

THE ART OF CLOWNING



CLOWNING MAKE-UP AND TECHNIQUES

FACE PREPARATION

- Fasten your hair back before you begin to make up.
- Shave at least 45 minutes before making up. Some brands of aftershave will react with grease paint and will appear to curdle.
- Prepare your face and other areas to be made up by cleaning well with soap and water.
- Some prefer to apply a coat of cold cream or baby oil, letting it soak in a few minutes and wiping off the excess. Others prefer to work on the bare skin. Try both methods and see which you prefer.
- If you wear contact lenses, put them in before you begin to make up.

DESIGNING YOUR FACE

- Study pictures of clown faces for ideas. **DO NOT COPY ANOTHER CLOWN'S FACE.**
- Decide what type of clown you want to be. Face design and costume design go hand in hand. You would not put a tramp face with a bright, colorful costume.
- Study your face. Take the natural lines of your face into consideration, make faces at yourself in a mirror to see what expressions and character lines you can emphasize.
- If you plan to wear glasses when you clown, include them in your design. They should be a part of your face and not cover up eye features.
- Draw the basic design of your face on several pieces of paper, (oval, round, square). Experiment drawing in different designs on the paper, fill in the colors and compare them for what you like and dislike.
- Stay away from elaborate designs. The more intricate your face, the longer it will take you to put it on and the harder it will be to duplicate it.
- Simple, clean lines are more pleasant to look at.
- Rounded lines in facial design may also be preferable to sharp, angular designs, which tend to be harsh and frightening.
- Do not overuse color. If you are going to use colors other than red, black and white, (and flesh on Auguste and Tramp) limit yourself to one other color in small areas. Exaggerated use of color becomes scary, especially to children.
- Once you have an idea of what you want your face to be like, take a black grease pencil (china marker or eyebrow pencil) and draw in outlines on your face. Don't color them in yet. Experiment until you get the result you like. Erase mistakes with makeup remover or baby magic and tissue.
- Continue to experiment until you find the face that is right for you. Your design will probably evolve as you gain experience. Avoid making drastic changes in your face once you've begun to clown. Your face is your trademark and you'll want to establish a recognizable identity.

Equipment and supplies

Hair covering to keep hair out of face

Self standing mirror

Baby oil, cold cream or makeup remover

Tissue and paper towels

Baby powder or talcum powder

Shaving brush or other soft brush (such as blusher brush)

Large powder puff or powder sock

Spray bottle for water

Q-tips and/or brushes

Clown white

Flesh or tan colored grease paint (Auguste and Tramp)
Color grease paint in tubes, sticks or tins
Black grease paint (Tramp)
Grease pencils, china markers or eyebrow pencils
Eyelashes, glitter, artificial nose (optional)
Spirit gum to attach eyelashes, etc. (optional)
Spirit gum remover

COLORING A BEARD

Developed by Erick Persson "Cheezo", who has a green beard.

Color beard before applying other makeup.

Preparation: Wet the beard.

Put artists powder paint (water color only) in a small bowl.

Application: Wet fingers, dip into bowl. Dab onto beard and run in.

Repeat till beard is covered. Blot with paper towel. Clean around beard and Moustache by wiping with wet paper towel. Any paint remaining on face will color clown white.

Drying may be hastened with a hair dryer.

TYPES OF MAKEUP

Grease Paint – comes in pots or tins, tubes and sticks.

Tube grease paint is the softest and easiest to apply with brushes, Q-tips or fingers. It is the easiest to work with if your skin is rough or wrinkled. It can be used as a base coat or as lining and feature colors.

Pot or tin grease paint is of a thicker consistency than tube, and is generally used as a base coat. It should be worked in the palm of the hand and then transferred to the face with fingers. It can crack if applied too thickly.

Stick grease paint is the thickest consistency and the hardest to work with. All other types of grease paint are easier to work with and in nearly all cases will do a better job.

Water soluble makeup – comes in pancake or liquid. Water soluble makeup is applied with a sponge or brush, and is easily removed with soap and water. It should be allowed to dry completely and then be powdered to set just like grease paint.

You can use a combination of water soluble and grease paint if the water soluble is used as a base coat, but you cannot apply water soluble over grease paint.

Some colors are available in pancake type makeup which you apply with a sponge. Other colors are available in liquid, which must be applied with a brush. Liquid makeup must be shaken before use and can be thickened by pouring a little of the clear liquid off the top before bottle is shaken. Liquid makeup tends to bleed onto the white base and also has a tendency to crack after a few hours.

Water soluble makeup does not work well on rough or wrinkled skin.

MAKEUP APPLICATION

There are many ways of applying makeup. You will need to try various methods and then decide which is best for you.

Wet—vs.—dry application:

Dry method – each color is powdered as it is applied. This method tends to set colors better and may be better for very long periods of time. The biggest problem with this method is that it is almost impossible to correct mistakes as you makeup.

Wet method – All makeup is applied is applied then powdered all at once. It is easier to make changes or correct mistakes. Application takes less time.

Color over base – vs. – removing base to apply color:

This will be a matter of personal preference. Some sources insist that the base coat must be removed from areas that are to be another color, such as the mouth and around eyes. Others recommend that you apply one color directly over the other. One good reason for this is that colors such as red don't soak into the skin as much as when applied after removing the base coat.

How to powder your makeup:

Makeup must be powdered to keep it from looking greasy and also to set it so that it will last longer.

Use only baby powder or white talcum powder. Do not use any powder that has any color to it as it will discolor your makeup.

Use a large powder puff or a powder sock. Make a powder sock by using a white cotton sock ¼ to ½ full of powder. Tie opened end in a knot. Keep sock in tightly closed container.

Tilt head back. Hold powder puff 6-8" above face and shake puff letting powder drift down onto your face. When you have a light coating, hit yourself lightly in the face with puff to completely cover your makeup. Look for any shiny, wet spots and powder them. Brush off excess powder with soft brush. Again, check for wet spots and repowder if necessary. Spray or splash cold water on face (this will set your makeup and brighten colors). Pat, do not rub, dry with paper towel.

It's a good idea to hold your breath while powdering to avoid inhaling the powder.

Applying the three types of makeup: (general directions)

WHITEFACE

1. Fasten back hair and prepare face.
2. Put clown white in the palm of your hand and soften it by rubbing both hands together.
3. Apply with fingers to face, neck and ears (If not covered by hair).
4. Pat and slap, using your fingers, to get a smooth look. Remove makeup from hands.
5. If using dry method, powder.
6. With grease pencil, draw outlines for mouth, eyes, etc. lightly on face.
7. If you are going to remove base color, do it now in the outlined areas, using a little baby oil or makeup remover.
8. Fill in features with desired colors.
9. Outline features with grease pencil.
10. Powder, remove excess powder with brush and spray with water. Pat dry.
11. Optional: Add artificial nose, small pom-pom, etc. with spirit gum. (You will have to remove makeup from area where spirit gum will be put.) Apply false eyelashes, glitter. You may want to put your costume on before applying nose or eyelashes.

AUGUSTE

1. Fasten back hair and prepare face.
2. Draw outline for mouth, etc. with grease pencil.
3. Apply clown white around eyes and mouth. (See Whiteface)
4. If using dry method, powder.
5. Apply flesh or tan-tone to all other areas of face, neck and ears.
6. Fill in features with desired color. (See *)
7. Feather the flesh color and clown white together under eyes. With the side of your index finger, lightly blend the flesh and white so there is not definite line between the two colors. (Feather only under eyes).
8. Outline features with grease pencil and add any other details.
9. Powder, remove excess powder with brush and spray with water. Pat dry.
10. See step 11 on Whiteface.

TRAMP

1. Fasten hair back and prepare face.
2. Apply clown white around eyes and mouth area. (See Whiteface).
3. If using dry method, powder.
4. Apply flesh or tan-tone to all other areas, above and below beard line, including neck and ears.
5. If using dry method, powder.
6. Mix a tiny portion of black with a larger portion of clown white in the palm of your hand. This will make gray. A gray beard is usually more desirable than a black one.
7. Apply the gray on the portion of the face that would normally have a beard, down the neck only to just above the collar line, not under the shirt. Apply gray with fingers except for around mouth and other fine areas. Use a small brush for these areas. Pat smooth.
8. Feather the area below the eyes. (See August)
9. Apply nose, if painted on, and other features.
10. Powder, remove excess with brush and spray with water. Pat dry.
11. Add artificial nose. (See 11. – Whiteface)
12. You may want to touch a tiny bit of red on one finger and wipe it into the flesh color along the top of the beard. Use only a tiny amount. This should be done after final powdering.

* Note from #8 Whiteface and #6 from Auguste.

When putting red on for mouth, do not cover lips. (Top lip should be white). Wet a Q-tip slightly and roll between fingers to tighten cotton. Smooth out red with Q-tip, then using the make-up on the Q-tip, cover the lower lip. This way, you won't have too much make-up on your lips that will transfer to balloons and then to your fingers.

Removing makeup:

Use makeup remover, baby oil, or cold cream. Rub remover all over face. Rub it in well. (It will look awful). Wipe off with tissues or paper towels. Repeat. Wash face with soap and water. You may want to use a "no tears" baby shampoo around your eyes. If there is still a residue of makeup on your face, a little shampoo may remove it. Rinse well.

Be sure to get all makeup completely out of your eyes. Use a Q-tip in corners and near eyelashes. Makeup left around eyes could cause eye infection. Use a moisturizer after all makeup is removed.

Clean your brushes after each use by gently wiping them with tissue. After several uses, wash well in soap and water.

BALLOONS

WHERE TO GET THEM:

Magic shops, novelty stores, costumes shops, advertisers in clown publication. Avoid balloons from grocery or discount stores and imported balloons from anywhere. They are very poor quality and are usually more expensive.

TYPES OF BALLOONS:

The number code of the balloon tells you what size it is. For example: #260 is a 2" diameter, 60" balloon when fully inflated. The first number is the diameter, the second two, the length. The letter following the numbers is the grade or color, depending on type of balloon. For example, a #260E is an entertainer grade balloon, while a 260EB is entertainer grade, all black balloons.

#245 Good medium grade, less breakage than 260A. Good for small animals and bee wings.

#260A Beginner grade, commonly used for one balloon animals.

#260E Entertainer grade capable on many twists with small percentage of breakage. Harder to blow up than 260A.

#260EW All white, hardest balloon to blow up.

#260EB All black, 1 worst balloon. Very high breakage rate.

#260W Whirly balloon or spinner. Curl up as they are inflated. Good for swans, hats. (Also 260S or 260 SW).

#260M Multi color. (Each balloon is multicolor).

#A200 Apples. Use for candy apples or faces. Come all red or assorted red, yellow & green.

#312 For imprinting, easy to blow.

#315 For imprinting, easy to blow.

#321 Bee body.

#338 For imprinting, easy to blow.

#344E For imprinting, easy to blow.

#9 Round

#4 Small, fruit, pears, oranges, etc.

All balloons come in assorted colors unless otherwise indicated.

CARE OF BALLOONS:

Store in airtight cans or jars or sealed plastic bags. Add a very small amount of baby powder to the container and shake it to distribute. This will help to prevent balloons from sticking together and will also cut down on screening noises when working with them. (A little powder goes a long way.) Keep balloons from extreme temperatures. Do not leave them in a hot/cold car. If you buy balloons in a box, remove them and store in airtight containers. Don't overstock balloons. They will deteriorate after a while.

TIPS ON BLOWING BALLOONS:

Make sure hands or nails do not have rough places. Remove sharp things.

Stretch the balloon with the other hand as you begin to blow it up. Don't blow too fast. Blow from your lungs and diaphragm, not from your head. Blowing from your head will make you dizzy.

Leave part of balloon uninflated, how much depends on what kind of animal you're making.

Release a little air, then tie a knot. (Snap the knot, rather than pulling it tight.) Twist by squeezing balloon together with thumb and forefinger of one hand, and twisting with the other hand.

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