

CREATING YOUR SMOKY, SULTRY EYE

You are guaranteed to read about the appeal of a smoky eye in almost every magazine you pick up, whether it is a fashion magazine in the spring or a beauty magazine in the fall. It's as classic as the red lip and yet how many of us know how to apply it properly? There is widespread fear of looking like an overdone drag queen and many of us don't want to look too done up for daytime. So what is the smoky eye all about and how can you make it work for you?

The first thing to note is that the smoky eye technique does not have to be used with only black or dark grey colors, it can be used with brown, purple, green, navy or any other color of your choice. The end result is a smudgy, blended, 'just rolled out of bed looking this way' look that can be very sexy and soft at the same time.

The smoky eye is not created using one color only. It is about layering your shades of the same color of eye shadow and blending to create the gradation of color from darker to lighter. Let's keep it as simple as possible and use just two brushes, two colors of eye shadow and two types of eyeliner, plus mascara to create our look.

Starting with a light to medium shade of grey eye shadow and medium size brush, apply this color to the entire eyelid area, blending slightly into the crease. Don't go any higher than this or you are risking a look of the 80s that is no longer appropriate. You can use a hint of this same color underneath your lower lashes. Blend softly from the outside of the lower eye to the inside.

Next, take a dark grey or black kohl eye liner and blend the color in between your top eyelashes, creating a thick and full lashline and providing more intensity. If your eyes are not sensitive, you can use this same liner on your lower lashes, gently lining the inside rim. Use a cotton swab to blend the liner on the top lashes so that there are no visible start or stop points.

You can now continue with your darker shade of grey eye shadow and your second brush. Starting from your lashline, gently pat this color onto the lids applying most of the color right over top of the liner you just applied and blending it up onto the lid. Do not bring this color into the crease. Use the first brush with the lighter color on it to blend the darker color on the lid and the lighter color on the crease together.

You should notice that the color on your lids is darkest near your lashes and gradually gets lighter as you move up onto the eyelid. The color should be blended so that it fades away, leaving no visible line and a nicely highlit brow bone.

Since you've just applied kohl liner that you've essentially covered, you will want to go back and apply a liquid liner to really polish off your look. It is easiest to start by applying the color to the inside half of your eyelid and dragging it out towards the edge. A slight turn at the end will help to lift the eyes. Once you've done this and have less

color left on the brush or applicator, you can gently fill in a thin line on the inside half of the eye.

When you apply the liquid liner, it helps to look in the mirror and tilt your chin up so that it flattens the eyelid (rather than scrunching it closed and creating bumps), but you can still see what you are doing. This does take practice but cotton swabs are great for quick touch ups.

The last step to your sultry look is a generous double-dose of black mascara. Use an eyelash curler first to open your eyes and create a beautiful sweeping effect. Then apply one coat of a volumizing or thickening mascara to both the top and bottom lashes and a second coat to the top lashes only.

Try this look with any two shades of your favourite color and wink your way into the hearts of those around you for the rest of the day!!