

BRUSH UP

In the first of a regular series for **L&M**, Ireland's top make-up artist, **Aisling Eyre**, reveals the must-have tools of her trade.

I'm about to reveal two of my biggest secrets! The first is, my **brushes** are the most valuable and irreplaceable part of my kit, and the second is they have all been my best investments...

Are you using brushes that clog your make-up and scratch your face? A collection of good brushes can last a lifetime and will always give your make-up a **'Front Cover'** finish.

Like an artist's paint brushes, different make-up brushes have different uses and create different effects. Big brushes cover bigger areas while the smaller ones do the smaller, more precise, jobs.

Here are six of my favourites...



1. MAC Duo Fibre Foundation Brush.

Look in most make-up artists kits and you'll find this one! Designed specifically for foundation, this 21st century brush holds you back when you might be tempted to overdo it. Dot small amounts of foundation on your forehead, nose, cheeks and chin, then gently massage with your Duo Fibre brush and you'll create a smooth, even and lightweight base. Great for gentle buffing and blending around the jaw line. I confess to using mine sometimes to give a tiny hint of blush to cheeks...

From Brown Thomas D2, Cork, Limerick and Galway. (€43.50.)

2. Urban Decay "Big Buddah".

This Big Colourful Softy hits all the right spots and does the bigger jobs! Swish it around your bronzer, give it a little tap, then go wild! Because it's big it glides over your face adding colour where you need it, above the brow, down the centre of the nose, and the tip of the chin. Also great for building an extra glow across the chest, shoulders, arms and down the legs without leaving patches.

From department stores nationwide. (€28.)



3. Smashbox Angle Brow Brush

(or "No.12" if you want to sound like you know your brushes!)

Smashbox develop and test all their products at their famous photographic studios in LA. Demi Moore's **Vanity Fair** cover – where she appeared heavily pregnant – was one of the first shoots done there. They really got it right with this one. Think **Gwen Stefani**, perfectly defined eyebrows, and this is the brush for you. Its stiff bristles and angled shape make sculpturing or redefining your eyebrows easy.

For better results, use with **Smashbox Brow** and **Brow Tech Wax**.

Available from Dublin and Shannon Airports, Arnotts, Clerys and selected pharmacies nationwide. (€19.)

Perfectly applied make-up is as much about the tools you use as the products.
Pic: Bobbi Brown's Copper Diamond look for Winter.