

Applying a Foam Prosthetic

Before you start any prosthetic application there are a few things that you need to be aware of. Please read the following information very carefully.

All prosthetic appliances require the use of strong professional grade adhesives. These adhesives are designed to adhere the prosthetic securely to the skin. They do require the use of special adhesive removers. Pulling off a prosthetic without the use of these removers can cause serious injury to the skin, often removing several layers with the appliance.

The most common glues used are: Pros-aide, Telesis and Beta bond. You can use Spirit Gum, but it has a tendency to go hard, crystalize and it can reduce the comfort and movement. Also it can cause irritation to the skin if the skin is a little sensitive.

Super Solve adhesive remover will remove all the above adhesives. There are other removers you can use that may be a little more mild on the skin (although they tend to take much longer), for availability please contact us.

This guide is designed to teach prosthetics on a tight budget. There are many other products out there that can increase the quality of application, as well as many other colors. Here we are only using only 4 colors of Rubber Mask Grease. Usually you would use many more, but if price is an issue, 4 is about the minimum you can get away with.

Also please be aware that prosthetics can look very dead and cold on the face if not warmed up with a warm undertone. Toxic Image Studios produce all our prosthetics pre-warmed to help streamline the application process. If you are using other brands of prosthetics you may need to put a warm tone over the appliance first before you begin adding your flesh tones. This simulates the blood and muscles under the skin and will give you a much more realistic looking skin tone.

Here is a complete list of items you will need for the application guide below:

- Prosthetic (sometimes called an appliance or piece)
- Prosthetic Adhesive (Pros-aide is used below)
- Foam latex Wedges
- Q-tips
- Baby Powder (Translucent Make-Up Powder is better, but baby powder works fine)
- Powder Puff (at a pinch you can use a clean foam wedge if you don't have one)
- Alcohol (99% Isopropyl is best but you can use 91% if needs be)
- Paper Towel
- Powder Brush
- Glue Brush (You can use a Q-tip or Foam Wedge, but they do not work as well)
- Rubber Mask Grease (often called RMG or Appliance Foundations- made with a castor oil base so they do not break down the latex)
- Orange Stipple Sponge
- Various small brushes for detail work (optional- you can use Q-tips and your fingers if you need to)

- Due to Hygeine reasons I have scraped
- Water Based Lubricant (such as K-Y or a cheap generic equivilant)- water will work, but not nearly as well.
- Hairdryer

Due to Hygeine reasons I have scraped a little RMG onto a seperate palette and will work from that. If you are just doing this for yourself you can work straight out of the make-up container. Bear in mind though that if others will be sharing the same make-up that you should scrape out the product you need to avoid contaminating the tub.

Place all your materials out in an orderly and easy to reach manner. Please refer to complete list of materials above.

It is important that the work area be clean and free from any passing people as you do not want to be bumped and accidentally poke your or your friend's eye out etc.



If you are working on someone else be sure that they are sitting at a comfortable height so that you do not strain your back leaning over.

If the subject is wearing a costume or good clothes then you may wish to put a towel around their shoulders so as to not accidentally drip or spill anything on their clothes.

If you will be wearing any contact lenses it is advised to put them in before commencing, as you do not want to ruin your hard work by having tears or saline solution running over your make-up.



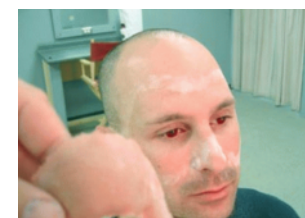
Place the appliance in the desired position.

Do not use any glue at this point, we are just wanting to get an idea of fit and placement options.

With a powder puff, place powder all around the edge of the prosthetic. You want the powder to be quite obvious, but do not go overboard as it can turn to sludge once it mixes with glue.

Remove the appliance and you have now made an outline of where the prosthetic will go.

This will help you to get the placement right once you begin gluing the piece down.



When you get more experienced and confident you will be able to skip this step and go straight to the glue, but to start out it is a good exercise to go through.

At the center of the area, place a small patch of glue. Do not go to the edge, only in the center.



Reposition the appliance and press down where the glue was applied. This will anchor the prosthetic in place and give you a central place to fan the glue outwards from.



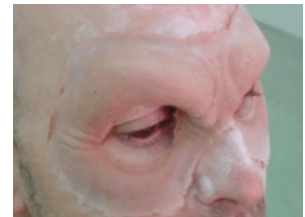
Pullback part of the appliance until you feel it resist slightly where the glue was applied. Do NOT pull too hard as it could cause injury to the skin. You just want to determine where the glue was applied so that you do not have areas under the prosthetic that are not glued down.



From this point, apply more glue in an outwards fashion and press down the prosthetic where you just glued.

Repeat this step until the entire appliance has been glued down with the exception of about a half inch around the edges.

It is very common at this point for the edges to curl forward a little. This is good, as it gives you easier access to the area underneath.



Run glue under the edges all around the piece. You may need to lift it up with your fingers.

Be very careful not to fold the edge underneath as it will make it difficult to blend them in later.

Carefully press the edges down into the glue as you go.

With your glue brush run glue around the edge of the prosthetic in either an outwards or sideways motion. Do not apply it inwards as it will roll your edge over.



With a Q-tip dipped in alcohol, roll around your edge. This is the time to fix any messed up edges as the alcohol will loosen the appliance away from the skin and allow you to reposition it correctly.



Be careful when applying alcohol to skin as it can dry the skin out. Only apply as much as needed and always keep it well away from the eyes.

Using a latex sponge stipple glue over the entire prosthetic. This will seal the foam and prevent the oil from the make-up soaking into it.

Dry it with a hair dryer prior to the next step.

Always stipple or dab the glue / make-up when working with prosthetics as smearing or wiping will ruin the texture of the appliance and give you streak marks in your make-up that will not look realistic as skin does not have those type of patterns in it.

It is also important for you to have your subject close their eyes and tell them not to open them until you ask them as you may accidentally glue their eyes open.

You can at this point powder the piece if you wish to remove the stickiness. It is entirely a personal preference. It will however cool the piece down considerably as you are putting a white film across your warm undertone.

Using an orange stipple sponge begin stippling your lightest color on (I usually use a pinkish tone, depending on what colors are inherent in the skin). Take it out slightly past the edge of the appliance to help blend the appliance with the skin and hide where the edge is.

You want to gradually blend it around the edge by pressing more lightly. The stipple sponge will leave a nice texture that will end up looking like skin tone.

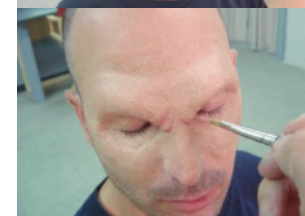
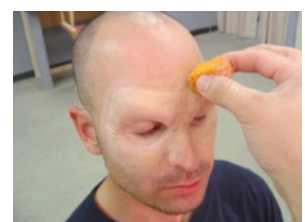
Begin applying your second skin tone. I like this to be an olive based tone, again always refer to the natural colors in the skin as to placement and intensity. This will become easier the more you do it. It will help to study your subject's face before starting to see where the areas of color shift are as skin is not usually evenly toned.

Now apply the third tone. In this case it was a darker tone in a brown shade to try and tie the skin tone all together.

I took it up off the piece onto the skin a fair way to try and give some continuity to the tone.

With a warmer tone you can add a few detail touches to any creases and wrinkles to bring them out a bit.

You will want to stipple a little more skin tones over them though to break the lines up a little after you do them.



You can, if you wish, stipple a variety of spots on the forehead for texture and to try and blend the appliance colors into the rest of the face a bit. I used all the colors except the warm tone.



Add in a few subtle highlights for accent purposes, here they were on the brow and under the eyes a little.



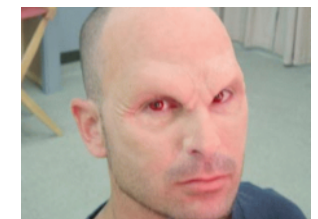
Using your fingers (please make sure they are still clean!) blend any hard lines, spots or patterns to make them look alot more soft.



Powder the make-up down well to set it. Be sure your model does not open their eyes until the powder is dusted away.



The make-up is almost complete, although it looks very powdery and flat. The powder also leaves a white residue over the make-up, cooling down all the colors.

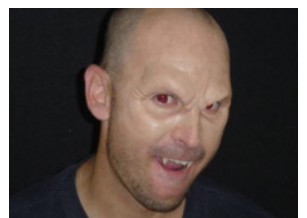


Using a foam wedge apply a small amount of water based lubricant to the prosthetic. This will reactivate the color and give the skin a natural mild sheen.



In the interest of courtesy, please buy a new tube for this and not any that you found in your drawer.

The addition of some fang caps and the application is complete.



Please read the section on removal before attempting to remove the prosthetic.

This walkthrough was provided by Toxic Image Make-Up Studios. For more information about make-up courses or our services please visit www.toxicimage.com.