



Module 4: Other Uses for Contouring and Highlighting

- Techniques you can use, to reshape your nose;
- How to highlight, if you wish to hide wrinkles;
- Contouring, to make your face slimmer;
- Using contouring to vary the shape of your eyes;

Summary/What you will Learn

- Techniques you can use, to reshape your nose;
- How to highlight, if you wish to hide wrinkles;
- Contouring, to make your face slimmer;
- Using contouring to vary the shape of your eyes;
- Contouring for lips.

4.1 Introduction



Contouring and highlighting are great techniques to use, if you wish to sculpt your face or add definition.

You can also use the same contouring techniques, to achieve numerous other looks. Many people use a combination of contouring and highlighting, to hide perceived flaws or to accentuate other areas of the face.

Once you master the basics, you can then apply the same technique, to achieve other looks.

Throughout history, people have used makeup, to hide flaws or to highlight positives. When you opt for contouring and highlighting, you can get the best of both worlds. This makes it the perfect technique to use, if you wish to make certain areas of your face slimmer and narrower or if you wish to highlight other areas.

This module talks you through a few different ways to use contouring and highlighting. We start by discussing how you can use it to reshape a person's nose. Next, we discuss using highlighter, to hide wrinkles and make the face appear brighter and more youthful. We also discuss ways in which to use contouring, to slim the entire face. Finally, we cover contouring, as it relates to eye and lip coverage.

Fact



Famous makeup artist, Ben Nye, created a line of stage makeup that is commonly used in contouring today.

Source: Glamour UK

4.2 Contouring to Reshape the Nose



Contouring can be used to reshape the nose in a pretty impressive way.

With the use of a few products, you can make the nose seem slimmer and narrower. For many people who are self-conscious about their appearance, this is a great way to regain some confidence. It is also a great way to slightly change your look or make it more dramatic, for a night out.

Products to Use

Contouring the nose requires the use of a few specialised products.

These products include:

- **Concealer.** You should choose a concealer that is two shades lighter than your natural skin tone for this purpose. Try to find one that has a bit of illumination or highlighter to it. Make sure that you do not use one that shimmers or shines, as this can detract from the natural effect that your contour should have. This look also requires the use of a concealer that is one shade darker than your skin. Ideally, both of these products should be cream or liquid-based.
- **Contour Palette or Eye Shadow.** When setting the contour on your nose, a powder-based product is best. It gives you a bit more control, without settling into the creases of your nose and leaving it cracked and dry. These powders serve to set the creams applied in the early steps, ensuring that your contour lasts. You need a powder that is the same shade as your highlight and one that matches your contour.

4.3 How to get this Look - Contouring to Reshape the Nose



Contouring your nose uses the same principles as contouring the rest of your face, although in a more concentrated way.

The perfect technique depends entirely on the parts of your nose that you wish to cover. It does take a bit of practice to get it right every time you try, but, once you master the technique, it becomes much easier.

Step One: Pick a Concealer

The first step is to thin out your nose, using concealer. While you typically use a concealer that is only one shade lighter than your skin, when contouring your nose, you need to pick a product that is two shades lighter. This helps to minimise its appearance, while also ensuring that it blends in well with the rest of your makeup. Test the colour that you have selected against the rest of your face, to make sure that it still blends in naturally.

Step Two: Thin the Nose

Using a brush that you can easily manipulate, apply two thin lines of concealer to the sides of your nose. They should run up your nostrils and meet along the bridge. Next, apply the same concealer directly down the centre of your bridge. People trying to shorten their noses, as well as make them appear thinner, should stop the concealer about half an inch before the end of the nose. If you are happy with the length of your nose, you can apply the concealer right down to the tip of the nose.

Step Three: Add your Contour

Apply two thin lines of your contour concealer along the side of the bridge of your nose, taking care to avoid your lighter concealed areas. The concealer that you use for the contour should only be one shade darker than your skin. If you are aiming for a more natural look, you can choose one that is the same as your skin tone, but this does minimise the overall effect. A darker concealer helps to give the nose the desired shape. In some cases, you may need to go onto the bridge of the nose, in order to get the desired definition.

Step Four: Blend

Use a dry beauty blender or makeup sponge, to blend everything together. Start with the lighter parts of your face, and then move on to the darker areas.

Take your time with this step, as a natural-looking final look depends on your ability to blend.

If you are contouring your own nose, you may wish to stop and take a few pictures with your mobile phone, to ensure that everything is as smooth as possible.

Step Five: Set the Darker Areas

Using a powder-based concealer or eyeshadow, set the areas of your face that you contoured. Make sure that you apply it in light layers, to avoid over-saturation. A dry makeup sponge or soft, round brush is perfect for this step.

Step Six: Set the Lighter Areas

Use a powder-based product that is two shades lighter than your skin, to set the lighter concealer. Make sure that you brush this powder across your nose, when you have finished, to lighten up the whole look. Once you have finished, take a step back from your client or the mirror, to make sure that everything is blended in well.

Activity 1: Matching Concealers

Estimated time: 10 to 15 minutes

The next time you are buying makeup, focus on finding concealers that you can use to contour the nose. You want to make sure that you pick two concealers and two setting powders that complement one another, as well as complementing your foundation and skin tone. Experiment with a few different types of your favourite brands, until you find the perfect set for your skin.

4.4 Highlighting, to Hide Wrinkles



Wrinkles and fine lines can happen to anyone, regardless of age.

Even if they are not very visible to others, they can still make a person feel self-conscious. Well-placed highlighter reflects the light, taking attention away from the imperfections. Learning how to use highlighter, in order to minimise their appearance, can restore confidence, while also brightening your look.

Products to Use

As you are not contouring at all, you only need a few products, in order to achieve this look. When shopping for any makeup products, to help with the coverage of fine lines and wrinkles, look for hydrating and moisture-rich items. Powders can easily fall into the lines of your face, causing creases. Keeping your skin hydrated is the best way in which to prevent that from happening.

Products include:

- **Lightweight Foundation.** While you can apply the highlighter to bare skin, it works best, if you use a base. A lightweight foundation is a great choice because it also helps minimise pores, lines and wrinkles, without sitting too heavily on the face.
- **Highlighter.** You should look for a highlighter that is one shade lighter than your natural skin tone. Make sure that it is matt and does not have any sparkles or too much shimmer to it. While those are fine for other types of highlighting, they can draw unnecessary attention to the very areas that you are trying to minimise.

4.5 How to Achieve this Look - Highlighting, to Hide Wrinkles



Learning how to highlight your face is much easier than learning how to contour.

However, there is still a bit of a learning curve to applying this technique to reduce the appearance of wrinkles.

It is important to purchase high-quality products and to practise regularly.

Step One: Apply Foundation

Start by applying your lightweight foundation to the entire face, taking care to blend it in well with the hairline and jawline. While you can use a cream or a powder, cream-based foundations help make this look last a bit longer.

Step Two: Highlight

Use a highlighter that is two shades lighter than your skin but does not have any sparkle or shimmer to it. Apply it alongside your nose, downwards, to the side of your mouth. Next, apply it to your cheekbones and in between your brows. Complete this step by applying your highlighter to any

crevices in your nose and chin. Dot a bit above your lip line, if you also wish to have fuller lips.

Step Three: Blend

Using a dry makeup sponge or a beauty blender, blend the highlight into your skin. If you want the look to be natural, you need to take your time with this step and blend really well. Every so often, take a step back from your client or the mirror, to make sure that you are softening the highlighted lines.

Fact



worldwide makeup sales in 2016.

Source: NPD Group

Highlighters accounted for 44% of the gains in

4.6 Contouring, to Make the Face Thinner



and sculpted.

Contouring is primarily used to make the face look more defined

It tends to focus on emphasising bone structure and angles. However, it can also be used to make the face appear thinner than it actually is. This is a great technique to learn, if you style pregnant

women for photo shoots, as it can inspire a lot of confidence.

Products to Use

When you are contouring, to slim your face, you can use the same products that you use to sculpt it. In fact, it is best to start with products with which you are already familiar, when trying to use contouring, in order to achieve new looks. Thus, the only learning curve with which you have to deal is the specific areas on your face on which you apply the makeup, not trying to find shades that work well with your face and with each other.

The only product that is used in this look that most people do not use when they contour is blusher. If you use blusher on a regular basis, it is best to use your normal shade, as this lends itself to the naturalness of the look.

Those who do not wear blusher can either skip this step or purchase a product that is close to their natural skin tone. The goal of the blusher is to further highlight the cheekbones, which has a slimming effect.

Some makeup artists suggest using a contouring product that is two shades darker than your natural skin tone. The highlighter that they suggest is two shades lighter than your natural skin tone. This is because the dramatic contrast can have a slimming effect, if the technique is done correctly.

It is best to start with the shades and products that you know, eventually experimenting with those that are different, once you have mastered the technique and application areas.

For this contour, you may also wish to experiment with using bronzer, as opposed to concealer or foundation. Matt bronzers tend to attract less attention and can be blended in a bit more easily than other creams. Bronzer is also slightly more suitable for daytime looks, as it produces a slightly less dramatic look than concealers.

4.7 How to Achieve this Look - Contouring, to Make the Face Thinner



Contouring, to slim your face, is all about the placement of the contour and the placement of your highlights.

The products that you use do play a role, but the final look depends almost entirely on your skill at placing the highlights and the contouring shades.

Do not get discouraged, if you do not succeed upon your first few tries, as this is a skill that you can

easily perfect, with practice.

Step One: Prime your Face

Make sure that you are always applying a moisturiser and a primer, before you start any makeup routine. These products give your foundation, bronzers and highlights something to stick to, encouraging longer-lasting wear. They also reduce the risk of makeup clogging your pores, keeping your skin free from redness and irritation.

Step Two: Apply the Contouring Shade

Use an angled brush, to apply the contouring shade upwards along the hollows of your cheeks, as you do, when you are contouring normally. Sweep it up along the hairline, to start creating the desired face shape. Add a light layer of contour across the temples. Finally, apply some along the sides of your nose.

Step Three: Apply the Highlighting Shade

Next, apply your highlights. Basically, you want to apply highlighter to any part of your face where the light naturally hits. This typically means the centre of your forehead, the bridge of your nose, along the apples of your cheeks, your chin and your cupid's bow. Apply it as lightly as possible, going back and adding more, if required.

Step Four: Add some Blusher

If you do not like wearing blusher, you can skip this step. It is meant to further slim the face, by drawing attention to your sculpted cheekbones. Apply only a very light layer. Remind yourself that you do not actually want people to think that you are wearing blusher, so use as little as possible.

Step Five: Blend

Using a beauty blender or a makeup sponge, blend everything together. Start with the highlighted parts, blending them into the skin and taking care to remove any harsh lines. Next, blend those highlights into the contour shade. Spend as much time on this step as you need, in order to get everything blended in correctly.

Do not forget to blend along the jawline and down the neck, to prevent a 'mask' look.

Step back from the mirror or your client a few times, before you decide that this step is complete.

Step Six: Set your Face

If you used cream, in order to achieve this look, you need to set it with a translucent powder. Otherwise, you can simply use a setting spray, for long-lasting hold.

Activity 2: Practise, Practise, Practise

Estimated time: 10 to 15 minutes per day

Contouring, to achieve a slimming effect, is a bit tricky, as it involves slightly different contour placement. Some people get discouraged, after only a few tries, because they do not think that it is working.

Practise this look a few times, over a few days, rereading this section before and after each attempt. Take a before and after picture of yourself, so that you can see the difference that the makeup you applied makes.

Print out your photos, and mark on them where you think you need to contour or highlight differently next time, and use them as a guide.

4.8 Contouring Eye Shape



Contouring is not just for the face - you can also contour your eyes, to change their shape.

Even if you are perfectly happy with how your eyes look, contouring them, in order to make them wider or smaller, is a fun way in which to add a new element to your evening look. If you are a makeup artist, learning how to contour eyes is a great technique that will definitely impress your clients.

Products to Use

There are hundreds of ways in which you can contour the eyes, each of which relies on different products. Before you stock up on products, take the time to learn about a few different contouring methods, and look for the products that work well with the techniques that you wish to try. This guarantees that you are using the perfect eyeshadow for your desired look.

Contouring Round Eyes

People with wide, round eyes often use contouring, in order to make their eyes seem smaller and a bit narrower. Start by using darker shades of a matt shadow, to the centre of the eyes, brushing outwards, with a lighter shade, to highlight each inner corner. Using a dark-coloured eyeliner along the waterline also helps minimise the eyes.

Contouring Almond-shaped Eyes

Most people crave the almond-shaped eye look, so, if you are contouring this eye shape, you do not need to work hard.

In fact, instead of using makeup, to change the shape of the eye, you should be using makeup to emphasise its existing shape.

This is easy to do, if you start by using a matt brown or grey shade on the lids, with a darker colour in the inner creases. Using a small sponge or a clean brush, blend the shades together, so that there are no obvious lines. Finish with subtle eyeliner and some mascara, for an evening look.

Contouring Monolids

Some people love their monolids, while others are eager to experiment with makeup and see what other looks they can get. For those individuals, contouring is perfect. It involves blending together different shades of eyeshadow, in an attempt to get a gradient look on the lids.

You can do this by using a darker shade on and slightly above your lash line, switching to a more neutral one, when you get to the centre of the lid. A shimmer shadow under the eyebrows completes the look, making the eyes appear bigger.

Contouring Hooded Eyes

If your eyelid is completely covered when your eyes are open, it means you have hooded eyes. Contouring hooded eyes is tricky because, if you use too much product, the lids can look really heavy.

Start by using a matt brown shadow and gently patting it on. Do not sweep it on, as this can create an uneven look. Once you have patted on the brown shadow, highlight the brow bone and the inner corners of the eye with a lighter colour. Blend it all in, and finish the look with a light eyeliner along the waterline.

Contouring Small Eyes

Contouring small eyes involves making them look bigger, without relying on lots of product. It is important to use medium shades, as darker ones can make the eyes appear even smaller. Even heavy eyeliner and mascara can minimise their appearance.

When contouring smaller eyes, use varying shades of greys and browns. Apply the medium shade to the middle of the eyelid, and brush it outwards, parallel to the eyebrow. Use a lighter shade on the inner lid. You should also use a lighter shade up along the upper lid, right up to the brow bone. Finish the look with a light line of shadow, along the lower lash line, to open up the eyes.

Activity 3: Look at Eyeshadow Palettes

Estimated time: 10 to 15 minutes

Achieving the above eye contouring looks relies on you knowing what shades are best for your skin tone and adapting them to the contouring technique that you wish to try. For example, if you have

small eyes, you need to find a few shades of grey that work well with your eye colour and skin tone, if you want your contouring to look well-done.

Part of this is finding the perfect palettes for all skin types and needs. The next time you are in a shop that sells beauty products, spend about 10 to 15 minutes looking at eyeshadow palettes. Think about which ones could work for your skin tone, taking into consideration each of the above techniques. Repeat that exercise, by imagining which one you could buy for each of the above techniques, if you were completing your best friend's makeup.

4.9 Contouring your Lips



In much the same way that contouring techniques have been adapted to help contour eyes, they have also been used to change the shape of a person's lips.

Contouring your lips can be a bit harder than your eyes or your face. This is primarily because the area with which you have to work is much smaller. However, with practice, it can be done.

Products to Use

When you contour lips, the products used depend on the shape that you are looking to achieve, as well as your own skin tone.

The one product that is universal across all lip contouring techniques is lip balm, as it primes your lips, ensuring that the colour lasts as long as possible.

Contouring for Full, Nude Lips

You can contour lips, even if you do not want a dramatic final look. Contouring full, nude lips is a great way in which to boost your confidence and increase the size of your lips, while still achieving a daytime-appropriate look.

After you have applied your lip balm, fill in the entire lip with a lip pencil that is the same shade as your natural lip colour. The pencil helps to plump up lips. Removing any extra shine also makes the lips look fuller.

Contouring for Plump, Dramatic Lips

This is a great way in which to get fuller, plumper lips that are perfect for a night out. You can pair them with a contoured face or with simple foundation, if you want your lips to really stand out.

Start by tracing the edges with a lip pencil that is one shade darker than the lipstick that you wish to use. Using your fingers, smudge the lines a little, to make them less harsh. Next, use a liner that is one shade lighter than your lipstick, to colour in the middle of your lips. Again, blend with your fingers. Finally, apply your lipstick in a light layer.

Contouring for Pouty Lips

Start by selecting a liner that is two shades darker than the lipstick that you wish to use. Draw an 'M' shape along the top of your lip and another one along the bottom of your lip. Each 'M' shape should be in the centre of the lip and even in size.

Using the same shade, draw a sideways 'V' along the outer edges of the mouth (basically tracing the corners of your mouth). Apply the lipstick to the entire mouth in a light layer. Next, use a bit of cream highlighter on your Cupid's bow, and add some bronzer beneath your lower lip. This helps to complete the illusion of fuller, pouty lips.

Take a Quick Recap Test

[viralQuiz id=531]

Assignment

Other Uses for Contouring and Highlighting

Time: 30+ minutes

Hopefully, you took in as much of the information in this module as possible. To find out how well you have done, complete the following worksheet.

Download the worksheet below and complete.

[Download Worksheet \(PDF\)](#)

Module Summary

This is the end of the fourth module in the contour and highlighting mini course, which discussed

other popular uses for these makeup techniques.

Using a variety of makeup techniques, in order to achieve certain aesthetic goals, can be a lot of fun. It is also a great way in which to change your look or feel your most confident. Both makeup artists and individuals should learn how they can use contouring and highlighting, in order to emphasise or downplay certain facial features.

This module went into detail about how to use contouring and highlighting, in order to achieve the look that you or your client desire. We began by discussing how to use contouring, in order to minimise the shape of the nose.

Next, we discussed highlighting and how it is often used to minimise the look of fine lines and wrinkles.

Contouring can also be used to make your face thinner, and we give you a step-by-step guide on how to do this.

Finally, we discussed the ways in which contouring can be applied to eye and lip makeup.

While these techniques do take a bit of practice, they are worth learning in the long run. Our fifth and final module in the contour and highlighting mini course gives you detailed instructions on how to choose the best makeup products for your collection, focusing primarily on the products that are required, in order to complete the perfect contour.

[Tweet "I just completed Module 4 of the Contour and Highlighting Course"]
