

There'll be tears, dancing and plenty of pictures, but today's bride will want to look fresh-faced and stunning, whatever the day throws at her. After 12 years in the trade, professionally trained make-up artist Nicola Peen knows all the tricks.

The key to successful wedding makeup is about finding the balance between normal and too made up. Consider your normal makeup look and aim for something in-between. Don't go OTT, at the end of the day you want people to recognise you and see you looking as a better version of your normal self.

For a natural look I choose browns, corals, creams and golds. Brides want to look as fresh faced as possible so I choose light foundations that aren't too matt. I don't add too much shimmer to the face as this can give a

sweaty appearance in photographs and I stick to highlighting the brow bone and the tops of the cheek bone for a subtle yet fresh look.

For brides that prefer a more dramatic look, I use greys rather than harsh black eye shadow. Opt for a light grey shadow on the lid and work a darker grey eye shadow into the socket line.

If you are doing this sort of look on a more mature bride then it is always best to work with matte eye shadows rather than frosty eye shadows as these can be very unflattering and add more attention to fine lines and wrinkles. The English rose look is a make-up look which never dates, neutral tones on the eyes such as browns/creams with soft pinks/corals on the cheeks and lips gives a young, fresh faced look.

The classic look keeps the eyes neutral but with more definition using either a liquid or kohl pencil eyeliner along the top lashes line and darker lips in reds and browns. I am getting asked more and more for false lashes – they make the eyes look stunning. After applying mascara I apply about six individual lashes dotted along the lash line or sometimes just three to the outer corner of the eye for a natural but very effective look. Strip lashes can appear too heavy.

My final piece of advice would be not to colour match your make-up to your bridesmaid dresses, stick to neutral tones.

● Maidstone-based Nicola Peen trained at the London College of Fashion where she did a HND in design fashion styling for hair and make-up. She has 12 years experience of bridal make-up. For more information see www.weddingmakeupbynicola.co.uk or ring 01622 725346.



FRESH-FACED & BEAUTIFUL

'To ensure your eye makeup doesn't crease or fade, use an eye shadow primer under your eye make-up'

Nicola says: "To ensure your eye makeup doesn't crease or fade, use an eye shadow primer under your eye make-up. My favourites are Urban Decay eye shadow primer Potion and MAC paint pot in painterly. "My favourite eye shadow brands are MAC and Christian Dior for their highly pigmented colours in a wide range of textures and shades. I have a number of frosts, matte, cream and satin finishes in my kit. Eyeliner defines the eyes and can give a number of different effects depending on what sort of look the bride wants. "Gel eyeliner in black on the top lid will give a more dramatic and defined look making the eyes appear bigger, while kohl pencil in black, grey or brown on the top lid will give a softer look. I always line underneath the eye with eye shadow and an angled brush for a less harsh look than eyeliner. To finish the eyes I always apply waterproof mascara in black to intensify the eyes and guard against tears and smudging. My favourite is MAC Splashproof.

EYES AND LIPS



'I always apply waterproof mascara in black to intensify the eyes and guard against tears and smudging'

Left MAC Lipstick in 'Please me', £13.50
Right MAC Zoom Fast Waterfast Lash, £14
For stockist details see www.maccosmetics.co.uk



PERFECT *make-up*



MAC Pro longwear foundation, £22.50

'...warm up the complexion with a bronzing powder to contour cheekbones and temples'

THE RIGHT BASE...

Nicola says: "I always start by applying a hydrating moisturiser. I love MAC Strobe Cream for the ultimate quick fix for the skin. It boosts the look of dull, flat or tired-looking skin and brightens and clarifies with iridescent particles and antioxidants.

"I always use a clear skin primer to even out skin tone and to prevent complexion make-up from fading. My favourites are MAC prep and prime skin brightening serum and Yves Saint Laurent top secrets flash radiance primer which brighten the skin leaving it feeling soft and primed for make-up.

"Foundation should be light and not too matt, my favourite is MAC face and body foundation as this stays in place all day and night without the bride feeling like she is 'plastered' in make-up.

"I use a concealer over the foundation to cover any dark circles and blemishes and set the foundation with a loose powder. I always use MAC prep and prime transparent finishing powder as it comes in one universal colour that suits all shades.

"I warm up the complexion with a bronzing powder to contour your cheekbones and temples, I use MAC bronzing powder in golden and then add a bit of blush to the apples of your cheeks.

"It is important to wear slightly more blusher than normal on your wedding day as you'll be wearing a pale colour from head to toe which can be draining and flash photography can bleach the look of any colour on the skin.

"I finish with a sweep of highlighter to the tops of the cheekbones to give skin a lustre that catches the eye."



MAC mineralize blush in Dainty £20.50