasing. TRY: Fudge Salt Spray, \$19.95, 1300 764 437.

SLICK IT GOOD

The only thing worse than a bad hair day is a hot bad hair day. Whether you smooth hair into a tight bun or super-sleek ponytail, these gels will give that wet-look effect, and beat humidity at its own game.

1. Paul Mitchell Soft Sculpting Spray Gel, \$18.95, 1300 365 350. Adds shine while still being flexible.
2. Garnier Fructis Style Survivor Gel, \$7.65, 1300 659 259. For super-strength hold.
3. Wella Professionals Brilliance Leave-in Cream Gel, \$24, 1300 028 280. Easy to smooth in and protects hair from colour-fade.

TIP If you're trying a sleek bun, make a side part for a geek-chic twist. Or for a pony, take the gel and smooth back just the top of your hair, fluffing up the tail for a fun, quirky look.



THE DO-ALL WONDER: BABY POWDER

It's the original dry shampoo, and still one of the best products for soaking up oil. But its little-known secret? Baby powder adds texture and volume too – perfect for days when you don't want to deal with a round brush to create lift. "Decant half the bottle – the extra room means you can give it a squeeze and the powder will puff out over the hair; far less messy than sprinkling," says Balcke. "Brunettes should add a few drops of brown food colouring and shake it up to avoid leaving a grey residue through strands." Cussons Imperial Leather Original Talcum Powder, \$2.89, 1800 809 282.

TOPSHOP UNIQUE S/S '12



Colour me happy

Look to the summer runways for pretty colour combinations, then get DIYing with two-tone checks, spots or stripes.



HOUSE OF HOLLAND A/W '11

Cheat: the half-moon

French-tip stickers are a great shortcut to half-moon nail art that looks hard to achieve but isn't. "Apply the stickers to painted nails a third of the way up in a rounded shape, then swipe a complementary colour onto the moon," says Illamasqua nail artist Frances Cutri.

MOSCHINO S/S '12

BLACK
+
YELLOW

Face of Australia Colour Pro Nail Enamel in Scream, \$6.95, (03) 9338 5222.

Models Prefer Nail Enamel in Rising Star, \$5.99, from Priceline, 1300 884 411.

PETER SOM S/S '12

NAVY
+
BLUE

Maybelline NY Mini Colorama Glossy Nail Colour in Electric Blue, \$5.95, 1300 369 327.

BYS Nail Enamel in Matte Blue, \$4.95, (03) 9551 4666.

MISSONI S/S '12

PURPLE
+
PINK

Revlon Top Speed Fast Dry Nail Enamel in Grape, \$15.95, 1800 025 488.

Butter London Nail Lacquer in Snog, \$22, (02) 9130 4556.

EMANUEL UNGARO S/S '12

RED
+
GOLD

L'Oréal Paris Resist & Shine Titanium Nail Polish in Sanguinello, \$11.95, 1300 659 359.

Illamasqua Nail Varnish in Victory, \$34, (02) 9319 4599.

Tool time

Every aspiring artist needs these essentials in her kit.

1

Orly Flawless Fix Nail Corrector Pen, \$21.95, 1300 769 355, orlybeauty.com.au.



Use it to neaten up intricate designs.

2

Cutex Cuticle Sticks, \$1.95 for pack of 4, 1800 812 663.



Dip the end in polish for DIY dots.

3

Tweezerman Mini Slant Tweezers, from \$26.95, 1800 251 215.



Great for applying fiddly stickers and gems.

4

Nailene Perfect Tips, \$6.99 for pack of 96, 1300 650 981.



Perfect your two-tone mani at home.

5

Manicare Glamnails Nail Art Pen in Hot Pink, \$9.95 each, 1800 651 146.



They make tricky patterns a breeze.

Moving on from the French mani...

Modernise the traditional pink-and-white with a hit of graduated glitter instead. Paint fingertips with two coats of a base colour (deep shades like navy or plum look sophisticated) and allow to dry. Swipe a glimmer-flecked polish across the nail tip, then pull the brush back towards the centre. "This makes the glitter strongest at the tip, giving you an amazing faded effect," says Cutri. Once it's touch-dry, seal with a top coat.

VANESSA HUDGENS



EASIEST. NAIL ART. EVER.

Make like Vanessa and give feature nails a whirl. Think of it as entry-level art – it's super-simple to achieve and easier to wear than, say, neon daisies. Paint the ring fingers in a complementary colour to the rest – try a mix of tonal shades like purple and blue to keep it cute, but not too wacky. ♣