

# Beauty Bible Beauty Steals

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Extract

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# your beauty tool kit

Using the right brushes can make cheapo cosmetics look a million dollars. Make-up artist Jenny Jordan trialled a huge range of budget brushes for us at her North London Eyebrow and Make-up Clinic. These are the ones she rates as top value – soft, don't moult, well shaped for the job and will last well.

**Remember: the trick with application is blend, blend, blend...**

## **Foundation brush: No 7 Foundation Brush**

**Jenny says:** 'This has lots of softness and body, didn't moult at all and is really well shaped. It worked really well with both liquid foundation and dry mineral powder – both glided on, and the shape allowed you to take it right up to the lash line. It's just over the £10 mark, but really worth it.'

## **Powder brush: EcoTools Powder Brush**

**Jenny says:** 'This has a beautifully domed shape, and although the hairs are light and loose, it holds the powder well. It feels dreamily soft, unlike other ones, which were a bit scratchy. By far the most luxurious.' (Also available in a good-value set.)

## **Blush brush: Avon Blusher Brush**

**Jenny says:** 'Angled brushes are great for application, as they wrap the colour round your cheekbones but you don't get

too much. Brush up and out, with the short side on your cheekbones. This is not the softest ever, but the cut makes up for it.'



## **Eye shadow brush: Prestige 104 Shadow Sweep**

**Jenny says:** 'Forget those little sponge applicators that come with eyeshadow: using a brush with a soft, flat nib to blend eyeshadow all over your eyelids makes a big difference. This looks and feels really expensive.'

## **Eye contour brush: Revlon Contour Shadow Brush**

**Jenny says:** 'Dip the tip into your eye shadow, then draw it back and forth in the socket for ages to give a 3D effect. This brush is soft, really well shaped and effective.'

## *tip*

**Cotton-wool buds (and pads) are vital accessories for all manner of beauty chores, including dipping into eye make-up remover to take off any errant splodges under your eyes – although, for that, you could always try Smudgees Eye Make-Up Smudge Removers, 20 individually wrapped mini-wands, all for under a fiver. Small objects of genius!**



## **SUPER STEAL Lip brush: Elegant**

**Jenny says:** 'A real bargain. Although not retractable, it has a cover, which is great for travelling: just put some lippie on the end, and that's all you need to take. Good shape for outlining and filling in, but top



## *tip*

**Wash old mascara brushes and use them to separate lashes, and to brush eyebrows.**

up with lip gloss to make your mouth look sexy/pouty.'

## **Concealer brush:**

**Jenny says:** 'Buy a tiny fine paint brush from any art store; dip into concealer and dab on to the blemish, or push into frown lines. Use it for eyeliner, too, to get really close to the lash line.'

## *tip...*

**Tweezers are another vital tool. We prefer a slant-ended version (rather than pointed or rounded) and would rather invest more in award-winning Tweezerman Pink Slant tweezers than fumble around with cheap versions.**

# tried & tested eyelash curlers

For some women these are a must-have, and for others they are a total waste of space in a make-up kit (or just make you feel very peculiar, like Sarah). For those who can't live without them, however, here goes...



## Tweezerman Eyelash Curler

**7.33**  
10 We're slightly breaking our rules here. Officially, this isn't a 'steal' (the list price is over a tenner). But at websites like the reputable HQhair.com – one of our 'Beauty Bible-approved' sites – you can find it for less than that. In general, you have to be careful with buying beauty on the internet: products can be sourced via what's known as the 'grey' market, meaning stock can be out of date or discontinued. (That's why we carefully screen the sites we approve, to avoid that.) But with a metal product like an eyelash curler, there's really no problem buying online, especially if you can get it for less! Tweezerman have an incredibly high reputation for their make-up accessories, which are often quoted as 'celebrity must-haves'. Tweezerman offer replacement

## tip...

**To enhance the eye-opening power of your eyelash curlers, you can blast with a hair-dryer on hot for five seconds (no more) before using, to mimic the effect of the (pricier) heated ones now on the market.**

rubber tips for these curlers, which have a 'scissor' grip. **Testers say:** 'Very easy instructions; took a maximum of ten seconds to curl my lashes; a huge improvement on my others' • 'gave a soft natural curl, not a "crimped" look' • 'made my eyes look more wide awake and slightly brighter' • 'these are amazing and don't even need heating; they seem more expensive than other metal curlers because there is a soft cushioned feel when you squeeze the handles together.'

## Red by Kiss Perfect Curl Deluxe Eyelash Curler

**7.10**  
10 These salon-quality curlers have a 'spring' design, 'to provide the ideal tension for the perfect curl'. They also feature rubberised finger grips, delivering a non-slip surface to the handle, for better control. The pad is silicone (most

are rubber), which is said to be more flexible – again, for curl-boosting reasons. There's a spare pad for the curler, which we suggest you put it A VERY SAFE PLACE as it's eminently loseable. **Testers say:** 'Very easy-to-use instructions and design; applicator was comfy to hold and easy to press down; pads felt spongy and not too hard against my lashes, but still gave good effect' • 'lashes looked longer and eyes opened; combined with mascara, my eyes "popped" much more' • 'eyelash curlers have a new-found place in my make-up routine; easy to use, even for a novice; lashes looked a fair bit longer and eyes wider and brighter; curl lasted all day' • 'well designed, with nice handle; gave a nice even curl, and didn't tear out lashes' • 'more comfy than my Shu Uemura ones and almost as good, so would buy'.

## Revlon Eyelash Curler

**6.33**  
10 We're incredibly impressed with the Revlon range of accessories, which launched fairly recently, and our testers certainly liked these curlers, in a sleek design that fits close to the lash line, for maximum curl. Unlike most curlers, Revlon maintain that these can be used on mascara-ed lashes as well as bare lashes (which is the general rule: squeeze, THEN sweep through with mascara). **Testers say:** 'Ten out of ten! Amazing' • 'curl lasted when set with mascara – which seems to apply to all eyelash curlers' • 'very simple and easy to use; comfortable, too; curl enhanced my eye; lashes definitely looked longer, and with mascara I achieve a long flirty-lash look' • 'I have used cheap and expensive curlers and these came pretty high up in terms of ease of use: sometimes I catch my skin or get a clamp mark on the lashes, but neither happened with the Revlon Curler, which I was very pleased with' • 'you only need to hold them in place for five seconds, so quite comfortable; make a huge impact on wideness of eyes; good that they come with a spare pad'.

# tried & tested shampoo

There are loads of cheap shampoos. Oceans of them passed through our 'beauty dungeon' in Jo's house en route to our testers. It might not seem that something you wash out can make such a difference to how hair looks and feels – but as our testers found, a great shampoo does just that.



## Louise Galvin Natural Locks Nourishing Shampoo for Dry/Damaged Hair ✿

**8.28/10** The highest-scoring shampoo we've ever trialled is also a 'green' choice. The Galvins (offspring of Daniel Galvin, who was the late Princess of Wales's haircolourist) make a formidable hairdressing dynasty, with talented second-generation colourist Louise beating her brother Daniel into second place in this shampoo 'steal' category. The Natural Locks range is a 'sister' to Louise's pricy, 'cult' Sacred Locks range – and performs brilliantly, according to our testers, who awarded a stellar score. It offers high levels of therapeutic natural ingredients – here, in this shampoo, targeted at thirsty hair, find Pro-vitamin B5, sweet almond extract and vegetable proteins, alongside gentle cleansers.

**Testers say:** 'Ten out of ten! My hair was much more manageable and it transformed hair washing from a misery to a pleasure, as my hair knots so easily' • 'tricky at first, because it's quite runny; once I got the hang of it, was fine: lathered well on the second wash; easy to rinse out; left hair squeaky clean, shiny, bouncy, silky and light. I was very pleased' • 'no irritation to my occasionally itchy scalp' • 'great results – though needed conditioner too' • 'smells lovely – reminds me of a Chocolate Orange.'

## Daniel Galvin Junior Hair Clinic Organic Hair Juice ✿

**8.06/10** Daniel Galvin Jnr hails from a hairdressing dynasty, but he has rebelled against the 'conventional' haircare market, creating more natural products. This is one of two winners in this category formulated by Daniel: it's based on sodium cocosulfate (an ingredient not a million miles from sodium lauryl sulfate, we should point out, but less refined – and less irritating). Accessibly priced, this comes in two versions: Honeydew Melon, which our testers trialled, and Ginger & Lime.

## we love

We've both long been devoted clients at John Frieda's salons, where the product used on Jo's hair for a weekly blow-dry (which stays perfectly in place until her next visit) is John Frieda Sheer Blonde Colour Renew Shampoo. She loves the lavender fragrance and super-glossing effect (the UV filters are useful, too, for when she's on the beach.)

**Testers say:** 'I normally dread washing my long hair because it takes such a long time, but I really enjoyed this, partly because of the wonderful honeydew melon fragrance; it left my hair beautifully clean, and gave it more volume and bounce – full marks!' • 'very effective product; left my hair squeaky clean, with no hint of residue, nicely shiny and smooth; easy to put a comb through, too' • 'loved this shampoo! Smell and texture were great; really practical packaging; my hair looked really shiny and healthy – fantastic product: can't find any complaints.'

## John Frieda Sheer Blonde Tone-Refreshing Shampoo

**7.87/10** John Frieda pioneered the idea of targeting different hair colours with specific products to bring out the natural beauty of that tone, and deal with any particular

challenges. In this case, the shampoo is designed to neutralise brassy tones, using optical brighteners for brighter hair in just three washes. **Testers say:** 'Very practical packaging; foamed well, giving a lovely rich dense lather; hair felt very clean and invigorated; easy to rinse out; no stinging; my hair looked very glossy; blonde highlights definitely enhanced; was manageable and soft' • 'I like almost everything about this product, and, despite the chemicals, would buy it, as I am won over by the results' • 'helped keep my colour true, had a lovely texture and performed well; would definitely buy' • 'hair glossy, brighter and definitely silkier' • 'liked the lavender smell; made my highlights sparkle and took out any old dulling – would definitely use this' • 'brightened my blonde hair and got rid of brassy yellow tones; hair felt lighter and more manageable'

**Tommy Guns Fig, Plum & Marshmallow Shampoo****Marshmallow Shampoo**

**7.62**  
**10** Specifically for 'frizzy, chaotic and unruly' hairtypes, this has smoothing and softening fig, enriching plum, and marshmallow to boost hair elasticity.

**Testers say:** 'Smelt natural and appealing, subtly feminine; did a good job at cleaning; no stinging eyes, which was nice' • worked as well as any you'd find in Boots or Superdrug, with the bonus that it didn't smell like air-freshener, as some cheap shampoos do' • 'lathered very well, and I was really happy with the results; it was soft and easy to manage; also helps with "the frizz", as it says' • 'I just want a shampoo (and conditioner) that gives my hair a sleek, no-frizz look, and this delivered' • 'lovely figgy smell: my favourite thing about the product' • 'good results with my daily wash, especially used with its complementary conditioner'.

**John Frieda Brilliant Brunette Lustrous Touch Smoothing Shampoo**

**7.44**  
**10** Although the Brilliant Brunette is supposedly targeted at – yes, brunettes – we sent it to testers with various hair colours, because we know that

the 'satin finisher' ingredients (including jojoba oil, coconut oil and silk amino acids) can work their magic on pretty much anyone's bounce.

**Testers say:** 'Very glossy; enhanced colour; soft and manageable hair, but not too limp; my hairdresser noticed the colour difference and was very impressed!' • 'gave my blonde hair a soft natural gloss and didn't darken it at all: I enjoyed using it' • 'liked the easy flip-top lid and the slight perfume' • 'felt and looked expensive; a little product goes a long way; my hair felt fresh and light after using it, but it always needed a conditioner' • 'fantastic: gives really smooth shiny hair, and shimmering highlights – felt lovely and light but not flyaway – and didn't need any conditioner'.

**Lee Stafford Climate Control Shampoo**

**7.33**  
**10** This is the shampoo that goes with the conditioner which did well in our Tried & Tested on page 96, formulated to combat the challenges of frizz, particularly when it's weather related, and based on what they rather romantically call a 'liquid umbrella technology'. Some mixed reviews (it gave one tester

an itchy scalp), but if it suited testers' mops, they really loved it.

**Testers say:** 'Very smooth and easy to work into hair; felt it cleaned hair very well, and it seemed slightly glossier' • 'nice light perfume; gave me the most fantastic shiny hair; soft, minimal frizz, even without using conditioner – which I tried as an experiment; looked great when I let it dry naturally' • 'quite lubricating and de-tangling, but I always have to use conditioner too, on my thick curls' • 'prefer shampoos without SLS/SLES' • 'smelt a bit like bubblegum, but appealing – helped tame my frizz, over time'.

**Tip...**

**Save money – and scalp irritation – by skipping a second shampoo. Unless you've been doing something filthy (like cleaning out a cobwebby attic, paintballing – or wearing a riding helmet nearly daily, in Sarah's case), there's really no need. If the first shampoo doesn't froth adequately, add a bit more water.**

# *Tried & Tested* conditioner

Most of us are searching for a not-too-heavy rinse to help detangle hair after shampooing. Well, heaven knows, there are lots out there: our testers combed (literally) their way through 40-plus entries in this category, which threw up some very good scores.

So there's definitely no need to pay over a hundred quid – yes, £100 – for a conditioner, which is the incredible price tag on one upmarket hair product out there. It does deliver pretty fab results (we've tried it) – but we'd rather have a night in a B&B with dinner, thanks, for that price!

**Daniel Galvin Junior Hair Clinic****Hangover Hair Organic Lavender Conditioner** ✨

**8**  
**10** This has already featured in our book *The Green Beauty Bible* – but despite being sent vats of conditioners for this particular volume, we found that none of them did better, so here it is again. (If something's good, it's good! End of story.) Designed to 'detox and revitalise' even the most stressed-out tresses, it also comes in a Lemongrass & Lime option. (Although the name suggests it's organic, that claim's not certified by an organic body.) **Testers say:** 'Good basic detangler and excellent for the price' • 'hair was more manageable and easier to comb through' • 'I stayed in steamy shower and bathroom for 20 minutes and it worked well' • 'pleasant lavender fragrance and practical packaging' • 'impressive gloss and good defrizz factor; brought my naturally curly grey hair to fuller, shinier life – my

husband commented on how nice it looked’.

**John Frieda Weather Works by Frizz-Ease™ Daily Conditioner**


 We’re actually chuffed to bits that John Frieda has two top-ranking conditioners – because for years, we’ve been going to his salons to have our hair done, and are pleased that our testers recognise that the products their stylists use in-salon – also widely available on every high street – really are top notch. This product is ideal for hair that tends to frizz in rain and sultry weather, with a special ‘shielding technology’ for humidity resistance, static control and UV protection.

**Testers say:** ‘Really gorgeous fragrance; how fresh hair should smell – very easy to work through hair, and gave me lovely soft shiny hair, which is much less flyaway and static, with no frizz at all, and didn’t weigh it down’ • ‘little went a long way; gave a nice gloss’ • ‘despite cold wet weather, which usually makes my hair really static, dull and frizzy, there was hardly any with this – very impressive!’ • ‘I used too much at

first; when I used less, it was very good for my dry, coarse and coloured hair; most don’t seem to get absorbed and just leave it frizzy – this was excellent and I will definitely buy’.



**Herbal Essences Hello Hydration Moisture & Shine Conditioner**

 Targeted at dry and damaged hair, this is quite highly fragranced – but we rather love the exotic scent, actually (imagine jasmine and coconuts, rather than orchid). Herbal Essences say it takes you on a ‘multi-sensorial experience’, being formulated like a fine fragrance rather than a shampoo. (Oh, and our testers also liked what it did for their hair, not just their noses.)


**Testers say:** ‘This product is excellent: beats other more

## tip...

**If you want a real steal, try a cup of apple cider vinegar. (Trust us: it works – and not just on hair; it’s a great fabric conditioner, too!)**

expensive brands; left my hair shiny and manageable and less prone to frizz, even when I got caught in a shower’ • ‘I wash my hair daily, usually without a conditioner, but this was nice and left it better conditioned and a bit shinier’ • ‘I use this conditioner anyway, so I don’t need to be converted – it’s excellent and great value for money; I have a really dry scalp and this is one of the few conditioners that doesn’t irritate my scalp and doesn’t dry it out’ • ‘my hair was easier to comb through, shiny but not heavy, and my highlights didn’t look like straw!’

**Lee Stafford Climate Control Conditioner**

 This is part of Lee Stafford’s ‘three-step regime’ for frizzy hair, but we trialed all the steps separately. Amazingly and impressively, out of the dozens of products that we tried in each category – shampoo, conditioner and frizz-tamers – all did well enough to be included in this book (which augurs well for the synergistic benefits, when the products are used together). This sets out to ‘weatherproof’ hair, with UV protectors, and

moisture regulators to help fight flyaway and unruly hair.

**Testers say:** ‘I did notice a difference, particularly on the second day, because my hair seemed to keep its style better; when I straightened my hair, it still looked good the day after and didn’t have that slept-in kink to it’ • ‘good product if you use conditioner regularly’ • ‘lovely light airy fragrance; I noticed a real difference in my coloured hair, which can be dry and frizzy, but instead looked shiny and healthy, smooth and silky – and was easier to style’ • ‘I liked this conditioner because it did what it said on the label!’

**John Frieda Luxurious Volume Thickening Conditioner**

 For hair that needs extra va-va-voom, this fortifies fine hair, without weighing it down. John Frieda tell us that it reduces static (a particular challenge with fine hair), to prevent flyaways, while enhancing hair elasticity and boosting shine and gloss.

**Testers say:** ‘I’ve never been inspired by a hair product before but now I want to go out and buy the whole range! Gave


## we love

**It’s John Frieda Sheer Blonde Colour Renew Conditioner for Jo, every time – the ‘partner’ to her favourite shampoo, which she likes because, frankly, it’s almost rich enough to act as a fast hair mask, if left on for three minutes. Sarah uses Jason Mint & Rose deep conditioning treatment, with the same brand moisturising shampoo for dry and damaged hair – which works pretty well on her dry, coloured, Witch of the West mane!**

lots of body and good gloss; made my dyed blonde hair healthy; kept the volume and shine for up to three days’ • ‘hair felt soft and light, and less fine and flyaway’ • ‘Ten out of ten! Very pleasant, appley fragrance; worked through hair easily; got a better shine than most other conditioners I’ve tried; hair appeared and felt thicker, so I quite often washed and left it, rather than having to blow-dry’ • ‘I am really impressed with this: a great discovery! A bit more than I usually spend, but definitely worth it for my thinish, flattish hair – and no itchy scalp’.



**Organic Surge Citrus Mint Conditioner** ❁

 This is the slightly more lightweight version of the Organic Surge

Intensive Treatment, which did well in our Tried & Tested Hair Masks. Created for normal-to-dry hair, it gently detangles and glosses, for what they ambitiously promise is ‘happy-ever-after hair’. Certainly, it’s got a fab feelgood fragrance – which most testers loved, though some decided to mark it down for that alone! **Testers say:** ‘This product really feels like a blast of fresh icy air, making my scalp feel invigorated and zingy clean, hair very glossy and healthy; I definitely recommend this little beauty’ • ‘Ten out of ten: I loved this – it made my hair just soft enough to be conditioned, but not limp’ • ‘this has a good consistency that’s easy to work through the hair, and conditions well’ • ‘I liked the simple flip-top packaging of this product – very attractive!’

# tried & tested mineral make-up

Although it comes in powder form, mineral make-up is basically an all-in-one replacement for foundation and powder (except when it's not – see below). You might be feeling a bit yada-yada-yada about it, but we do encourage you to try these winners, not least because they outperformed a few of the more costly and chichi mineral products found in those marbled beauty halls. We are covering this category in more depth than most others because there is such a lot of interest – and not much basic information.



## **Prestige Skin Loving Minerals Gentle Finish Mineral Powder Foundation**

**7.16**  
**10** In addition to the mineral pigments, this features a 'skin-loving mineral complex' including calcium, manganese, magnesium and potassium, plus vitamins A, C, E, shea butter and camomile extract. (We got that from the PR bump because – after

breaking a nail trying to prise the label off the bottom of the container to uncover a full ingredients list – Jo gave up.) There are eight shades, for all skin tones, including women of colour; we were sent Fair to pass on to our Beauty Bible beauty-hounds.

**Testers say:** 'sometimes the powder develops a mind of its own, but if you use a little with

a light hand, you avoid a messy situation! Gave a very natural finish that evened my skin tone, with sheer coverage that you could build up' • 'perfect coverage on small blemishes; friends said how good my skin looked – I'm never using cream foundation again!' • 'this is a godsend! my long-term acne, which meant using antibiotics and anti-inflammatory

products, has cleared completely using this product; it has very light coverage and feels good on my skin' • 'would have liked instructions for mineral "virgins"' • 'much better coverage than my usual liquid foundation: I am a convert! But this is not one for your make-up bag, as the packaging isn't sturdy enough' • 'gave a more sheer natural coverage than my

usual creamy foundation' • 'I was surprised that it covered light thread veins and open pores, and evened out blemishes, yet felt very light on my skin.'

## **L'Oréal Paris True Match Minerals**

**6.77**  
**10** There's a lot of talk about mineral make-up being 100 per cent

natural mined mineral pigments – actually, it isn't always. Case in point: this powder also contains silicones and a few synthetics. (Although finding this out from the ingredients list was a challenge requiring a magnifying glass and, yes, a mirror!) In a chunky Perspex pot, this incorporates a brush which can be dipped in the

## tip...

Mineral make-up is best used with a brush (a 'kabuki-style' stubby one, which is designed for the job, or a powder or blush brush does fine – though some pricier brands come with an inbuilt powder-dispensing brush): knock off the excess, then swirl into the skin in little round movements to gradually build coverage (and you just keep going, till all your imperfections are disguised). Once you've done your basic coverage, mineral make-up guru Susan Posnick showed us a clever trick to conceal specific flaws – say, a broken vein – without having to add more coverage to the whole face. Simply dip your clean fingertip in the mineral powder, and press on to the skin, patting until it's blended.

product to apply, using small, circular motions; we recommend tipping a little of the powder out into a dish, then re-attaching the brush to the pot, otherwise it's a little unwieldy. It comes in six shades, which should blend with any skin tone from fair to dark (our testers had Nude Beige). It busts through our price ceiling (and then a bit), but L'Oréal Paris is such a 'mass' brand that we really had to include this (and see "We love", opposite, too). Some very high marks for this, with the odd low score (for messiness, not quality) that reduced the average.

**Testers say:** 'This is lovely. So easy to apply: almost foolproof. The only time I might wear

liquid now is if I needed a really formal "made-up" look; my 22-year-old daughter borrowed one pot and I never saw it again; an excellent everyday foundation at a sensible price' • 'surprisingly unmessy, applied with its own brush (though that could be a bit less scratchy): gives a lovely natural, slightly matt finish, but not powdery' • 'compared with other brands, this is extremely good value' • 'not messy, but still probably better to apply before dressing, especially in black!' • 'good coverage, but didn't feel like I was wearing any foundation at all' • 'very neat packaging – spill proof, when closed, so you can carry it anywhere; the finish initially looks powdery, then

seems to react with the warmth of the skin and goes matt but not dusty, giving an overall natural effect, with even skin tone, and redness covered' • 'despite being a powder, it doesn't gather in fine lines and wrinkles: seems to glide over them and disguise them; certainly did a good job disguising my open pores – I was impressed' • 'the built-in brush didn't work for me, but I did well with my Beauty Blender sponge; coverage was lovely – heavy enough to cover any blemishes, yet looked as if I was only wearing a sheer product. This is one of the lowest-priced mineral make-up products I have used and gives just about the best finish'.

## Something slightly different

**How to categorise this rather defeated us. Yes, it's mineral, and e.l.f. submitted it for the mineral make-up category, but, in fact, it turns out it's a complexion-boosting 'finisher', which some testers liked a lot. Read on, for more...**



### e.l.f. Mineral Booster

6.25  
10

Super-affordable, this is a simple pot of minerals blended with cornstarch (and no chemicals), plus vitamins A, B and E and zinc. The makers, e.l.f., say 'this melts into the skin, promoting healthier skin that's noticeably silkier and smoother – gently absorbing oil and minimising the appearance of wrinkles, fine lines and pores'. It comes in just one shade – 'Sheer' – for all skin tones, and is designed to be used as a complexion-boosting 'finisher' – either alone (you need pretty good skin for this) or buffed over concealer and foundation (they say their own mineral products – but we think it would work over liquid, too) for extra staying power and a 'stunning porcelain matt look that will last all day'. There are two sizes; the small one is a useful trial (though the pot is too small to get most brushes into, according to testers).

**Testers say:** 'Top marks for this; it gave a sheer, dewy, natural coverage that was fine on its own, or over a concealer for more serious blemishes – brilliant!' • 'light, sheer coverage that settled to a soft, natural finish after a few minutes; helped cover open pores and small blemishes, though still best over a concealer for me, or a light foundation; gave a peachy finish to my skin' • 'I didn't think this product was that special until I went back to my normal powder, which looked much less natural and heavier – then I got the point!' • 'covered open pores well'.

## we love

Jo picked up a pot of the L'Oréal Paris True Match Minerals, opposite, in the States (after her make-up bag was lost in transit!) and was pretty impressed – but discovered one of the downsides of these drugstore brands, first hand: it's easy to pick up the wrong shade, as there don't tend to be any testers. Her initial choice was too pale and ashy; these mineral make-ups seem to come up slightly lighter than the shade that appears in the pot. Sarah, too, is impressed by mineral foundations; obviously they don't give quite as dewy a finish as some liquid bases but nor do they look powdery/cakey – and using the simple application tips, opposite, they will cover most blemishes.