

TEST DRIVE

Seeking a flawless finish

Our testers dab on the latest foundations and powders designed to make your skin glow

CANWEST NEWS SERVICE

Eveline Charles Foundation in Ecru, 15 mL

Price: \$35
Any good? Yes.
Describe it: The best foundation is one that evens out skin tone, but avoids giving you a mask-like appearance. This medium- to full-coverage liquid makeup is one of the better I have tried. Eveline Charles advises that with its new oil- and fragrance-free foundation, you need put it only where it's



needed for a more natural look. Formulated with vitamin E, the foundation is available in six shades.

Would you buy it? Yes.
Marks out of 10: 8
Available at: Eveline Charles Salons and Spas, www.evelinecharles.com.

Estee Lauder Re-nutriv Intensive Comfort Pressed Powder

Price: \$75
Any good? Yes.
Describe it: This Estee Lauder powder is exclusive to Holt Renfrew. It comes in four shades and is encased in a glamorous silver and gold compact. It applies evenly and blends well for a seamless finish. It has a non-drying formula which helps skin retain more moisture.

Would you buy it? Yes, it gives a very nice finish to my makeup.
Marks out of 10: 8
Available at: Holt Renfrew.

La Roche-Posay Toleraine Teint Corrective Foundation in Ivory, 30 mL

Price: \$29
Any good? Yes, it delivers.
Describe it: An oil-free, fragrance-free, corrective cream foundation that is made for ultra-sensitive skin. It was tested on post-laser, atopic and skin prone to imperfections. It conceals imperfections and covers redness well, but it's important to match the colour with your skin tone for the best results.

Would you buy it? Yes.
Marks out of 10: 8
Available at: select drug stores.



Yves Saint Laurent Poudre Eclat et Matite gives a lovely matte finish.

Yves Saint Laurent Poudre Eclat et Matite (Compact powder)

Price: \$58
Any good? Very nice.
Describe it: I prefer powders to foundation and this one works well; it is light, yet gives good coverage and provides a lovely, matte finish that lasts well. My only quibble is that the puff applicator does not fit inside the compact; instead you have to slide both into a small suede pouch, which I found unnecessarily fiddly.

Would you buy it? Yes.
Marks out of 10: 9
Available at: Holt Renfrew.

Anna Sui Moisturizing Powder Foundation and Case in Light Beige, 2 g

Price: Refill, \$28; case, \$14
Any good? The best foundation I have tried in a while.
Describe it: This silicon-coated powder foundation can be applied wet, using the sponge that comes with the case, or dry. When wet, the foundation gave good coverage, yet was light with a pleasant smell of roses. Dry, it was good for touchups and to finish the look off. The case, which allows the wet sponge its own compartment plus a mirror and its cover and is moulded to look like a flower, is a funky addition to any handbag.

Would you buy it? Yes.
Marks out of 10: 10
Available at: Sears.

Lise Watier Matifying Mousse Foundation, 30 mL

Price: \$32
Any good? Yes.
Describe it: Featherlight, this foundation allows your skin to look very natural without the chalkiness associated with some matte formulas. Breathable cotton is spun into the formula to create a veil of softness leaving the skin velvety and matte. It feels completely weightless and perfectly matches the complexion. It's oil free, easily blendable and doesn't settle into wrinkles or fine lines. Blissfully, beautiful perfection is achieved!

Would you buy it? Yes.
Marks out of 10: 9
Available at: Select drug stores.



Lancome Magique Matte Perfecting Mousse gives impeccable results.

Lancome Magique Matte Perfecting Mousse Makeup, 20 g

Price: \$39
Any good? It's great.
Describe it: I love the fluffy, powdery texture of this wonderful foundation. It's incredibly light and camouflages imperfections by smoothing out the surface of the skin. Powders absorb oil and shine, perfect for the warmer months. It blends effortlessly with fingers or a foundation brush and provides a soft-matte finish. Your skin will feel naked, but look impeccable.

Would you buy it? Yes, definitely.
Marks out of 10: 10
Available at: The Bay, Sears and select drug stores.

Clinique Perfectly Real Compact Makeup

Price: \$30
Any good? Yes. This powder absorbed oil and immediately mattified my complexion. However, it didn't keep oil at bay for very long. I had to reapply it several times during the day.

Describe it: An oil-free moderate-to-full coverage powdered makeup that comes in 20 shades, from very fair to dark.
Would you buy it? I wouldn't rush out to the store to buy this product, but I would definitely consider it.
Marks out of 10: 7
Available at: Holt Renfrew, Sears and the Bay.

COSMETICS

All that glitters

Light up your holiday with face and body products

KIM HEINRICH GRAY
FOR THE CALGARY HERALD

Calgary glitter girl Jodie Urchyshyn — an attractive, Nordic-looking blond whose eyelids are heavy with shiny silver sparkles — stands tall behind the counter of her modest-sized business. She wears a winter white angora turtle neck and a rhinestone belt buckle that features the name of her company, Lit Cosmetics.

If you peer behind Urchyshyn, you will see walls lined with shelves upon shelves of bottled body glitter featuring 250 varieties that the Drayton Valley-born business-woman has named herself — colours such as Ka Boom (neon yellow), Ka Bang (neon orange) and Kissy Face.

“How would I describe Kissy Face? If all your aunts saw you at a family reunion, this would be the colour that their lipsticks mixed together and smudged on your cheeks would make,” says the 38-year-old entrepreneur, who supplies what she calls

“intense eye and body glitter” to 70 stores throughout Canada, the U.S. and Europe. “My favourite is Marilyn Monroe. A silver that goes with everything. It looks like jewelry on your eyes.”

As one potential client remarks, to walk downstairs to the lower level of Kensington's Kismet clothing store (Lit's location) is to enter a scene from a Harry Potter novel.

Not only does Urchyshyn herself look like a storybook character, but throw in the twirling disco ball which hangs from the ceiling above her as well as the satellite disco music thumping in the background, and it's all, well, a little over the top. But this, of course, is entirely the point.



Dean Bicknell, Calgary Herald

Jodie Urchyshyn says glitter can be sophisticated and sexy. “Sure, you can wear it to a rave, but you can also wear it to an office job.”

“You can't be a shy person and wear my product,” says Urchyshyn, explaining that people wear the non-toxic glitter on their eyes, over their lipstick, as full-face masks or as tattoos. What's more, her company's name, Lit, is what she likes to call an acronym for “Lightning Into Thunder.”

Still, the woman whose personal mantra has become “no glitter, no glory” insists that this style of makeup remains underestimated.

“Today, when people think of body or face glitter they think adolescence and youth. Older women see my product and they lament that their ‘glitter days are gone.’ I'm here to say glitter can be sophisticated and sexy. Sure, you can wear it to a rave, but you can also wear it to an office job or a cocktail party.”

The feisty entrepreneur, who started to grow her business six years ago and who chose the name Lit because she wanted to see her clients “all lit up,” says she doesn't rule out men as potential customers.

“What's hotter than a guy who

wears glitter?” she muses. “He's obviously got good self-confidence.”

Longtime fan Robyn Hauck, 31, says she likes to wear the glitter eyeliner to work on casual Fridays. “It's just a way to express myself. I've always worn sparkles and fur, but in a classy way, without going overboard,” says Hauck, whose mother, 58, and sister also enjoy the product.

“When people wear glitter, they shouldn't be wearing a lot of other stuff along with it. Glitter can be used instead of jewelry. It's literally like an accessory.”

Back at her Kensington location, Urchyshyn says a dream of hers is to see her product on Cher or Oprah.

“I have glitters named after them. Cher is a kind of rainbow silver and Oprah is a pinky copper,” she says, before adding: “What can I say? 'Tis the season. I'm inviting people to come see me and ‘Bling in the New Year.’”

■ Lit Cosmetics, where glitter colours sell individually for \$7.95, is located downstairs at Kismet clothing store, 118 10th St. N.W.

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