

TRAINING MANUAL



INSTITUTE OF INK

NANO BROWS



WELCOME TO YOUR JOURNEY IN NANO BROWS

Thank you for choosing Institute of Ink — where clinical precision meets creative artistry. This manual has been curated to deliver exceptional beginner-friendly education in machine-based nano brow tattooing.

With over 14 years of global training experience and a commitment to innovation, we're proud to deliver not only exceptional technique but also the foundations of building a lasting, luxury cosmetic tattoo business.

Let this be the start of your transformation — both as an artist and as a professional.

Danii Bennion

Founder



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section 1 - Introduction:

Course Introduction
Introduction
Frequently Asked Questions

Section 2 - Brow Anatomy:

Natural Brow Hair Growth
The Brow Hair Cycle
Brow Hair Anatomy
Brow Hair Types
Brow Skin Function
Skin
The Epidermis
The Dermis
Appendages of the Skin
Ethnic Variations
Ageing
Brow Skin Diseases & Disorders
Inflammation
Wound Healing

Section 3 - Brow Product Knowledge:

Products
Tools & Equipment
Brow Consumables
Needles
The Brow Nano Needle
Needles & Machines
Choosing a Machine
Pigments
Anaesthetic

Section 4 - Health & Safety:

Health:
What is Health & Safety?
The Key Principles of Health & Safety
Risks to Exposure of Blood and Bodily Fluids
Your Working Environment
Ergonomics
Personal Protective Equipment - PPE
Removing Disposable Gloves
Hygiene:
Cross Contamination
Decontamination
Sanitation Methods
Cleaning
Cleaning Your Work Area
Cleaning Your Tools
Clean Hands
Professional Appearance, Uniform & Hygiene
Safety:
Control of Substances Hazardous to Health
Waste Disposal
Insurance
Daily Salon Checklist

Section 5 - Client Consultation:

Client Consultation
Client Consultation Question & Answer
Patch Testing & Allergic Reactions
Contraindications
Pre-Procedure Protocols

Section 6 - Colour 101 Theory

Colour
The Colour Wheel
Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Colours
Warm & Cool Tones
Mixing Brown
The Fitzpatrick Scale
Undertones
How to Determine Undertones
Choosing Colours

Section 7 - Nanobrows Process:

Starting the Nano Brow Treatment
Identify the Skin Type and Evaluate the Treatment Area
How to Conduct the Skin Analysis
Select the Pigments
Prepare the Eyebrows for Nano Brow Tattoo
Eyebrow Mapping
Eyebrow Anatomy
Face Shapes
Other Factors to Consider
Eyebrow Mapping Step-by-Step
Pre-drawing
Placement
Stretching the Skin
Hand Piece Grip
Machine Angles & Needle Depth
Identifying Needle Issues
Drawing the Nano Hair Stroke
Building the Brow
Apply a Pigment Mask
Pigment Mask
Finishing the Treatment
Aftercare
Aftercare Instructions
The Healing Process
The Healing Timeline

Section 8 - Correction:

Pigment Rejection
Cover Up & Correction
Why Do Eyebrows Change Colour?
What Creates Residual Colours in the Eyebrows?
Key Considerations of Corrective Work
When to Say No to Correcting Previous Brow Work
Managing Client Expectations
Red Flags to Watch for in Correction Client
The Layering Technique
Corrective Pigments
Cover-Up Procedure
Colour Correction Procedure

COURSE INTRODUCTION

Our course is perfect for complete beginners who are new to the semi permanent makeup game, who are looking to take their first step towards building a fun and rewarding career. Are you ready to reap all of the benefits of working for yourself and increasing your income? Our experts are ready to share our wealth of knowledge about the industry with you.

We also welcome experienced semi permanent makeup technicians who are wanting to expand their knowledge and up their game in the industry, so if that's you, welcome, we are happy to have you!

INSTITUTE OF INK – NANO BROWS TRAINING

At Institute of Ink, our mission is to deliver world-class cosmetic tattoo training that blends clinical precision with artistry. This course has been carefully designed to equip you with the knowledge, technique, and confidence to perform nano brow treatments to the highest professional standard – safely, effectively, and beautifully.

OUR AIMS



- To provide you with essential knowledge of health, safety, anatomy, and physiology as they relate to nano brow tattooing
- To deliver comprehensive theory on the history, benefits, client consultation process, contraindications, aftercare, and industry regulations
- To give hands-on experience in the correct use of professional equipment, pigments, and products
- To ensure your ability to perform precise, high-quality treatments in line with industry expectations



Our Objectives

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Perform Nano Brow treatments safely and hygienically, following clinical-grade protocols
- Complete treatments within a commercially acceptable timeframe
- Confidently conduct client consultations, assess suitability, explain aftercare, and identify contraindications
- Select and use appropriate tools, needles, pigments, and techniques to deliver consistent, luxury-level results
- At Institute of Ink, we don't just certify – we cultivate industry-ready professionals.

INTRODUCTION

? What Are Nano Brows?

Nano Brows are an advanced semi-permanent makeup (SPMU) treatment designed to create hyper-realistic, natural-looking eyebrows using ultra-fine nano needles and digital micropigmentation techniques. Unlike manual methods such as microblading, Nano Brows are performed with a precision machine that deposits pigment using a flexible needle as fine as 0.18 mm — resulting in soft, delicate hair-like strokes that blend seamlessly into the natural brow.

? Why Nano Brows Are Different

What sets Nano Brows apart is the combination of:

- Digital precision
- Minimally invasive technique
- Exceptional pigment control

This method is gentler on the skin, making it ideal for sensitive, oily, or mature skin types, as well as those with visible pores. The technique causes less trauma, allowing for faster healing and refined retention, while reducing the risk of blurring or pigment migration.

👉 BENEFITS OF NANO BROWS

- Ultra-fine, realistic hair strokes
- Suitable for a wider range of skin types than microblading
- Faster healing with less scabbing
- Longer-lasting results: 1.5 to 2.5 years
- Natural fade-out with graceful softening over time
- More precise shaping and customisation

💎 A Sophisticated Skill

Often called “digital hair-stroke brows,” Nano Brows require control, artistry, and technical mastery. The strokes are softer and more refined than microblading, making them ideal for clients who want a delicate and elegant brow enhancement.

\$ Pricing & Demand

With average prices around \$660, Nano Brows are a premium service — commanding higher rates due to their durability, versatility, and advanced technique. Top artists charge upwards of \$1,500+, reflecting the high-value nature of this luxury treatment.

Nano Brows are not just a trend — they are the future of brow tattooing.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Q: How long do Nano Brows last?

A:

Results typically last between 1.5 to 2.5 years, depending on your skin type, lifestyle, and aftercare. While clients with oily skin may experience slightly faster fading, Nano Brows still offer superior longevity compared to other methods. Regular touch-ups help maintain optimal colour and definition.



Q: Is the procedure painful?

A:

Discomfort is minimal. A high-grade topical numbing cream is applied before and during the procedure, making the experience very tolerable. Most clients describe the sensation as a light scratching or tingling — significantly gentler than traditional tattooing or microblading.



Q: What is the cost of Nano Brows?

A:

Nano Brow treatments generally range from \$200 to \$1,700, depending on your location and your artist's experience. The average price is around \$660, reflecting the advanced technology, skill, and longer-lasting results of this premium treatment.



Q: What's the healing time?

A:

Initial surface healing takes 7 to 14 days, during which the brows may appear darker before softening. Full pigment settling and skin recovery can take up to 6 weeks. Following your aftercare instructions is essential to achieving optimal healed results.



Q: Are touch-ups required?

A:

Yes. A perfecting session is recommended 6–8 weeks after the initial procedure. Maintenance touch-ups are generally needed every 12–18 months, depending on your skin type and how well your skin retains pigment over time.



Q: Why are Nano Brows more expensive than microblading?

A:

Nano Brows require greater technical precision, specialised equipment, and advanced training. The results are more refined, fade more gracefully, and last longer — making it a superior and more luxurious service overall.

[illegible]

SECTION 2

ANATOMY

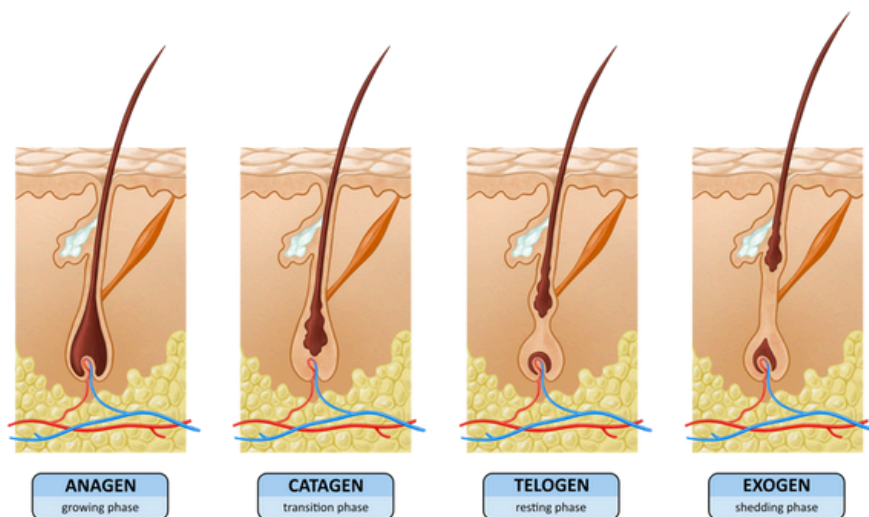
NATURAL HAIR GROWTH

To properly perform brow enhancements, it's essential to understand how natural hair grows.

Hair consists of two main parts:

- The Hair Follicle: This is the root, located beneath the skin's surface. It anchors the hair into the dermis and is responsible for nourishing and producing the hair strand.
- The Hair Shaft: This is the visible part of the hair that grows out from the follicle and above the skin. It is made of keratin and determines the thickness, texture, and shape of the brow.

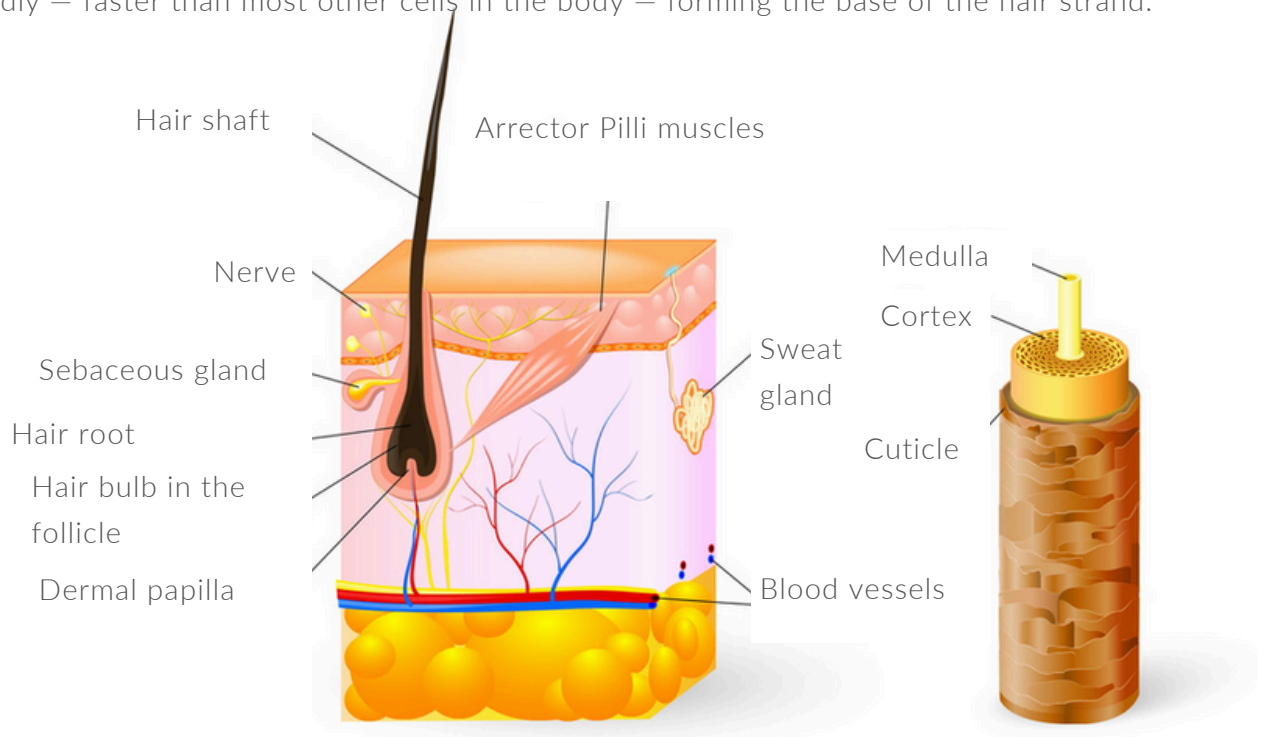
Each brow hair follows a natural growth cycle, which plays a role in retention and how pigment settles. Understanding this cycle helps artists design realistic strokes that align with natural patterns.



NATURAL HAIR GROWTH

The human body has around five million hair follicles, with approximately 100,000 located on the scalp alone. Each follicle is a complex structure made up of two key components:

- **The Papilla:** Located at the base of the follicle, the papilla contains tiny blood vessels that supply essential oxygen and nutrients to support hair growth.
- **The Bulb:** Surrounding the papilla, this is where new hair cells are produced. These cells divide rapidly – faster than most other cells in the body – forming the base of the hair strand.



The visible part of the hair, the shaft, is composed of:

- Keratin – a hard, fibrous protein
- The Cuticle – a scale-like outer layer that protects the hair

Because the hair shaft is made of dead keratinised cells, cutting or trimming hair does not cause pain – there are no nerves present in this section.

THE HAIR CYCLE

Anagen (the growth phase)

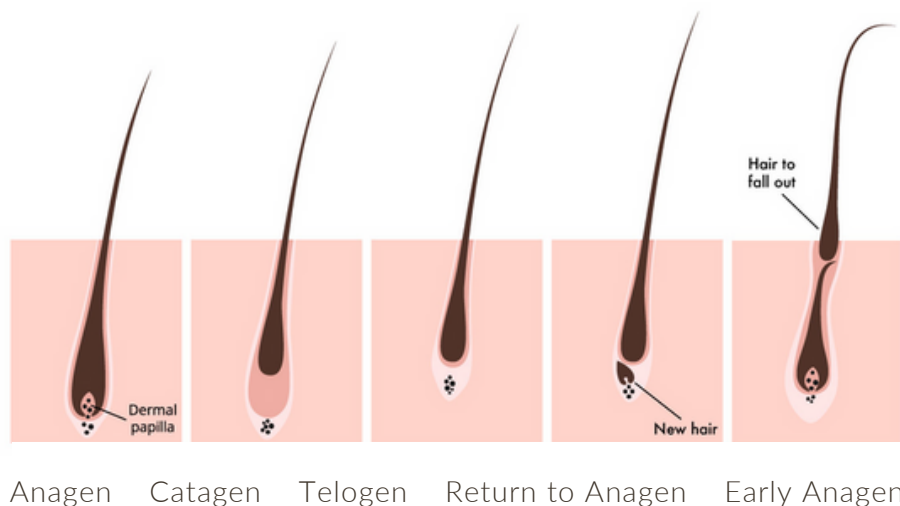
- is the period of active growth. During this stage two processes are taking place: cells in the root of the hair divide quickly to form a new hair and then the hair follicles start producing melanin (the pigmented proteins) which moves to the hair shaft to give it the dark colour. How long this part of the cycle lasts is determined genetically and therefore varies from person to person.

Catagen (the transition phase)

- after the Anagen phase comes the short transitional phase called Catagen. Once the hair reaches its predetermined length, they stop growing and the hair follicle begins to shrink which moves the hair to the transition phase. This phase will last around 2 - 3 weeks and no pigment is made during this time or produces any hair.

Telogen (the resting phase)

- the hair will rest in the hair follicle for around 3 - 4 months and during this time a new hair begins to grow. As the hair grows upwards, the old hair will naturally shed or may be pulled out. Shedding is a normal process of the replacement of the old hair with a new. This new hair that has grown will emerge from the same opening as the previous one and the cycle returns back to the Anagen phase.



HAIR ANATOMY

THE COMPOSITION OF HAIR

Hair is primarily made of proteins produced by cells within the hair follicle. The hair shaft also begins its formation here. As the cells mature, they undergo a process called keratinisation – a transformation in which the cells harden and fill with keratin.

By the time the hair emerges from the skin, the cells are fully keratinised and no longer living. At this stage, each hair strand is composed of approximately 90% keratin, with the remaining 10% made up of pigment, water, and natural lipids.

Internal Structure of the Hair Shaft

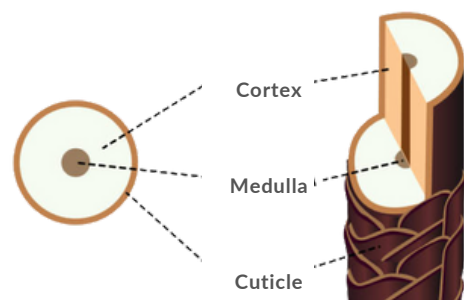
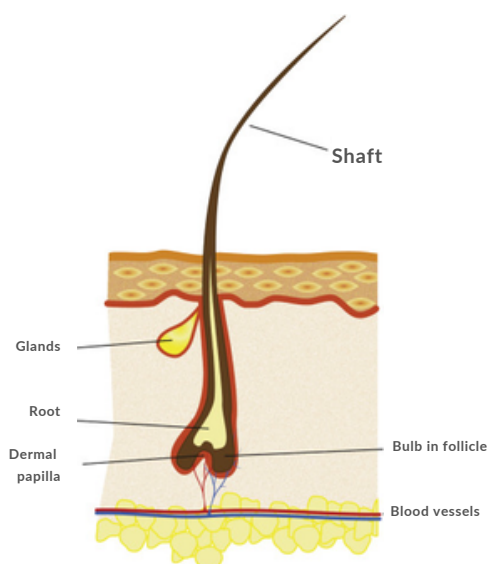
Medulla: The innermost core, often absent in finer hairs.

Cortex: Surrounds the medulla and makes up the bulk of the hair shaft. It provides strength, structure, and elasticity. This layer is densely packed and determines the hair's texture.

Pigmentation: Natural hair colour comes from melanin, which is deposited in the cortex. The higher the concentration of melanin, the darker the hair appears.

Cuticle: The outermost layer composed of overlapping scale-like cells that protect the cortex beneath.

Understanding this layered structure is essential for creating precise, natural-looking results in cosmetic tattooing, especially when replicating the look of real brow hairs.



HAIR TYPES

HAIR TYPES & GROWTH CONDITIONS

Understanding the types of hair found on the body is essential for brow artists, particularly when considering hair density, texture, pigment, and treatment suitability. There are two primary types of hair found on the human body:

Vellus Hair

Vellus hair is the fine, soft, non-pigmented hair that covers most of the body in both children and adults. It rarely exceeds 2 cm in length and grows from shallow follicles, which is why it typically appears straight, regardless of ethnic background.

- Not hormonally driven
- Short, light, and barely visible
- Plays a minimal role in brow enhancement procedures

Terminal Hair

Terminal hair is thicker, pigmented, and coarser, found on the scalp, brows, lashes, underarms, pubic region, and facial hair (particularly in men). It is influenced by hormonal activity, especially during puberty and aging.

- Ethnic origin and genetics influence hair texture:
 - European: Oval shaft – tends to be wavy
 - Asian: Round shaft – typically straight
 - Afro-Caribbean: Flattened shaft – very curly

Males generally have more terminal hair than females, although variation occurs naturally among women due to genetic and hormonal factors.

HAIR TYPES

Unusual Hair Growth Patterns

Hirsutism

Hirsutism refers to excessive growth of coarse, dark hair in areas where women typically grow vellus hair – such as the face, chest, or thighs. It is commonly caused by:

- Hormonal disorders (e.g. PCOS)
- Elevated androgens
- Medications (e.g. anabolic steroids)

This condition may be medically treatable, and early identification can help address underlying issues.

Hypertrichosis (Superfluous Hair)

Hypertrichosis is the presence of unwanted, excessive body or facial hair, which may appear even without a hormonal cause.

- Can affect both men and women
- May lead to psychological or emotional distress
- Often mistaken as a cosmetic issue, but can have medical or genetic roots

It's estimated that up to 80% of women experience some level of excess or unwanted hair growth. While cultural standards vary, many clients seek solutions due to social pressures or personal comfort. As professionals, it's important to offer empathy, support, and informed treatment options.

VELLUS HAIR	Fine, non-pigmented hair covering the body
TERMINAL HAIR	Thick, pigmented hair found on areas such as scalp and underarms
HIRSUTISM (hur-suh-tih-zum)	Excessive growth of hair due to hormonal imbalance
HYPERTRICHOSIS	Coarse, unwanted superfluous hair
EXCESS HAIR GROWTH	An estimated 80 % of women have excess hair growth

SKIN FUNCTION

FUNCTIONS OF THE SKIN

The skin is the body's largest organ and plays a vital role in maintaining health, balance, and protection. Its complex structure supports multiple essential functions:

1. Sensation

The skin is the body's primary sensory organ — it detects pain, pressure, touch, and temperature through an intricate network of nerve endings. These sensations help us respond to our environment and protect against harm.

2. Heat Regulation

The body maintains its core temperature through the skin by:

- Sweating to cool the body when overheated
- Shivering and constriction of blood vessels in cold conditions to conserve warmth

3. Absorption

Certain substances, such as lotions, oils, and topical medications, can be absorbed through the skin — especially in areas with thinner layers or open pores.

4. Protection

The skin forms a barrier against harmful external elements, including:

- UV radiation – Melanin is produced to defend against UV damage and gives skin its tan.
- Bacteria & pollutants – The acid mantle, a protective film made of sweat and sebum, keeps pathogens out and locks moisture in.
-

5. Excretion

The sweat glands in the skin help eliminate toxins, salts, and waste from the body through perspiration — supporting the detoxification process.

6. Secretion

The skin secretes both sebum (natural oil) and sweat, which work together to:

- Form the acid mantle
- Keep the skin hydrated, soft, and pH balanced

7. Vitamin D Production

When the skin is exposed to UVB rays from the sun, it initiates the synthesis of vitamin D — essential for bone health, immune function, and vision.

SKIN

LAYERS OF THE SKIN

Understanding the structure of the skin is essential for performing safe, effective cosmetic tattoo treatments. The skin is composed of three primary layers, each serving a specific function:

1. Epidermis

The outermost layer of the skin.

- Acts as the first line of defense against bacteria, UV radiation, dehydration, and environmental damage
- Constantly regenerates through cell turnover
- The layer where pigments are initially implanted during cosmetic tattooing

2. Dermis

The middle layer of skin.

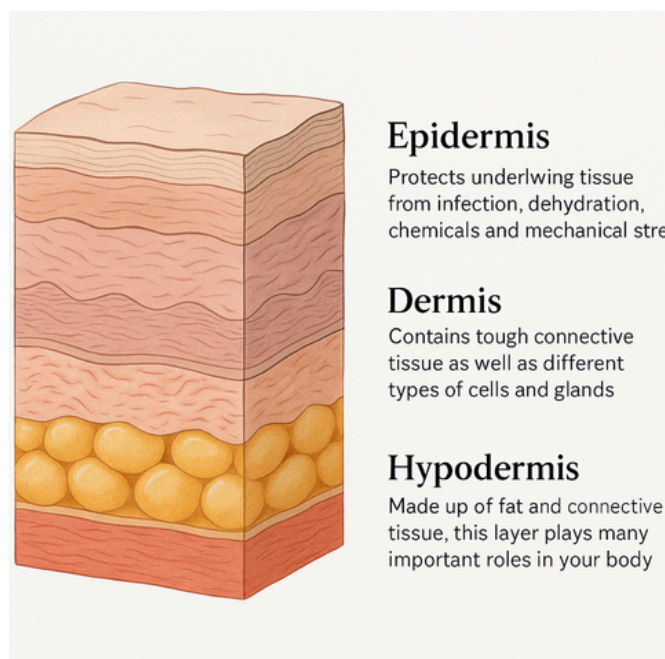
- Composed of dense connective tissue, collagen, and elastin
- Contains blood vessels, lymph vessels, nerve endings, sweat glands, and sebaceous (oil) glands
- Supports skin strength, flexibility, and nutrient exchange

Nano Brows aim to implant pigment at the upper layer of the dermis — shallow enough for retention, but deep enough to avoid rapid fading.

3. Hypodermis (Subcutaneous Layer)

The deepest layer beneath the dermis.

- Made up of fat cells and connective tissue
- Helps insulate the body, store energy, and protect internal organs
- Not involved in cosmetic tattooing, but important in understanding needle depth and pressure



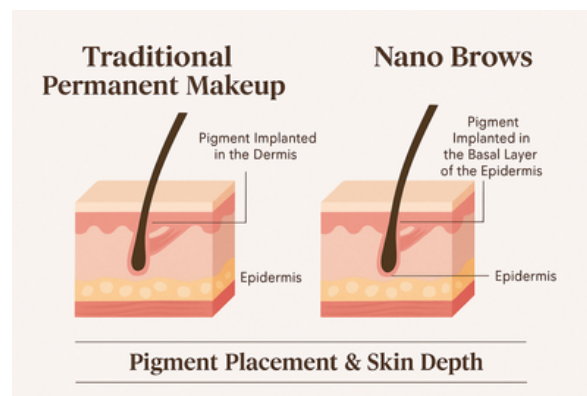
SKIN

PIGMENT PLACEMENT & SKIN DEPTH

Understanding how pigment interacts with different skin layers is essential for delivering high-quality, long-lasting results in Nano Brow tattooing.

Traditional Permanent Makeup

In conventional permanent makeup, pigment is implanted into the dermis — the living layer of skin that contains blood vessels, sweat glands, sebaceous glands, and nerve endings. Because the dermis is composed of stable, living tissue, pigment deposited here tends to remain indefinitely, although it may blur or change over time.



Nano Brows Application

Nano Brows differ from traditional PMU techniques. Pigment is implanted just above the dermis, into the basal layer of the epidermis — the lowest level of the outer skin.

As the basal layer regenerates, pigment is gradually pushed upward and broken down, leading to a soft fade-out effect over time. This technique offers a more refined, natural result and fades gracefully — a key benefit of modern machine hairstroke techniques.

Skin Thickness & Depth Control

Human skin varies in thickness, typically classified into four categories:

- Super-thin
- Thin
- Normal
- Thick

SKIN

Each client's skin will respond differently to needle pressure and pigment implantation. Determining the skin's tolerance and breaking point takes time, practice, and careful observation. Over time, skilled artists learn to assess:

- Skin elasticity
- Bounce or resistance
- Needle drag or pigment flow

The goal is to implant pigment deep enough for retention, but not so deep that it causes trauma, migration, or discolouration.

CORRECT DEPTH FOR NANO BROWS

When performing Nano Brow procedures, your goal is to implant pigment approximately 1mm below the skin's surface — specifically into the basal layer of the epidermis or just at the uppermost part of the dermis.

This depth is what distinguishes semi-permanent cosmetic tattooing from traditional body tattooing.

PMU (Nano Brows): Shallow, controlled implantation allows for a soft fade-out over time

Tattooing: Ink is deposited deeper into the dermis, resulting in permanent pigment that rarely fades and is more prone to blurring.

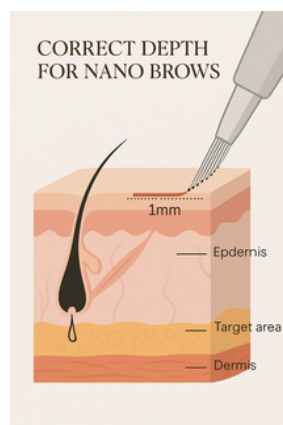
How to Know You've Reached the Right Depth

As you gain hands-on experience, you'll begin to recognise the indicators of correct depth:

A subtle change in sound as your needle glides — often described as a light "scratchy" tone

- Even pigment flow into the skin with minimal trauma
- No excessive bleeding or deep trauma to the skin
- Crisp strokes that retain shape without over-saturation

Mastering needle depth is one of the most crucial skills in Nano Brow artistry and comes with focused



THE EPIDERMIS

LAYERS OF THE EPIDERMIS

The epidermis is the outermost layer of the skin and acts as the body's first barrier against infection, dehydration, chemical exposure, and mechanical stress. Structurally, it is made up of five distinct layers of cells — stacked like a brick wall — each playing a specific role in skin health, regeneration, and protection.

The 5 Layers of the Epidermis (Deep to Superficial)

1. Stratum Germinativum (Basal/Germinating Layer)

- The deepest layer of the epidermis
- Made of soft cuboidal cells that constantly divide to create new skin cells
- Responsible for healing and cell regeneration
- Contains melanocytes, which produce melanin (the pigment responsible for skin tone)

2. Stratum Spinosum (Prickle Cell Layer)

- Named for the spiny projections between cells
 - These structures form bridges that hold cells together
 - Receives melanin from melanocytes in the basal layer
 - Supports strength and structure in the living epidermis
- ♦ Together, the Stratum Germinativum and Stratum Spinosum are referred to as the Malpighian Layer, or the living layers of the epidermis.

3. Stratum Granulosum (Granular Layer)

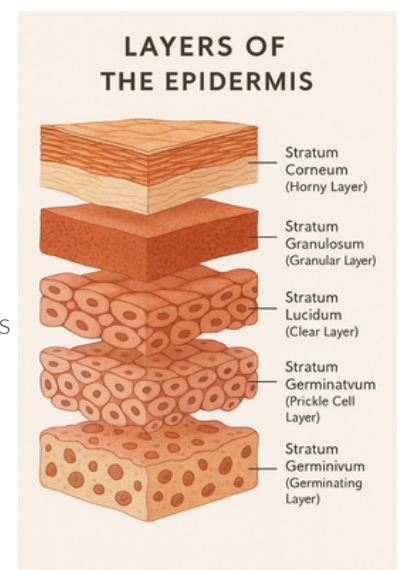
- A transitional layer where cells begin to die
- Nuclei break down and keratin production begins
- Cells become flatter and harder as they move upward

4. Stratum Lucidum (Clear Layer)

- Thin, translucent layer made of completely keratinised, flat cells
- Most visible on palms and soles, where skin is thicker
- Offers additional protection from friction

5. Stratum Corneum (Horny Layer)

- The outermost layer of dead, flat keratinised cells
- Constantly sheds through a process called desquamation
- Acts as a tough barrier to environmental damage and moisture loss

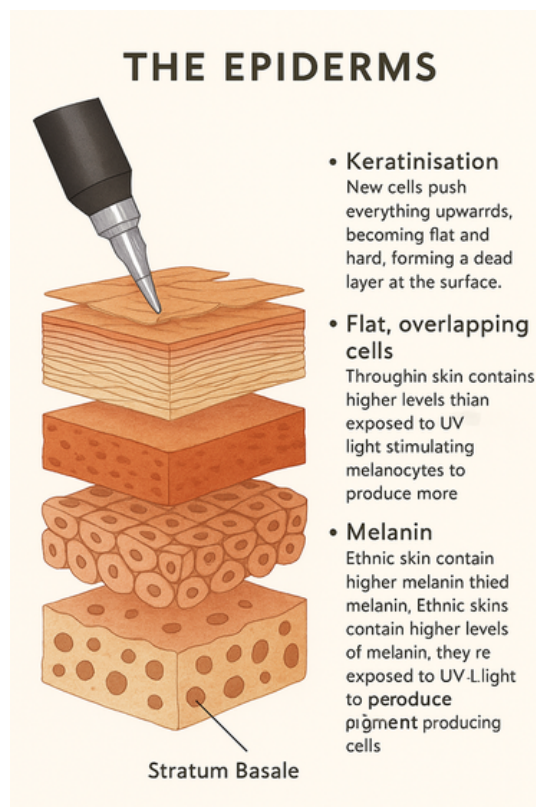


THE EPIDERMIS

New cells are continuously generated in the deepest layer of the skin, pushing older cells toward the surface. As these cells rise, they flatten, harden, and eventually die in a process known as keratinization, resulting in a layer of dead cells on the surface.

The cells that make up the epidermis' surface resemble overlapping tiles and are constantly being shed. These cells contain the protein **keratin**, which is also found in reptile scales and bird feathers. Keratin contributes to the skin's waterproof and tough characteristics, enhancing its protective role. The epidermis also contains a dark pigment called **melanin**. Ethnic skin types typically have higher melanin levels than Caucasian skin.

Additionally, Oriental skin features another pigment known as **carotene**, which imparts a yellowish hue. Although Caucasian skin has lower melanin levels, exposure to ultraviolet light stimulates pigment-producing cells called **melanocytes** to increase melanin production, thereby providing additional protection.



THE DERMIS

THE DERMIS: STRUCTURE & FUNCTION

The dermis is the middle layer of the skin, located beneath the epidermis and above the hypodermis. It is composed of dense connective tissue, blood vessels, lymphatic capillaries, nerve endings, and vital skin appendages — all of which play an essential role in skin function, resilience, and repair.

Key Features of the Dermis

- Contains collagen and elastic fibres that give the skin strength and flexibility
- Houses sweat glands, sebaceous (oil) glands, hair follicles, nerve endings, and capillaries
- The average thickness is approximately 3mm, though this can vary depending on body location

Each hair follicle is rooted deep within the dermis and is accompanied by a sebaceous gland, which secretes sebum — a natural oil that keeps the hair supple and contributes to the skin's waterproof barrier.

Layers of the Dermis

1. Papillary Layer

- Uppermost region of the dermis
- Interlocks with the epidermis via dermal papillae — ridges that strengthen the connection between layers
- Surrounds hair follicles and forms a connective tissue sheath
- Rich in capillaries, which supply nutrients to the living cells of the lower epidermis
- Composed of collagen, non-elastic fibres, and yellow elastic fibres

2. Reticular Layer

- Located beneath the papillary layer
- Composed of dense, layered collagen fibres interwoven with elastic fibres
- Provides structural integrity and allows the skin to stretch and return to shape
- Suspended in a jelly-like ground substance called mucopolysaccharides, which helps retain moisture and gives skin its plumpness and firmness

THE DERMIS

Cells of the Dermis

There are three primary cell types responsible for immune response, repair, and structural support:

1. Mast Cells

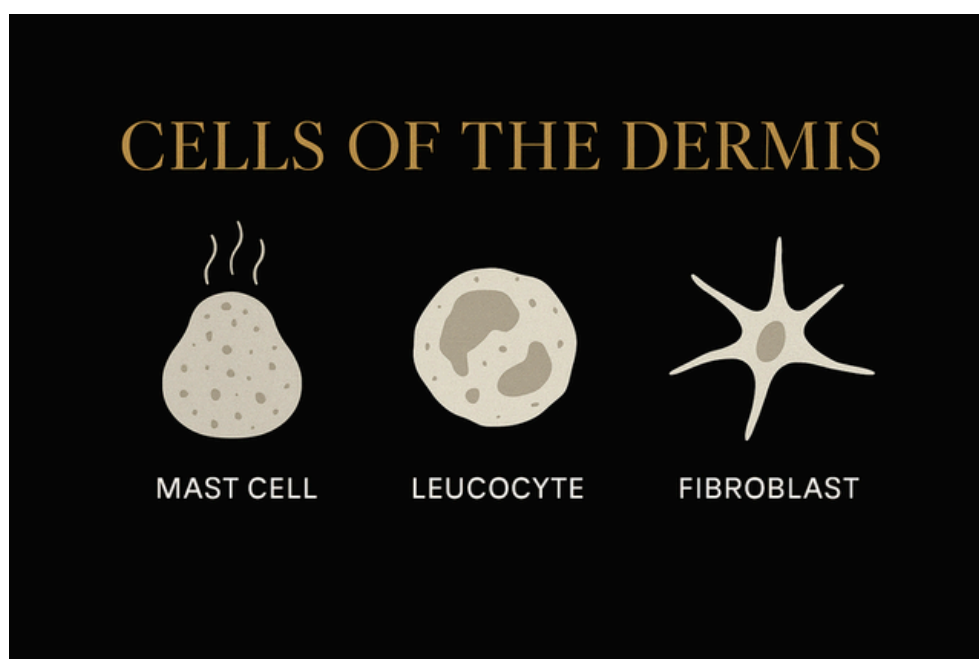
- Trigger inflammation and repair after injury
- Release histamine, which dilates blood vessels and increases blood flow to support healing

2. Leucocytes

- Also known as white blood cells
- Defend against bacteria and foreign material, reducing the risk of infection

3. Fibroblasts

- Produce collagen fibres and extracellular ground substance
- Play a vital role in skin structure, elasticity, and wound healing



APPENDAGES OF THE SKIN

The dermis houses many different structures that allow the skin to function effectively.

Sweat Glands

Sweat glands (sudoriferous glands) regulate body temperature through sweat evaporation and are distributed throughout the body, with higher concentrations on palms and soles. There are two types:

- **Eccrine Glands:**
 - Located all over the body
 - Secrete clear, watery sweat to cool the body
- **Apocrine Glands:**
 - Found in underarms and groin
 - Activated by hormones during puberty

Secrete thicker fluid that can cause body odor when broken down by bacteria.

Hair Follicles

The hair follicle is a downward extension of the epidermis, with its walls formed by a continuous layer of skin cells.

Inner Root Sheath – This layer sits closest to the hair shaft and is composed of scale-like cells that interlock with the hair's cuticle to secure it in place. Both the hair and inner root sheath grow upward together. It consists of three sublayers: the cuticle of the inner root sheath, Huxley's layer, and Henle's layer.

Outer Root Sheath – This forms the structural wall of the follicle. Unlike the inner sheath, it does not move upward but remains fixed within the skin.

Connective Tissue Sheath – This outermost layer surrounds the follicle and sebaceous gland. Derived from the papillary layer of the dermis, it supplies blood flow and sensory nerve endings to support the follicle's function.

Nails

The nails are an extension of the epidermis and are therefore an appendage of the skin. They are required to help with grasping and protect the fingertips and toes.

APPENDAGES OF THE SKIN

Blood Supply

Blood Supply to the Skin

The skin is nourished by a network of tiny blood vessels known as capillaries. These vessels are essential for the health and function of all skin structures.

- Arterioles deliver oxygenated, nutrient-rich blood to the skin
- Venules carry away waste products and carbon dioxide

This continuous circulation is vital for maintaining cell function, supporting healing, and delivering the nutrients required for tissue survival.

Additionally, capillaries assist in thermoregulation by:

- Dilating (widening) to release excess heat
- Constricting (narrowing) to conserve warmth

Arrector Pili Muscle

This muscle is attached to the hair follicle and it contracts when you are cold or frightened causing the hair to stand up on end.

What is the function of the arrector pili muscle?

When the hairs stand on end they trap a layer of warm air around the body to keep the body warm. When the muscle contracts it pulls on the skin around the follicle opening, therefore producing goose pimples.

Sebaceous Glands

These glands are distributed throughout the body, with the exception of the palms and soles, and are responsible for producing the skin's natural oil, known as sebum. Each gland connects to the upper section of the hair follicle, with its duct leading directly into the follicle. At puberty, the activity of these glands increases due to rising levels of androgens (male hormones). Typically, men produce more sebum than women, and the activity of sebaceous glands tends to decline with age.

What Does Sebum Do?

Sebum has bactericidal and fungicidal properties, which help protect against infections. Additionally, it provides a barrier that prevents the skin from becoming excessively dry.

APPENDAGES OF THE SKIN

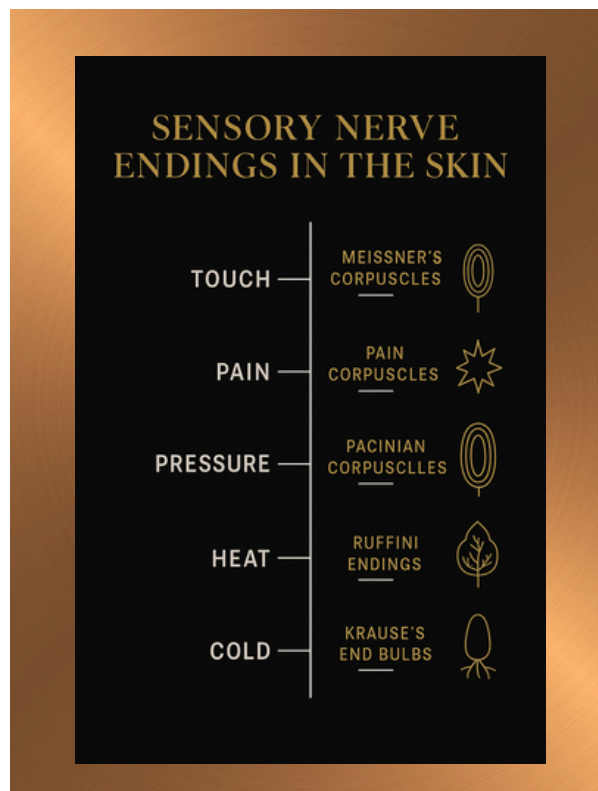
Nerves

Sensory Nerve Endings in the Skin

The skin is a highly sensitive organ containing a network of sensory nerve endings that allow us to detect and respond to changes in our environment. These receptors sense touch, temperature, pressure, and pain and send signals to the central nervous system, which then triggers appropriate responses via motor nerves.

Types of Sensory Receptors & Their Functions:

- Touch → Meissner's Corpuscles
- Detect light touch and texture, especially in areas like the fingertips and lips.
- Pain → Pain Corpuscles (Free Nerve Endings)
- Respond to tissue damage and noxious stimuli.
- Pressure → Pacinian Corpuscles
- Detect deep pressure and vibration.
- Heat → Ruffini Endings
- Sense sustained warmth and skin stretch.
- Cold → Krause's End Bulbs
- Detect cold sensations, especially in mucous membranes and sensitive skin areas.



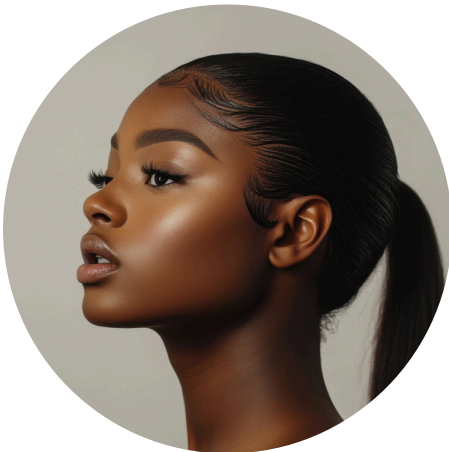
ETHIC VARIATIONS

Essential insights for treatment planning, pigment selection, and healing response in cosmetic tattooing.

Important Note:

Fitzpatrick types are a guide based on sun response, not ethnicity alone. Always assess each client individually based on their skin behaviour, not just appearance or heritage.

Black Skin (Fitzpatrick V–VI)



- High melanin concentration, offering strong natural UV protection
- Skin may appear shiny due to higher sebum and sweat production
- Thicker epidermis with faster desquamation, sometimes causing a greyish tone
- Erythema (redness) may appear purple or deep violet
- Curved hair follicles increase risk of ingrown hairs and post-treatment pigmentation
- Requires gentle, pigment-safe methods to reduce trauma and discolouration

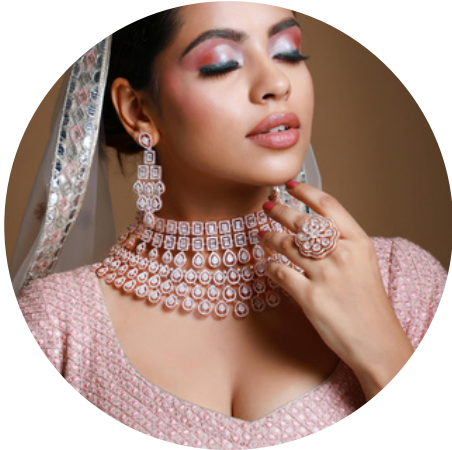
Caucasian Skin (Fitzpatrick I–III)



- Lower melanin levels, offering limited UV protection
- More prone to sunburn, freckles, and premature aging
- Often thinner and more sensitive
- Typically has less sebaceous activity, leading to drier skin
- Hair tends to be light to medium density with varied texture
- Requires strong SPF protection and gentle treatments

ETHNIC VARIATIONS

South Asian Skin Fitzpatrick Types IV to V (sometimes VI depending on region)



Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Sri Lankan, Nepali

- Fair to light-medium skin tones with yellow or beige undertones
- May tan gradually, burns minimally
- Moderate melanin levels
- Prone to pigmentation and scarring
- Less sebaceous activity (typically drier or balanced skin)

East Asian Skin Fitzpatrick Types III to IV



Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Mongolian

- Fair to light-medium skin tones with yellow or beige undertones
- May tan gradually, burns minimally
- Moderate melanin levels
- Prone to pigmentation and scarring
- Less sebaceous activity (typically drier or balanced skin)

AGEING

The Ageing Process of the Skin

Skin ageing is influenced by a combination of intrinsic factors (like genetics and hormone levels) and extrinsic factors (such as sun exposure, lifestyle, and skincare habits). While some signs of ageing are inevitable, others can be delayed or managed with the right care and awareness.

Factors That Influence Skin Ageing:

- Skin type & thickness
- Hormonal fluctuations
- Pigment levels (melanin)
- Genetics
- Environmental threats (UV, pollution)
- Skincare routines & lifestyle

From around age 25, the skin naturally begins to show signs of ageing. Hormonal changes—especially during menopause—can significantly impact the skin's condition and appearance.



Common Age-Related Changes in the Skin:



THE AGING PROCESS OF THE SKIN

Skin aging is influenced by genetics and hormonal changes as well as sun exposure, lifestyle, and other factors. From age 25 onward, natural aging begins.

IN 20s IN 30s IN 40s IN 50s



- Reduced gland activity
- Loss of elasticity
- Wrinkle formation
- Visible pores
- Facial sagging
- Body contour changes
- Thinner epidermis
- Prominent bone structure
- Uneven fat distribution
- Thinner epidermis
- Prominent bone structure
- Uneven fat distribution
- Reduced blood flow
- Sluggish lymphatic drainage
- Increased facial hair
- Liver spots and skin tags

- **Reduced gland activity:** Sweat and sebaceous glands slow down, resulting in drier, more dehydrated skin.
- **Loss of elasticity:** Elastin fibres harden, causing a reduction in firmness and bounce.
- **Wrinkle formation:** Collagen fibres thicken and stiffen, leading to fine lines and wrinkles.
- **Visible pores:** Looser skin structure causes pores to appear larger.
- **Facial sagging:** Muscle tone diminishes, affecting jawline, cheeks, and eyelids.
- **Body contour changes:** Skin loses firmness around the arms, breasts, abdomen, thighs, and back, with increased fat deposits and sagging.
- **Thinner epidermis:** Slower cell turnover causes skin to appear thin and more transparent, revealing broken capillaries more easily.
- **Prominent bone structure:** As fat and muscle tissue thin, the bone structure becomes more visible.
- **Uneven fat distribution:** Especially around the eyes, skin may look puffy or lumpy.
- **Reduced blood flow:** Slower circulation gives the skin a dull or sallow appearance.
- **Sluggish lymphatic drainage:** Leads to puffiness and fluid retention.
- **Increased facial hair:** Hormonal changes can stimulate coarse hair growth on the upper lip and chin.
- **Liver spots & skin tags:** Often develop with age and may multiply over time.

AGEING

Menopause & Its Effects on Hair Growth and Treatment Response

During menopause, the body experiences a significant decline in oestrogen levels, leading to hormonal imbalances that can visibly affect the skin and hair.

Oestrogen plays a key role in suppressing androgens (male hormones like testosterone). As oestrogen levels drop, androgen activity increases, becoming more dominant. This hormonal shift can stimulate:

- Thicker, darker, and coarser hair growth
- Faster regrowth
- Hair appearing in a male-pattern distribution, especially on the chin, upper lip, and jawline

MENOPAUSE & HAIR GROWTH

During menopause, oestrogen levels decline, leading to **hormonal imbalances**.

Increased Androgen Activity

- thicker, darker, coarser hair
- faster regrowth
- hair in male-pattern areas

REDUCED TREATMENT RESPONSIVENESS

As the skin and body age, their ability to respond to treatments decreases

- Degenerative changes in tissues

Reduced Treatment Responsiveness with Age

As the skin and body age, their ability to respond to external treatments declines. Degenerative changes in tissue structure—such as reduced collagen, slower cell turnover, and weakened circulation—can make treatments:

- Less effective
- Slower to heal
- More prone to inconsistent results

Understanding these age-related changes is essential when planning treatment intensity, frequency, and expected outcomes for mature clients.



AGEING

How Ageing Effects the Face

As we age, structural changes in the skin, muscles, fat, and bone contribute to visible shifts in facial contours. These changes affect different areas of the face in distinct ways:

Mouth Area

- Nasolabial folds deepen – from the corners of the nose to the corners of the mouth
- Marionette lines form – extending from the corners of the lips toward the jawline
- Lips become thinner, showing less tooth visibility when smiling
- Vertical and horizontal lines develop around the lips
- Mouth corners droop, contributing to a downturned, aged appearance

Jawline & Chin

- Jowls begin to form as skin and fat descend
- The jawline softens, blending into the neck with less definition
- The chin tilts downward, altering facial balance

Forehead & Eyebrows

- Horizontal and vertical lines develop across the forehead due to expression muscle activity
- Eyebrows begin to sag, creating a heavy brow appearance
- Outer corners of the eyes droop, contributing to a tired or sad expression

Eye Area

- Loose upper eyelid skin may begin to sag and, in some cases, cover the lash line
- Under-eye bags and puffiness become more prominent
- Crow's feet form at the outer corners of the eyes
- Lower eye corners droop, further accentuating tiredness
- Skin tags can appear around the eyes due to skin laxity

Neck Area

- Horizontal wrinkles and vertical skin bands form as collagen breaks down
- Skin tags may develop along areas of friction
- The skin may appear thinner and more crepey, with decreased elasticity

SKIN DISEASES & DISORDERS

NAME	APPEARANCE	CAUSE	CATEGORY
Dermatitis	Inflammation of the skin, swelling & redness	Allergic reaction to contact with allergen	Allergy
Seborrheic Warts	Flat top/warty looking lesion	Ageing	Fungal
Herpes simplex	Red sore/scab usually on side of the mouth also none as a cold sore	Viral infection transmitted by contact with another infected area. Highly contagious	Viral
Warts	Small solid growth	Same as Herpes simplex	Viral
Scabies	Itchy white spots	Mite transmitted by direct skin to skin contact typically from itchy infected area and transporting mite to someone else under fingernails	Infestation by a mite, fungal

SKIN DISEASES & DISORDERS

NAME	APPEARANCE	CAUSE	CATEGORY
Psoriasis	Red itchy scaly patches erupting on skin	The immune system sends out a faulty signal that speeds up the growth cycle of skin cells	Chronic recurring skin disease which can be pustular or non pustular
Acne Rosacea	Redness on nose and cheeks	Dilation of minute capillaries in the skin	Skin disorder
Impetigo	Red spot which blisters then discharges developing a yellow crust	Highly contagious. Spread through direct contact and itching	Bacterial
Milia	Small harmless pinhead cysts also called milk spots	Manifestation of immature sebaceous glands and become blocked with keratin	Benign cyst
Eczema	Same as dermatitis: redness is due to dilated blood vessels and as fluid accumulates itching, and swelling occurs. Weeping skin can then become infected	Allergic reaction Stress	Allergy

INFLAMMATION

Understanding Inflammation in PMU Healing

Inflammation is a natural and essential response following any permanent makeup (PMU) procedure, triggered within minutes of trauma caused by micro-pigmentation. As skin is punctured, cellular damage occurs, leading to:

- Ruptured blood vessels
- Bleeding into surrounding tissue
- Accumulation of dead and damaged cells

Early Response (0–10 minutes post-trauma)

The body initiates vasoconstriction — narrowing of local blood vessels — to:

- Minimise blood loss
- Begin clotting (haematoma formation)
- Contain damage and initiate healing

Signs of Inflammation

The inflammatory phase is marked by:

- Redness
- Swelling
- Heat
- Pain
- Loss of function (due to discomfort and tissue expansion)

This response is unavoidable and necessary to begin the healing cascade.

Managing Inflammation

While inflammation is essential, its severity can be reduced by applying:

- Cold compresses or cooling gels
- Especially within the first 72 hours post-treatment
- These help constrict blood vessels and reduce swelling

UNDERSTANDING INFLAMMATION IN PMU HEALING



INFLAMMATION

A natural and essential response following any permanent makeup (PMU) procedure:

- Cellular damage occurred
 - Bleeding into surrounding tissue
 - Accumulation of dead and damaged cells
-



EARLY RESPONSE (0-10 minutes post-trauma)

The body initiates **vasoconstriction** – narrowing of local blood vessels

- Minimize blood loss
 - Begin clotting (hematoma formation)
 - Contain damage & initiate healing
-

This response is unavoidable and necessary to begin healing cascade.



MANAGING INFLAMMATION

While inflammation can be reduced by applying

- cold compresses or cooling gels
 - especially within the first 72 hours post-treatment
-



SCAB FORMATION & VARIABILITY

Micro-pigmentation creates **microscopic wounds**, triggering the formation of a **protective scab**

- Scab size varies both by procedure trauma level and individual's healing response
 - General health & aftercare adherence
-

Mature or sensitive clients may experience more pronounced inflammation, bruising, and longer healing times.

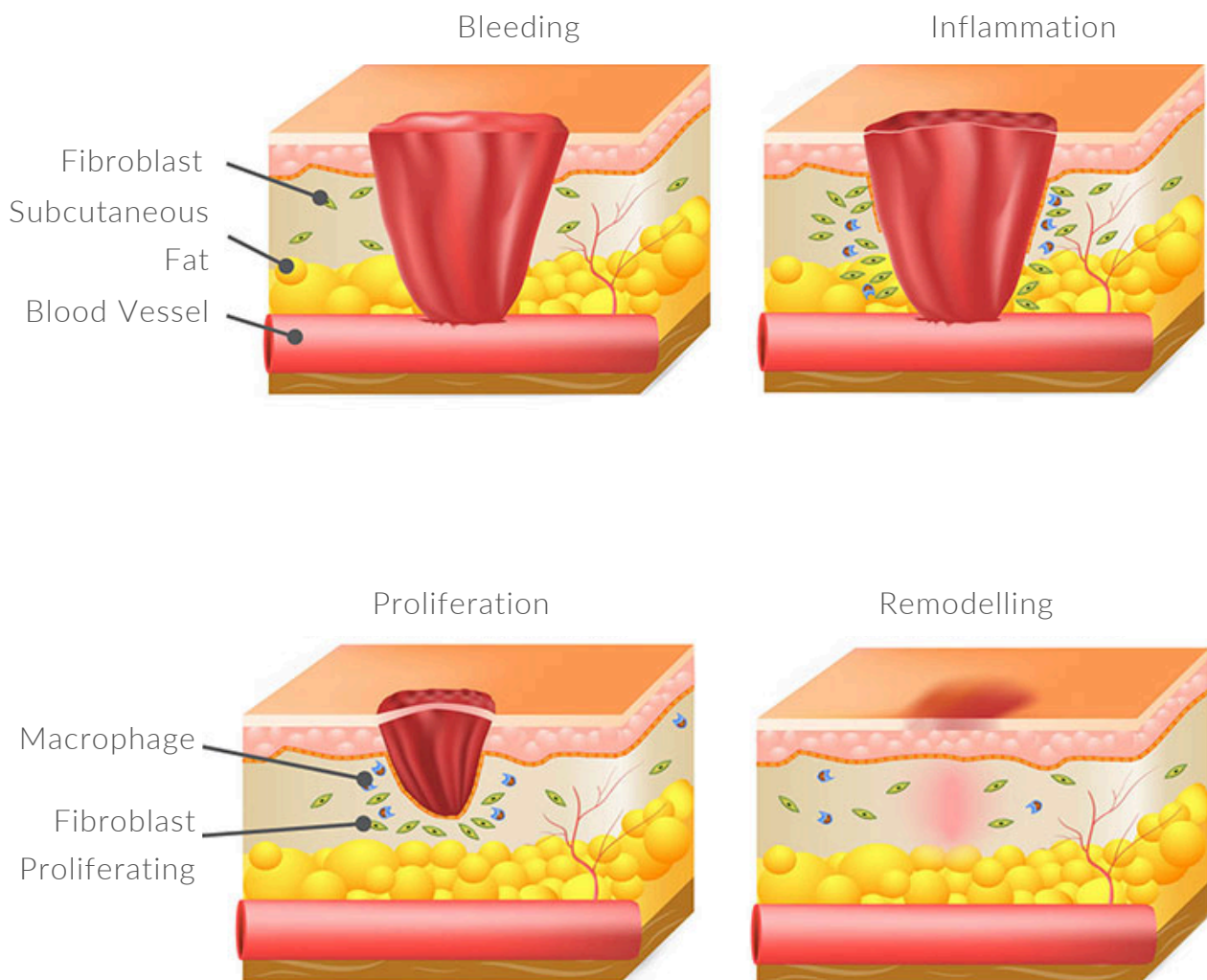
Inflammation is not a complication—it's the body's first step toward repair. Understanding it is essential for optimal aftercare and recovery.

WOUND HEALING

Understanding Skin Healing

Grasping how the skin heals after an injury is crucial for understanding the healing process. When pigment is introduced into the skin, the needle creates tiny punctures. These punctures are superficial, as they breach the basal layer while keeping it intact.

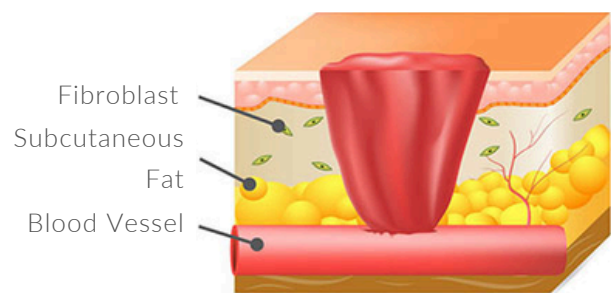
The needle only penetrates the upper third of the dermis. When the basal layer remains undamaged and the wound does not extend beyond this upper dermal layer, the injury can fully regenerate without resulting in any scarring.



WOUND HEALING

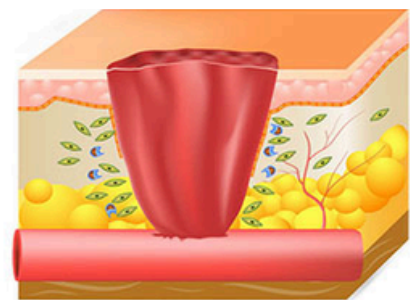
Stage 1 - Homeostasis Phase

The moment the skin is injured, and a wound occurs, the body begins restoring immediately. Once the needle creates puncture channels in the skin, bleeding will occur and lymph fluid will secrete in an attempt to flush away the foreign bodies. The first objective after an injury occurs is to stop the bleeding and close the wound. This is the hemostasis phase. During this phase the skin is already making a scab.



Stage 2 - Inflammatory Phase

Inflammation is the second stage of healing. Inflammation controls the bleeding and also prevents infection. This phase can overlap with the first stage. During the inflammatory stage, repair cells migrate to the site of the wound and damaged cells, pathogens and bacteria get removed. The white blood cells, growth factors and enzymes travel to the wound to give it nutrients and oxygen and grow new blood vessels.

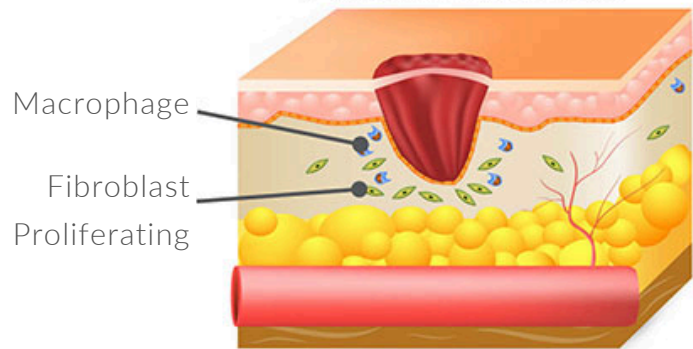


They also create symptoms such as redness, swelling, heat and pain. These symptoms are commonly observed in wound healing. Inflammation is a natural and regular process of healing and it is only problematic if it is prolonged and excessive. This is why redness, swelling, and slight tenderness/discomfort are to be expected after the procedure. This is normal and it will subside within a day or two, if not in a couple of hours. During this process, the basal layer will also close completely in the first 24-48 hours and the scab continues to be built.

WOUND HEALING

Stage 3 - Proliferation Phase

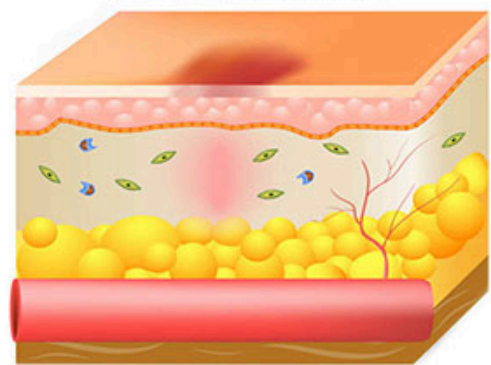
During this phase, it is essential for the wound to be clean and stable. This stability enables your body to start the healing process and generate new tissue. As fresh and healthy skin develops, the scab will start to crack and eventually detach. This stage can last anywhere from 4 to 24 days, which is why the duration of scabbing can differ from person to person.



Stage 4 - Maturation Phase

Final Stage of Rebuilding: Strengthening the Skin

The last phase of the rebuilding process focuses on enhancing the skin's resilience. The epidermis typically returns to its original thickness only after four weeks. This is why touch-up procedures should not be scheduled less than four weeks after the initial appointment. While scabbing generally lasts about 14 days, the complete regeneration and strengthening of the skin take around four weeks. Attempting a touch-up while the wound is still healing may lead to scarring.



This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

SECTION 3

PRODUCT
KNOWLEDGE

PRODUCT KNOWLEDGE



A thorough understanding of the products and tools used throughout your Nano Brow treatments is essential for both consistency and confidence in your work. Each product serves a specific purpose in achieving professional, safe, and long-lasting results for your client.

While the market offers a wide variety of cosmetic tattoo supplies, this guide focuses on the core products approved and recommended by Institute of Ink. These items represent the minimum required to perform Nano Brows treatments to a high standard.

You'll be introduced to:

- Pigments from the Institute of Ink Hybrid Brow Collection
- Approved machines and needle configurations
- Pre-treatment essentials, numbing agents, and aftercare solutions
- Disposable tools, mapping kits, and workstation hygiene must-haves

These hand-selected tools and formulas have been tested and refined to meet the standards of luxury, safety, and performance expected by Institute of Ink-trained artists.



PRODUCTS



MAPPING TOOLS



STRING



PIGMENTS



AFTERCARE



CLEANSE



NUMBING



NANO NEEDLES



MACHINE

TOOLS & EQUIPMENT

Dental Bibs / Tray Cover



Disposable Bed Cover



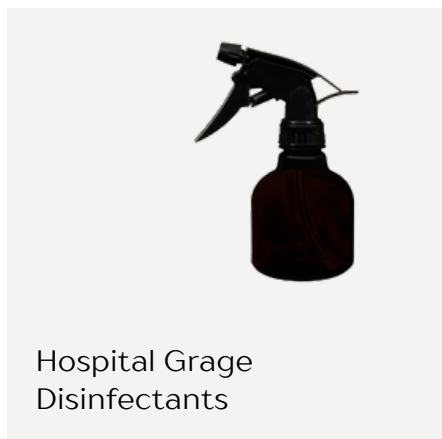
Bin



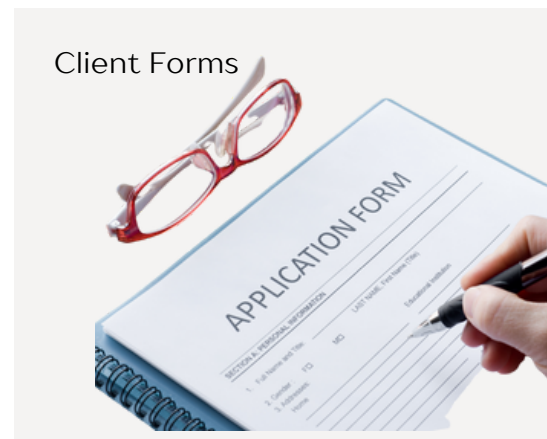
Hand Mirror



Sharps Container



Hospital Grade Disinfectants



Client Forms

CONSUMABLES



PPE



GLOVES



ALCOHOL WIPES



PIGMENT CUPS



APPLICATORS



SALINE



COTTON PADS



MACHINE COVER

PRODUCT KNOWLEDGE

Needles

Understanding Needle Use in SPMU

In semi-permanent makeup, needles are your brushes — each designed for a specific purpose. Using the correct needle is key to delivering precise, high-quality results. Standard needle cartridges are not only cost-effective, but also come in a wide range of sizes and configurations, offering flexibility for every artist. To use them effectively, it's important to understand needle codes.

For example, a code like "1005RS" tells you the needle's configuration and intended use. Knowing how to read these codes helps you choose the right tools for your technique — a must for any skilled SPMU artist.



Needles

NEEDLE DIAMETER EXPLAINED

The first two digits of a tattoo needle code indicate the diameter (or circumference) of each individual needle in the configuration. The smaller the number, the finer the needle.

06		0,20 mm
08		0,25 mm
10		0,30 mm
12		0,35 mm

The first two digits of a tattoo needle code indicate the diameter (or circumference) of each individual needle in the configuration. The smaller the number, the finer the needle.

This system works opposite to medical or electrical gauges — lower numbers mean smaller sizes.

Here are the common PMU needle diameters:

- 06 = 0.20 mm
- 08 = 0.25 mm
- 10 = 0.30 mm
- 12 = 0.35 mm

PRODUCT KNOWLEDGE

Number

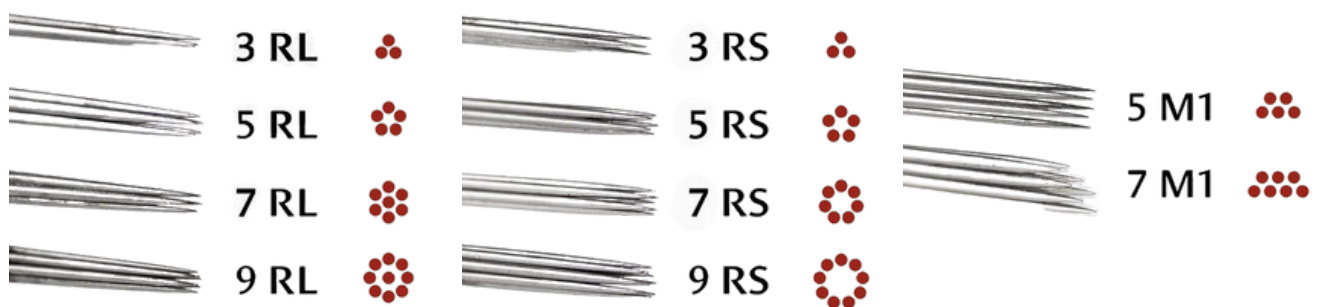
The second set of digits in a needle code represents the number of needles in the grouping. This figure can vary from 1 to 12, though a configuration of 12 needles is quite rare. Knowing the number of needles is essential for choosing the appropriate tool for specific techniques and attaining the desired results in semi-permanent makeup.

Configuration

The letter that follows the number in the code indicates the arrangement or pattern of the needles. Common configurations consist of flat, magnum, or round styles. Each configuration influences the application and blending of pigments. For instance, flat configurations are perfect for shading larger areas, whereas round configurations are typically used for intricate work and precise lines.

Purpose

This segment of the needle code reveals the intended purpose of the needles, represented by the letters 'R' or 'S'. An 'R' signifies "liner," characterized by longer, tapered needles that are closely packed together. This arrangement is specifically crafted for producing fine, precise lines. Conversely, an 'S' denotes "shader," which features shorter, tapered needles that are arranged more loosely. This configuration is ideal for blending and shading, providing a softer and more diffused appearance.



PRODUCT KNOWLEDGE

Needle Taper

Needle taper refers to the length of the needle's pointed tip — how gradually or sharply the needle narrows. While often overlooked, taper plays a vital role in needle performance and is occasionally listed on packaging rather than the needle code.

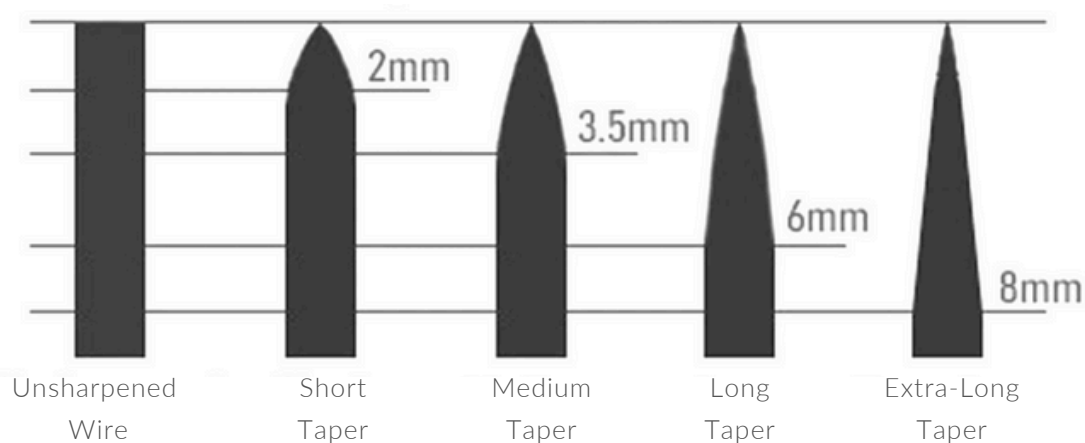
Why Taper Matters:

- A long taper creates a fine, precise tip, ideal for detailed work and crisp hairstrokes
- A short taper delivers a broader, softer effect, making it better suited for shading or blending

Impact on Results:

- Influences pigment flow and skin interaction
- Affects stroke definition, healing, and retention
- Enhances control for artists when performing different techniques

Choosing the right taper helps ensure precision, consistency, and the overall quality of your semi-permanent makeup application.



Not only will you save money by using regular tattoo needles or cartridges, but you will also have greater control over the output of your art and more options to assist you get the results you desire. It's a lot easier to get what you need if you grasp the needle codes and descriptions.

PRODUCT KNOWLEDGE

Nano Needle

In Nano Brows treatments, specialised nano needles are used to craft ultra-fine, precise hair strokes that closely replicate natural brow hairs. These needles are engineered specifically for machine-based micropigmentation, offering superior control and precision. Their design makes them ideal for delicate, detailed work, especially when aiming to achieve realistic, lifelike eyebrow patterns.

Ultra-Fine Diameter

Nano needles are exceptionally fine, usually measuring 0.18 mm or smaller in diameter. Their ultra-thin design allows for highly precise, delicate hair strokes, making them ideal for creating soft, natural-looking brows.

Because of their small size, nano needles cause minimal trauma to the skin, making them especially suitable for:

- Clients with sensitive or mature skin
- Those seeking a feathered, subtle enhancement

Their precision and gentleness make nano needles a top choice for modern brow artistry.

Single Needle Configuration

Nano needles are typically used in a single-needle configuration, allowing for pinpoint accuracy when implanting pigment into the skin. This level of precision is essential for creating fine, hair-like strokes that closely mimic the appearance of natural brow hairs. The single-needle design also provides greater control for the artist, helping to ensure even pigment saturation along the full length of each stroke.

Let me know if you'd like this turned into an infographic or paired with a needle diagram.

Precise Depth Control

Nano needles are ideal for shallow pigment implantation, typically between 0.5 to 1 mm. This precise depth control is crucial for achieving soft, natural-looking results without over-penetrating the skin. By staying within the correct layer, nano needles help minimise the risk of pigment migration or over-saturation, which can result in blurring or patchy brows over time.

PRODUCT KNOWLEDGE

Needles & Machines

SPMU Machines

Semi-permanent makeup (SPMU) machines are designed specifically for cosmetic tattooing. They include advanced digital models and more budget-friendly options, often found in kits or online. These machines usually use brand-specific cartridges, meaning standard tattoo cartridges are not always compatible. When selecting needles, artists must consider the needle size and configuration to achieve optimal results with these machines.

Tattoo & Hybrid Machines

Originally developed for traditional tattooing, most hybrid machines now used for SPMU feature universal cartridge compatibility, offering more flexibility in needle choice. These machines support a wide range of needle groupings, tapers, and finishes, allowing artists to fine-tune their techniques for different styles and skin types.

Needle Quality

Regardless of the machine, needle quality is critical. Always use sharp, sterile, and single-use needles made from high-grade steel. Blunt or damaged needles can impair pigment implantation and traumatise the skin. For example, dipping an active needle into pigment caps may dull the tip if it touches the base—affecting performance and results.

SPMU MACHINES



Specifically designed for semi-permanent make-up

Specifically designed to accommodate needles implanted by tattoo artists

Specifically designed for semi-permanent make-up

Allows for uses in machine to perform the needle

Designed to delicate esfr requit fileg a

TATTOO & HYBRID MACHINES



Has universal cartridge openings

Pre-sterilise a variety of needle sizes & configurations

Tattoo artists to use their preferred brands & configurations

Most are for tattoo; variety of needle sizes & configurations

Pre-sterilise both the end and the needle for still for skin

NEEDLES

Quality of needles is critical, applicable to both machine is, sharp, sterile, and disposable needles should be sharp, sterile, and disposable for each client to ensure safety and effectiveness. Therefore, when selecting the needle to minimize the risk of infection.

Contact with external objects can dull the needle and precise process, if a total sharpness can dull the needle and precision reduce pigment penetration.

PRODUCT KNOWLEDGE

Choosing Machines

With so many machines on the market, selecting the right one can feel overwhelming. What works perfectly for one artist may not suit another — and while many devices appear similar, subtle differences can significantly impact performance, comfort, and results.

Key Factors to Consider:

- Motor Type: Affects speed, vibration, and smoothness
- Ergonomics & Weight: Choose a design that fits comfortably in your hand for long sessions
- Needle Compatibility: Ensure it works with the needle types you prefer
- Precision: Look for machines known for consistent, even pigment delivery

Build Quality & Brand Reliability

- Prioritise machines made from high-quality materials
- Look for reliable engineering and durable construction
- Choose brands with strong reputations, warranty coverage, and accessible support

Versatility & Control

- Adjustable needle depth and speed settings allow for more customisation
- Some machines excel in fine detail work, while others are better suited for shading and coverage
- Find a machine that complements your preferred techniques and style

The best machine is one that enhances your artistry, feels natural in your hand, and delivers consistent results. Take the time to explore your options — your craft and your clients will thank you.

PRODUCT KNOWLEDGE

The Coil Tattoo Machine

The Coil Tattoo Machine is a traditional, powerful tool widely respected in the tattoo industry. It operates using electromagnetic coils, which generate a magnetic field to move the needle in a linear motion — ideal for delivering precise lines and consistent shading.

This machine uses a needle-on-bar setup, where the needle is secured inside a tube and tensioned with a rubber band to ensure smooth operation.

While less common in cosmetic tattooing today, coil machines are valued for their strength, stability, and precision, particularly in body tattooing or advanced line work.



Legacy of the Coil Tattoo Machine

Historically, the coil tattoo machine has been the go-to tool for traditional body tattooing. Known for its reliability and precision, it delivers consistent results across a wide range of styles—from fine line work to bold shading.

Despite modern advancements like rotary and digital machines, the coil machine remains a staple in the industry. Artists value its tactile feedback, customisable settings, and durable build, which allow for precise control and a deeply personal approach to technique.

Favoured by both veteran tattooists and skilled newcomers, the coil machine's classic design continues to hold its place as a trusted, high-performance tool in professional tattooing.

PRODUCT KNOWLEDGE

The Rotary Tattoo Machine

The Rotary Tattoo Machine operates through a rotating drive shaft that moves the needle in a smooth, continuous motion—offering a quieter and more fluid alternative to the electromagnetic action of coil machines.

Rotary machines are widely favoured for their lightweight design, compact size, and streamlined aesthetic, which can feel less intimidating to clients. These machines also produce less vibration, offering improved control and comfort during long procedures.

One popular variation is the Hybrid Rotary Machine, often pen-shaped and specifically engineered for semi-permanent makeup (PMU). Its ergonomic grip and precise needle movement make it ideal for creating delicate, detailed work such as hair strokes, eyeliner, and lip blush. Rotary machines are an excellent choice for artists seeking a versatile, user-friendly, and client-comfort-focused tool

Rotary and hybrid rotary machines operate using traditional tattoo power supplies and standard cartridge needles, similar to digital rotary models. A key advantage is their universal cartridge compatibility, allowing artists to choose from a wider range of needle types—unlike digital machines, which often require brand-specific cartridges.

In addition to their cost-effectiveness, rotary machines offer smoother, quieter operation with significantly less vibration, reducing hand fatigue and enhancing precision over long sessions. The hybrid pen-style design is especially popular in PMU, offering excellent control for detailed techniques like nano brows and lip blush.

With their balance of versatility, affordability, and artist comfort, rotary and hybrid rotary machines remain a trusted choice for both tattoo and cosmetic tattoo professionals.



Rotary & Hybrid Rotary Machines

- ⚡ Universal cartridge compatibility, wider needle choice than digital machines requiring brand-specific cartridges
- ⚙️ Cost-effective, smooth and quiet operation with less vibration
- 🔧 Hybrid 'pen' style popular in PMU (e.g., nano brows, lip blush)
- 👍 Trusted for versatility, affordability, and artist comfort



PRODUCT KNOWLEDGE

The Digital Rotary Machine

The Digital Rotary Machine is a top choice in permanent cosmetics due to its precision, control, and advanced functionality. Featuring a pen-style handpiece, this machine is equipped with multiple speed settings and often includes a digital display for real-time monitoring and adjustments.

Its computerised components allow for consistent performance and fine-tuned control, making it ideal for intricate procedures such as nano brows, lip blush, and eyeliner.

While digital rotary machines offer a premium experience, they often come at a higher price point due to their advanced design and integrated technology.

Digital vs. Basic Rotary Machines

Many digital rotary machines require proprietary needle cartridges specific to the brand. These cartridges are often more expensive and come in limited sizes and configurations, which may not be a major issue initially—but as your skillset grows, access to a wider range of needles becomes essential for achieving advanced techniques and customised effects.

In comparison, basic rotary machines offer a simpler, more affordable design, often powered directly by the handpiece without digital screens or adjustable settings. While these machines are cost-effective, they may lack the precision, power, and control of digital models.

Digital Rotary Machines

- Advanced control & consistent performance
- Ideal for detailed work
- Often require brand-specific cartridges
- Higher investment

Basic Rotary Machines

- Budget-friendly & user-friendly
- Compatible with universal cartridges
- Fewer features and less power
- May limit technique versatility

Choosing between the two depends on your technique, budget, and long-term goals.

Understanding the difference helps ensure you select a machine that grows with your artistry.

PRODUCT KNOWLEDGE

Machine Speed

Understanding Tattoo Machine Speeds (RPM)

The speed of tattoo machines is measured in revolutions per minute (RPM) and directly impacts precision and technique. Entry-level machines often have only three fixed speed settings, which may limit versatility. For greater control and power, upgrading to a higher-end machine with a wider, adjustable RPM range is recommended.

- Standard rotary machines typically range from 0–12,000 RPM
- Premium models can reach up to 25,000 RPM, offering more flexibility for various techniques
-

Many digital rotary machines include preset speeds tailored for specific treatments—helpful for beginners. However, as your technique evolves, you'll likely prefer custom adjustments over fixed presets to match your hand speed and desired effect.

- Faster speeds are ideal for techniques like classic brow shading
- Slower speeds work best for pixelated styles and fine needle work

In contrast, hybrid rotary machines (powered by standard tattoo supplies) don't use preset speeds. Instead, they offer full manual control, allowing artists to adjust RPMs precisely to their preferences.

Tip: When selecting a machine, look for models with adjustable speeds to support your growth and versatility as an artist.

Hand Speed

Understanding Hand Speed in PMU

Hand speed plays a vital role in how pigment is deposited into the skin. The rate at which your hand moves determines both the density and consistency of the application:

Slower hand speed → More punctures in a concentrated area → Darker, denser colour

Faster hand speed → Fewer punctures per area → Lighter, softer effect

To achieve even, consistent results, it's important to balance your hand speed with your machine's RPM. This coordination allows for precise pigment delivery without needing to constantly adjust machine settings.

PRODUCT KNOWLEDGE

Stroke Length

Understanding Stroke Length

Stroke length refers to how far the needle travels in and out of the machine during operation. This movement directly affects the power and impact of the needle on the skin:

- Longer stroke length = More powerful impact → ideal for thicker skin or bold techniques
- Shorter stroke length = Softer touch → better for sensitive areas and precision work

While modern rotary and hybrid tattoo machines often include stroke length specifications, many traditional PMU pens and digital devices do not. Understanding how stroke length influences pigment implantation can help you make informed choices when selecting your machine.

Tattoo Type	Stroke Range	Why It Works	Needle Type	Machine Speed
Fine Line Tattoo	2.5 – 3.0 mm	Precise control, soft hit, minimal trauma	1RL, 3RL, 5RL	Low to Medium
Lip Blush	2.5 – 3.0 mm	Soft pixel effect, gentle on sensitive skin	1RL, 3RL, 3RS	Medium, low voltage
Eyeliner Tattoo	2.5 mm	High control, avoids blowouts, safe for eyes	1RL, 3RL	Low to Medium
Ombre / Powder Brow	2.8 – 3.0 mm	Soft layering, smooth shading	1RL, 3RL, 3RS	Medium to High
Nano Brows	2.3 – 2.7 mm	Precision hairstrokes, soft skin contact	1RL Nano	Low to Medium
Lining (Body Tattoo)	3.5 – 4.0 mm	Bold, clean lines with strong hit	5RL – 9RL	Medium to High
Shading (Body Tattoo)	3.0 – 3.5 mm	Smooth gradients, soft transitions	Magnums, curved mags	Medium
Colour Packing	3.5 – 4.2 mm	Solid fill, deep saturation	Round shaders, mags	Medium to High

PRODUCT KNOWLEDGE

Needles

Many digital rotary machines require brand-specific needle cartridges, which can be more expensive and offer limited size and configuration options. In contrast, hybrid rotary machines are compatible with universal tattoo needle cartridges, giving artists access to a wider range of brands, sizes, and price points. While the universal needle coding system may take some getting used to, it ultimately provides greater flexibility and affordability for a variety of techniques and preferences.

Size of the Machine

Machine Size & Weight

Machine size and weight can vary widely, especially among hybrid rotary pens. While digital rotary handpieces are generally uniform and compact, hybrid models range from thicker, heavier builds—preferred by artists who like a solid grip—to lighter, streamlined designs that mimic the feel of digital pens.

Choosing a machine that feels comfortable in your hand and aligns with your personal grip preference can significantly improve control, reduce fatigue, and enhance your precision and performance during long procedures.

Machine size and weight can vary widely, especially among hybrid rotary pens. While digital rotary handpieces are generally uniform and compact, hybrid models range from thicker, heavier builds—preferred by artists who like a solid grip—to lighter, streamlined designs that mimic the feel of digital pens.



Thick & heavy



Light & streamlined

PRODUCT KNOWLEDGE

Pigments

Understanding Pigments in Cosmetic Tattooing

Pigments are fundamental to permanent makeup, delivering the colour, definition, and longevity essential to every treatment. They are typically categorised into two types:

- ***Organic pigments:*** Sourced from natural materials (e.g., plants or animals), these offer bright, vivid colours but tend to fade faster over time.
- ***Inorganic pigments:*** Made from synthetic minerals and metals, these are more stable, with longer-lasting results and greater resistance to fading.

Knowing the difference between pigment types helps ensure better results, improved safety, and long-term client satisfaction in cosmetic tattooing.

What Are Pigments Made Of?

In the cosmetic tattoo and permanent makeup industry, pigments are generally classified into two main types: organic and inorganic.

Organic Pigments

Organic pigments are carbon-based and typically derived from natural sources such as plants and animals. For example, green pigments may be sourced from kiwifruit, while red hues could be extracted from berries. These pigments are well known for their vivid, bright colours, making them popular for creating vibrant cosmetic tattoo results.

However, organic pigments are generally less stable and have a shorter lifespan compared to inorganic options. Being soluble, they can dissolve in body fluids, which may lead to faster fading. To improve their performance and retention in the skin, organic pigments are often coated with alumina hydroxide. This coating helps to:

- Make the pigment particles heavier, increasing their stability and staying power
- Prevent dissolution in the body
- Reduce the likelihood of allergic reactions by acting as a barrier between the pigment and the skin

Despite these precautions, organic pigments may still pose a higher risk of allergic responses—especially since some vegetable-based dyes are known to cause adverse reactions in sensitive individuals.

PRODUCT KNOWLEDGE

Inorganic Pigments

Inorganic pigments, unlike their organic counterparts, are synthetically produced from metal compounds such as iron oxides, titanium dioxide, and manganese violet. These pigments are favoured in the permanent makeup industry for their exceptional stability, longevity, and low allergenic potential.

Inorganic pigments tend to produce more muted, earthy tones, which makes them ideal for creating natural-looking results in cosmetic tattooing. Their insoluble nature also means they remain more stable in the skin over time, with less risk of migration or unexpected colour shifts.

Today, over 95% of professional PMU pigment lines use a hybrid formulation, combining both organic and inorganic colourants. This balanced approach allows artists to achieve both vibrant results and long-term retention, offering the best of both worlds in pigment performance.

ORGANIC VS INORGANIC PIGMENTS

ORGANIC PIGMENTS



- Derived from natural sources e.g., plants, animals
- Bright and vibrant colours
- Carbon-based
- Less stable and long-lasting

INORGANIC PIGMENTS



- Made from metal compounds e.g., iron oxides
- Stable and long-lasting
- Earthy, muted colours
- Low risk of allergic reaction

PRODUCT KNOWLEDGE

Iron Oxide:

Iron oxide is one of the most widely used ingredients in inorganic pigments due to its stability, safety, and colour versatility. It is synthetically manufactured and commonly found in a wide range of cosmetic tattoo formulations.

Renowned for being non-toxic, non-irritating, and typically hypoallergenic, iron oxide is an ideal choice for clients with sensitive skin. It provides a rich spectrum of natural tones and has been used safely in cosmetics and skincare for over 100 years.

Clinical studies consistently support the safety and biocompatibility of iron oxides, making them a trusted component in permanent makeup pigments worldwide.

Titanium Dioxide:

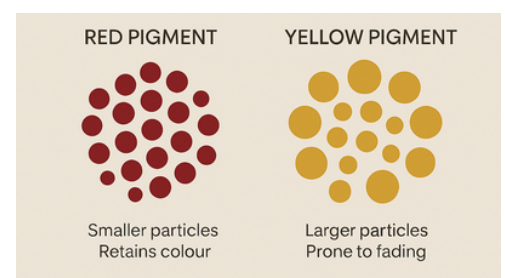
Titanium dioxide is a naturally occurring mineral that is refined and purified for safe use in cosmetic tattoo pigments. Its large molecular size gives it high opacity, making it especially useful for enhancing pigment coverage, creating lighter shades, and improving the overall vibrancy and contrast of colour formulations.

Often used to adjust or brighten pigments, titanium dioxide plays a crucial role in achieving clean, visible results, particularly in procedures like lip blush, scar camouflage, and highlighting techniques.

Why Does Particle Size Matter?

The size of pigment particles plays a key role in how long the colour lasts and how it appears in the skin. Smaller particles are more stable and tend to retain their colour longer, while larger particles are more prone to fading.

For instance, yellow pigments, which have larger particles, often fade faster than red pigments, which have finer particles that remain more vibrant over time. Understanding particle size is essential for predicting pigment behaviour and ensuring long-lasting results in cosmetic tattooing.



PRODUCT KNOWLEDGE

Anaesthetic

Topical anaesthetic plays a crucial role in enhancing client comfort and improving treatment accuracy. Without adequate numbing, clients may involuntarily tense or contract muscles, which can lead to misplaced pigment implantation.

For best results, anaesthetic should be applied both before and during the procedure—depending on whether it's formulated for intact or broken skin. It's important to advise clients that while discomfort may still be present, the use of anaesthetic will significantly reduce sensitivity.

The amount of anaesthetic required can vary based on the client's individual tolerance and metabolism. Clients with faster metabolic rates may process anaesthetic more quickly, requiring more frequent application during the procedure.

Use of Topical Anaesthetic

When using topical anaesthetic creams, they should be applied approximately 30 -60 minutes before treatment begins—unless otherwise directed. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions and check product suitability for use on intact or broken skin.

Emla Cream

Emla is a prescription-only topical anaesthetic that the client must obtain from their GP. It contains two active ingredients:

- Lidocaine
- Prilocaine
- Both are local anaesthetics that work by temporarily numbing the skin.

Application:

- Apply thickly to the treatment area
- Cover with cling film
- Leave on for 30–60 minutes for full effect

Emla reduces pain but does not eliminate all sensation—clients may still feel pressure or touch during treatment. After use, the skin may appear pale, with temporary redness or mild swelling in some cases.

⚠ Do NOT use Emla if the client is allergic to:

- Lidocaine | Prilocaine | Polyoxyethylene hydrogenated castor oil | Carbomer 974P
- Sodium hydroxide | Purified water

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

SECTION 4

HEALTH & SAFETY

HEALTH

What is Health & Safety?

Health and safety refer to the policies, procedures, and best practices put in place to protect individuals from harm in the workplace. The primary goal is to prevent accidents, injuries, and illnesses by identifying risks and implementing effective control measures.

Health and Safety Principles in the Cosmetic Tattoo Environment

Regulations & Standards

- Ensure compliance with local, state, and national laws relating to workplace safety and hygiene.
- Follow industry best practices to maintain a safe and professional environment for both clients and practitioners.

Risk Assessment

- Identify hazards associated with treatments and tools (e.g., chemicals, sharps, electrical equipment).
- Evaluate likelihood and severity of each risk to implement effective controls.

Environmental Factors

- Maintain cleanliness, ventilation, and temperature control to support a safe workspace.
- Ensure proper disinfection protocols to prevent cross-contamination and infection.

Occupational Factors

- Be aware of risks including allergic reactions, chemical exposure, and repetitive strain injuries.
- Use appropriate PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) and maintain proper posture and technique during treatments.

Human Factors

- Promote safe work habits through regular training and reinforcement of procedures.
- Encourage awareness and focus to prevent accidents caused by rushing or distraction.

Emergency Procedures

- Establish clear procedures for fires, chemical spills, medical emergencies, or other incidents.
- Ensure all staff are trained in first aid and emergency response protocols.

HEALTH

Blood-Borne Pathogens (BBPs) in the Beauty Industry

In the beauty and cosmetic tattoo industry, we work in close physical proximity to clients. This increases the risk of accidental exposure to blood or bodily fluids, especially during invasive treatments. It is essential to treat all bodily fluids as potentially infectious to maintain universal precautions and ensure workplace safety.

What Are Blood-Borne Pathogens (BBPs)?



Blood-borne pathogens are microorganisms—such as viruses—that can be transmitted through contact with infected blood and may cause serious disease.

 Common BBPs of Concern in PMU & Beauty Treatments:

 HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus)

- Attacks the immune system, weakening the body's ability to fight infections
- Can lead to AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome)
- No cure, but manageable with lifelong medication

 Hepatitis B (HBV)

- A virus that affects the liver, causing inflammation, and in severe cases, cirrhosis or liver cancer
- Can survive outside the body for at least 7 days or longer
- ~90% of adults recover and develop immunity, but ~10% may develop chronic infection
- Vaccination is available and highly recommended for all beauty professionals

 Hepatitis C (HCV)

- A liver-infecting virus, commonly spread through blood-to-blood contact, such as:
 - Unsterile tattooing or piercing
 - Shared drug needles
 - Contaminated tools
- May lead to chronic liver disease or liver cancer
- No vaccine available; treatment options are improving but not curative in all cases

Always use proper PPE, follow strict sanitisation protocols, and assume all bodily fluids are potentially infectious to protect yourself and your clients.

HEALTH

First Aid Requirements

Employers are required to provide appropriate First Aid equipment and facilities based on the nature of the workplace and potential risks, ensuring that First Aid can be administered promptly when needed.

- All staff must be informed of the designated First Aider.
- The location of the First Aid kit must be clearly marked and easily accessible at all times.



HEALTH

Treatment Room Requirements

To maintain the highest standards of hygiene, safety, and compliance, your working environment must meet the following criteria:

Treatment Couch / Chair

- Must be manually or electronically adjustable
- Covered in a smooth, wipeable surface
- Equipped with removable armrests
- Paper couch roll must be used and replaced between every client

Technician's Stool

- Height adjustable
- Upholstered in non-porous, disinfectant-safe material
- Easy to clean between clients



Trolley / Work Table

- Fitted with castor wheels for mobility
- Should have at least two to three shelves
- Surfaces must be resistant to cleaning agents and disinfectants

Lighting

- A working lamp with magnifier is essential
- Must use a daylight bulb for optimal clarity
- Must have a flexible arm to adjust lighting and avoid shadows

Flooring & Walls

- Must be smooth, sealed, and washable
- No fabric furnishings or carpets allowed
- Treatment room floors must be mopped daily

Window Coverings

- Only cleanable blinds are permitted
- Curtains or fabric window treatments are strictly prohibited

Hand Hygiene Station

- A locally approved handwashing sink must be located within the treatment room
- Must include:
 - Anti-bacterial hand wash in a pump dispenser
 - Disposable paper towels for drying
 - A visible "How to Wash Your Hands" poster (available via local health authority)

HOW TO WASH YOUR HANDS



HEALTH

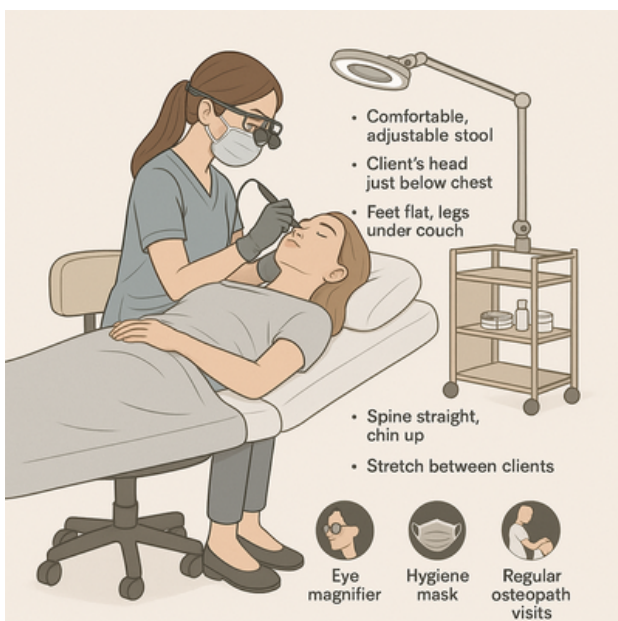
Technician Ergonomics & Health



Protecting your body is essential for longevity in the beauty and cosmetic tattoo industry. The following practices will help prevent strain, injury, and long-term health issues:

Correct Posture During Treatment

- Use a comfortable, adjustable stool
- Adjust your client's chair so their head is just below your chest
- Keep feet flat on the floor with legs under the couch; avoid crossing ankles
- Lean forward with your whole body, not just your back
- Maintain a straight spine
- Keep hands in a neutral position—avoid flexing wrists up or down
- Keep your chin up and avoid tilting your head downward
- Take short stretching breaks between clients to relieve muscle tension



Osteopathic Care (Recommended)

- Visit an osteopath every 3–4 months for general posture and spinal care
- Schedule treatments every 6 weeks for wrists and hands to prevent overuse injuries
- Regular maintenance can relieve tight muscles, improve posture, and prevent injuries such as:
- Carpal tunnel syndrome
- Thumb muscle strain
- Torn tendons from repetitive motion

HEALTH

Technician Ergonomics & Health

Respiratory Health

While hygiene masks are commonly used, stronger filtered masks are recommended when working with fume-releasing products like lash adhesives

Vision Support

Use an eye magnifier or magnifying glasses to reduce eye strain and improve precision

Benefits include:

- Clearer visibility
- Cleaner results
- Reduced fatigue during long sessions
- Choose comfortable, lightweight models, and ensure the correct magnification strength to avoid dizziness
- Magnifiers can be worn with or over prescription glasses



HEALTH

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in the Salon

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) refers to items worn to protect staff and clients from potential exposure to chemicals, pathogens, and other hazards commonly encountered in salon environments.

Using the correct PPE is essential for maintaining hygiene, safety, and professional standards during all treatments.

Common PPE Used in Cosmetic Treatments:

- Nitrile Gloves
 - Provide a barrier against chemicals, blood, and biological contaminants
 - Preferred over latex for reduced allergy risk
- Disposable Polythene Apron
 - Shields clothing and skin from spills, product splashes, and cross-contamination
- Face Mask
 - Prevents inhalation of dust, airborne pathogens, and fumes (especially from lash adhesive or pigment particles)
 - A filtered mask may be required for high-fume environments
- Protective Glasses or Goggles
 - Guard against chemical splashes, dust, or irritants during procedures

Consistent use of PPE not only protects your health—it also reinforces client trust and demonstrates a high level of professionalism.



HEALTH

Removing Disposable Gloves

- Extend your right hand with the palm facing upwards.
- Using the thumb and index finger of your left hand, pinch a section of the glove that covers the inside of your right wrist.
- Carefully pull the glove down about halfway over your palm, exposing the inside of the glove. Do not remove the glove entirely; let it rest in that position after pulling it down.
- With your right thumb and index finger, repeat these steps for your left hand. This time, pinch the outside of the glove above the inner part of your left wrist and remove the glove completely from your left hand. Continue to hold the left glove with your right thumb and index finger.
- Use your bare left thumb and index finger to lift a portion of the right glove, only touching the exposed inside area.
- Remove the right glove by pulling down with your left thumb and index finger. As you pull, the left glove that has already been taken off should fold up inside the right glove.
- Dispose of the rubber gloves in an appropriate container. Gloves that have come into contact with specific substances, such as chemicals and bodily fluids, should not be discarded in public trash bins.



HYGIENE

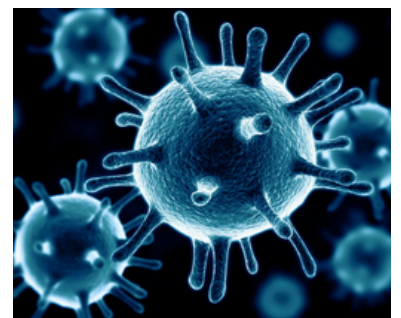
Cross-Contamination in the Salon

Cross-contamination refers to the transfer of harmful microorganisms—such as bacteria, viruses, or fungi—from one person, surface, or tool to another. In a salon setting, this can lead to the spread of infection, posing health risks to both clients and technicians.

CROSS-CONTAMINATION HYGIENE PROTOCOL

- Wash hands before and after every procedure
- Sanitize reusable tools between treatments
- Use disposable items when possible
- Wear personal protective equipment
- Disinfect all work surfaces regularly

1. How to Prevent Cross-Contamination:
2. To minimise risk, it is essential to follow strict hygiene protocols, including:
3. Sanitising all tools and surfaces between clients
4. Wearing new gloves for each procedure
5. Using single-use disposables where possible
6. Properly disposing of contaminated waste
7. Washing hands thoroughly and frequently
8. Using barrier protection such as couch rolls, aprons, and face masks
9. Consistent hygiene practices protect your clients, your business, and your professional reputation.



HYGIENE

Technician's Duty of Care: Decontamination Practices

TECHNICIAN'S DUTY OF CARE
DECONTAMINATION PRACTICES

	CLEANING REMOVING VISIBLE DIRT AND DEBRIS USING WARM WATER AND SOAP
	SANITISING REDUCING SURFACE BACTERIA WITH ALCOHOL-BASED PRODUCTS
	DISINFECTING USING BARBICIDE OR GERMICIDAL SOLUTIONS TO KILL MOST BACTERIA AND VIRUSES
	STERILISING ELIMINATING ALL MICROORGANISMS USING HIGH HEAT

BEST PRACTICE ALWAYS CLEAN FIRST BEFORE MOVING ON TO SANITISING, DISINFECTING, OR STERILISING

As a technician performing any beauty treatment, it is our duty of care to ensure that before the treatment is carried out, that the salon is clean and that any equipment we use is sanitised in the correct manner before each use.

Every state has different laws implemented on decontamination in the workspace. It is in your best interest to read and be aware of your local health department's rules and regulations.

But to start, it is good to understand the fundamental differences between cleaning, sanitising, disinfecting, and sterilising. We have listed the variations below to help you get a better picture.

Four primary methods of decontamination:

- **Cleaning:** Using warm water and soap. This method helps to eliminate surface particles.
- **Sanitising:** Using alcohol-based products to eliminate or reduce bacteria.
- **Disinfecting:** Using products that contain Barbicide or Germicides, reduce bacteria to a safe level.
- **Sterilising:** Using high heat to eliminate bacteria. This method is the most effective in terms of killing all living organisms on hard surfaces.

HYGIENE

Key Methods of Antisepsis, Disinfection & Sterilisation

Antiseptic (Surgical Spirit)

- Safe for skin use
- Cleanses the area before treatment

Disinfectant

- Reduces bacteria on surfaces and tools
- Use per manufacturer's instructions

Sterilisation Methods

Autoclave (Steam)

- High-pressure steam kills all microbes
- Use sterilisation pouches
- Follow all usage guidelines

Dry Heat

- Heats tools to high temps—no moisture
- Ideal for metal tools

Chemical Soak

- Soak tools in sterilising solution
- Great for small metal instruments
- Follow soak time and safety instructions

Storage

Store sterilised tools in a clean, dry, covered container until use.

ANTISEPTIC, DISINFECTANT & STERILISATION METHODS

ANTISEPTIC (SURGICAL SPIRIT)

- SAFE FOR SKIN USE
- CLEANSSES AREA BEFORE TREATMENT

DISINFECTANT

REDUCES BACTERIA ON SURFACES AND TOOLS

USE PER MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS

STERILISATION METHODS

AUTOClave (STEAM)

- HIGH-PRESSURE STEAM KILLS ALL MICROBES
- USE STERILISATION POUCHES
- FOLLOW ALL USAGE GUIDELINES

DRY HEAT

HEATS TOOLS TO HIGH TEMPS - NO*MOISTURE

IDEAL FOR METAL TOOLS

CHEMICAL SOAK

- SOAK IN STERILISING SOLUTION
- GREAT FOR SMALL METAL INSTRUMENTS
- FOLLOW SOAK TIME AND SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

STORAGE STORE STERILISED TOOLS IN A CLEAN, DRY, COVERED CONTAINER

Cleaning

As a technician providing beauty treatments, it is our responsibility to ensure that the salon is clean and that all equipment is properly sanitized before each use. Each state has its own laws regarding workspace decontamination. It is crucial to familiarize yourself with the rules and regulations set by your local health department for your own benefit.

HYGIENE

Cleaning your work area

MAINTAINING A CLEAN AND SAFE WORKSTATION

Clear the Area

Begin by removing any unnecessary items from your workstation, including tools, products, and personal belongings. Clearing the space allows you to effectively clean and disinfect all surfaces. Set tools aside for cleaning and sterilization.

Wear PPE

Before starting the sanitization process, don disposable gloves and, if necessary, a mask and eye protection. This will shield you from potential hazards and help ensure a safe working environment.

Clean and Disinfect the Area

Regularly clean and disinfect all work surfaces, such as countertops, tables, chairs, and spa beds, throughout the day. Focus on high-touch areas, such as drawer handles, switches, and faucet handles. Use disinfectants that are effective against a broad range of pathogens and adhere to the manufacturer's instructions for proper application.

Ventilate the Area

Consistent ventilation in the salon environment is essential for client comfort and safety. Strike a balance between maintaining desirable heat and humidity levels while ensuring adequate airflow. Proper ventilation can significantly reduce minor infections, such as the common cold.

Laundering

Wash and clean all fabric items after each use in hot water with detergent. Utilize bleach or an appropriate disinfectant to guarantee proper sanitization.

Waste Disposal

Designate and label containers specifically for the disposal of waste materials, such as used gloves, tissues, and other disposable items. Regularly empty and clean these containers to avoid waste accumulation.

Make it a habit to sanitize your workstation consistently, ideally between each client. This practice upholds a clean and safe environment throughout the day. Stay updated on the latest guidelines and recommendations from health authorities regarding salon hygiene practices. By following these steps, you can ensure a sanitized and hygienic workstation that promotes the well-being of both you and your clients.

HYGIENE

Cleaning Your Tools

Clean the tools thoroughly to remove any debris, or product residue. Use warm water, mild soap or detergent, and a brush to scrub the tools gently. Rinse them with clean water to remove any remaining soap.

Ensure that the tools are completely dry before sterilisation, as moisture can interfere with the effectiveness of the sterilisation process. Choose the appropriate sterilisation method and follow the manufacturers guidance.

Once the tools are sterilised, carefully remove them with tools like pinchers and air dry and store them in a clean and dry environment. Consider using covered storage containers or drawers to protect the tools from dust and contamination until they are needed.

Follow local health regulations and guidelines when it comes to sterilising salon tools. Regularly review and update your sterilisation protocols based on industry best practices and recommendations from relevant health authorities.

Clean Hands

Ensuring Hygiene in Client Services

- Always keep your hands sanitized and free from contamination by thoroughly washing them with warm water and soap for at least 30 seconds between clients.
- Additionally, have a bottle of hand sanitizer readily available at your station during the service.
 - To use the hand sanitizer effectively, apply a dime-sized amount to one palm and rub both hands together for 30 seconds.
- Therapists must ensure that any visible cuts or abrasions on their hands are covered with waterproof plasters.
- Similarly, if clients have noticeable cuts or abrasions in the treatment areas, these should be covered or cleaned and disinfected with extra care.

It's essential for therapists to wash their hands both before and after each treatment.

HYGIENE

Professional Appearance, Uniform & Hygiene

A beauty therapist should be an example to her trade. A client will look to her therapist as a professional and this will be reflected not only in how she looks, but also her attitude and deportment. You will be a reflection on the company in which she works. If a client does not feel satisfied with the hygiene of either the therapist or the salon, she is not likely to return.

:

- Smart professional clothing.
- Flat, clean shoes. No high heels to be worn for health and safety and comfort reasons. You should have closed in back and no peep toes. It is good practice to keep a pair of shoes in work and travel to and from work in outdoor shoes.
- Hair should be clean, tidy and secured off of the face.
- Nails should be of a workable length, clean and clear of nail polish.
- Makeup should be minimal and well applied.
- No heavy perfumes to be worn.
- You should not be decorated with anything other than a name badge or that of a professional organisation to which the therapist is a member.

Personal hygiene:

- Smell clean and fresh.
- Wear deodorant at all times.
- Good oral hygiene and be aware of fresh smelling breath. If having close contact with a client, avoid garlic and excessively spicy food the previous night. Face masks also help mask smells and allow you to work at close contact with your client.
- Deodorant should be worn at all times.
- Smokers must take extra care with their personal hygiene, the smell of cigarette smoke clings to fingers, clothes and hair. Clients may find this unpleasant or offensive.



S A F E T Y

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (C.O.S.H.H)

COSHH Regulations: Safeguarding Against Hazardous Substances

COSHH regulations outline the fundamental requirements for managing exposure to hazardous substances and ensuring the safety of individuals who may be impacted by them. It is essential to conduct a COSHH assessment to identify all chemicals, products, or other substances that could potentially cause harm. A substance is deemed hazardous if it can inflict injury on the body, posing a risk when:

- Inhaled
- Ingested
- In contact with the skin
- Absorbed through the skin
- Injected into the body
- Introduced to the body through cuts

Legally, hazardous substances must be stored in a metal, lockable cupboard when not in use.

Waste Disposal

Proper Disposal of Clinical Waste

- Clinical waste must be placed in a ****sealed bin**** equipped with a durable liner (use a biohazard waste bag if it has come into contact with blood or spores).
- Once these bags are full, they should be stored in a ****lockable bin**** and disposed of through a waste management company.

Handling Sharp Instruments

- Any sharp instruments that have penetrated the skin must be disposed of in a ****yellow sharps bin/box****.
- This is essential due to the risk of transmitting bloodborne infections, such as Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and HIV.

Contaminated materials, such as gauze or wipes used during treatments, should also be placed in a ****clinical waste biohazard bag**** and stored in a lockable bin, ensuring they are kept separate from general waste.

S A F E T Y

Insurance Requirements

As a qualified technician, it is your legal and ethical responsibility to hold a comprehensive insurance policy before performing any beauty or cosmetic tattoo treatment. Insurance is not just a formality—it plays a vital role in protecting you, your business, and your clients.

Why Insurance Matters

- Professional Protection: Covers you in the event of client claims, treatment-related injuries, allergic reactions, or disputes
- Client Confidence: Demonstrates professionalism and builds trust, assuring clients you operate to industry standards
- Business Security: Safeguards your business assets and reputation in the event of legal or medical incidents

When to Arrange Insurance

You must have insurance in place before performing any paid or promotional treatments, including case studies or discounted services.

Once you've completed your training and certification, you are eligible to apply for a professional policy.

Choosing the Right Policy

There are many insurance providers that cater to the beauty and cosmetic tattoo industry. When choosing a policy, consider:

- Coverage for all treatments you offer (e.g., nano brows, lip blush, fine line tattooing)
- Inclusions like product liability, public liability, and professional indemnity
- Policies that grow with your business as you add new services
- Additional benefits such as equipment cover or business interruption protection

We strongly recommend doing thorough research or speaking with a beauty-specific insurance advisor before committing to a policy.

DAILY SALON CHECKLIST

To maintain a professional, clean, and safe environment for both clients and technicians, the following procedures must be followed daily and between treatments:

Daily & Client-Prep Cleanliness

- Clean the entire salon daily, including floors, surfaces, and common areas.
- Sanitize the treatment area before and after every client.
- Use fresh, clean towels for each client. All used linen must be laundered at a minimum of 60°C.
- Empty bins daily and dispose of contents according to local regulations.

Product Handling & Storage

- Dispense creams, lotions, and sprays from pump/spray bottles where possible.
- If using jars, remove products with a clean disposable spatula—never double dip.
- Immediately replace lids on all product containers after use.
- Store all products safely and according to their safety data sheets.

Equipment & Tool Safety

- Sterilise all tools after every use.
- Inspect all plugs, wires, and electrical equipment regularly.
- Ensure all electrical devices are professionally tested annually.
- Report faulty equipment or products to your supervisor or supplier immediately.

Fire & Emergency Readiness

- Keep all fire exits clear and accessible at all times.
- Know the location of fire extinguishers and first aid kits.
- Be familiar with emergency procedures.

Client Care

- Ensure your client's personal belongings are safely stored.
- Use protective towels or coverings to safeguard client clothing.
- Read and follow all manufacturer instructions on products and equipment.
- Be able to identify and understand hazard symbols on products.

DAILY SALON CHECKLIST

SALON HYGIENE & SAFETY PROTOCOL

To maintain a professional, clean, and safe environment for both clients and technicians, the following procedures must be followed daily and between treatments.



DAILY & CLIENT-PREP CLEANLINESS

- Clean the entire salon daily (including floors, surfaces, and common areas)
- Sanitize the treatment area before and after every client
- Use fresh, clean towels for each client, all linens must be used at a minimum of 60°C



PRODUCT HANDLING & STORAGE

- Dispense creams, lotions and sprays from pump/spray bottles when possible, use clean equipment.
- Immediately replace lids on all product containers after use
- Store all products and containers according to their safety data sheet



EQUIPMENT & TOOL SAFETY

- Sterilize all tools after every use
- Inspect all plugs, wires and electrical equipment regularly
- Ensure all electrical devices are professionally tested annually



FIRE & EMERGENCY READINESS

- Keep all fire exits clear and accessible at all times
- Know the location of fire extinguishers and first aid kits
- Be familiar with emergency procedures



CLIENT CARE

- Ensure your client's personal belongings are safely stored

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

SECTION 5
CLIENT
CONSULTATION

CONSULTATION

Consultation



A consultation is a preliminary meeting between you, the treatment professional, and your client. Its primary purpose is to:

- Assess the client's needs and expectations
- Determine their suitability for the treatment
- Discuss preferences, concerns, and desired outcomes
- Identify any medical conditions or contraindications
- A thorough consultation builds trust, ensures client safety, and sets the foundation for successful treatment outcomes.

Consultations ensure treatments are safe, personalised, and effective. They help you:

- Identify allergies or contraindications
- Set realistic expectations
- Build trust and rapport

Spend 5–10 minutes for the initial consult. Greet the client warmly, sit face-to-face, and avoid barriers like tables. Explain the consultation's purpose and use open-ended questions to make the client feel at ease.

CONSULTATION

1. Consultation

A consultation is a preliminary meeting between you, the treatment professional, and your client. Its primary purpose is to:

- Assess the client's needs and expectations
- Determine their suitability for the treatment
- Discuss preferences, concerns, and desired outcomes
- Identify any medical conditions or contraindications
- A thorough consultation builds trust, ensures client safety, and sets the foundation for successful treatment outcomes.

Consultations ensure treatments are safe, personalised, and effective. They help you:

- Identify allergies or contraindications
- Set realistic expectations
- Build trust and rapport

Spend 5–10 minutes for the initial consult. Greet the client warmly, sit face-to-face, and avoid barriers like tables. Explain the consultation's purpose and use open-ended questions to make the client feel at ease.

Key Elements of a Client Consultation

- Clarify Goals & Concerns
- Discuss the client's desired outcome and specific worries.
- Set Realistic Expectations
- Outline what's achievable with the treatment.
- Medical & Treatment History
- Have the client complete a form covering medical conditions, allergies, medications, previous treatments, or surgeries.
- Assess Treatment Area
- Examine the area to identify skin type, condition, or contraindications.
- Review Lifestyle Factors
- Ask about diet, stress, skincare habits, and environmental exposure.
- Understand Product Preferences
- Identify sensitivities or preferences for natural vs. chemical ingredients and comfort with treatment intensity.

CONSULTATION QUESTION & ANSWER

Consultation Questions

- ☐ What are your goals, desired outcomes, and concerns?
- ☐ What are your expectations for the treatment?
- ☐ Do you have any medical history, allergies, or recent surgeries?
- ☐ Are you taking any medications currently?
- ☐ Have you had any previous beauty treatments?
- ☐ What is your lifestyle like (diet, stress, skincare, etc.)?
- ☐ Do you prefer natural or chemical ingredients in products?
- ☐ What level of intensity do you prefer for treatments?

General Information

What is your full name and date of birth?

What is the best contact number and email address?

How did you hear about our services?

Treatment Goals

What treatment are you interested in today?

What are you hoping to achieve with this treatment?

Have you had this treatment before? If yes, when and where?

Medical History

- Do you have any allergies (e.g. latex, lidocaine, pigments)?
- Are you currently pregnant or breastfeeding?
- Do you have any of the following conditions?
- (Circle or tick all that apply)
 - Diabetes
 - Epilepsy
 - Heart conditions
 - Autoimmune disorders
 - Blood-borne diseases (e.g. Hepatitis, HIV)
 - Keloid or hypertrophic scarring
 - Skin conditions (e.g. eczema, psoriasis, dermatitis)
 - Active acne or skin infection in the treatment area
- Are you currently taking any medication or antibiotics?
- Have you recently undergone surgery or cosmetic procedures?

CONSULTATION QUESTION & ANSWER



Client Fitness Levels

How fit is the client? A client may think they are fit and many will say they are fitter than they really are. A resting pulse will give you a guide.

What is your occupation, lifestyle and hobbies?

These factors will give you a rough indication of free time and budget to consider before negotiating a treatment plan. This information will give you clues as to why the client might be getting the treatment and how to advise for aftercare.

Personality, temperament and emotional state

This is not the sort of question you can ask but you can make a mental note of it so that you can decipher how to treat and communicate with the client to provide the best service possible.

And finally, at the end of the consultation when they have completed the form, add a disclaimer and the client's signature to verify that the information the client has given you is, to the best of their knowledge, true and correct.

CONSULTATION

Step 2 - Consultation Analysis & Feedback to the Client

Based on this assessment, the you will need to:

- Recommend suitable treatment(s) and explain the benefits and potential risks of each option.
- Customise the treatment / treatment plan to suit the client's individual needs and preferences.
- Provide a detailed explanation of the treatment process, including the steps involved, duration, and any pre- and post-treatment care.
- Provide information about possible side effects, risks, and how they will be managed.
- Provide information on the cost of the treatments, available packages if applicable.
- Discuss the number of sessions required for optimal results and any maintenance treatments.

Step 3 - Questions & Clarifications

Encourage the client to inquire about any questions they may have related to the treatment, the products utilized, or any other concerns. Respond to these inquiries with the utmost clarity, ensuring they have a complete understanding of the treatment and its components.

Step 4 - Consent

Ensure that you obtain the client's consent only after they have been thoroughly informed about the treatment, utilizing the appropriate consent form.

Step 5 - Book the Appointment

Schedule the treatment into your calendar and providing any preparatory instructions to the client.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

A contraindication is a condition or factor that makes a treatment unsuitable or potentially harmful for a client. Identifying contraindications is a vital part of the consultation process and must be recorded at the initial appointment and reviewed again before each treatment.

Recognising these conditions is essential to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of every client and to deliver treatments responsibly and professionally.

There are 2 types on contraindications: preventative and restrictive.

Preventative

Preventative contraindications are situations that prohibit a treatment from being carried out. These are circumstances in which a treatment should never be administered due to the significant risk of harm involved.

Restrictive

Restrictive contraindications limit certain aspects of a treatment. These situations indicate that a treatment can be administered, but with caution and specific adjustments. It is essential to thoroughly evaluate the potential risks in relation to the benefits.

Guidelines for Handling Contraindications in Client Treatment

- Refer clients with contraindications to their GP for advice or treatment.
- Do not discuss contraindications with the client to avoid misinformation.
- If uncertain about a contraindication, do not proceed with treatment; refer to a physician.
- This approach protects both the practitioner and the client.
-

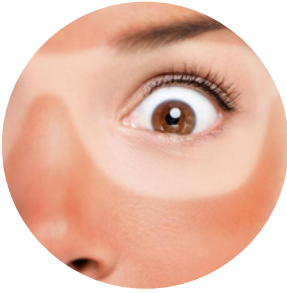
Exercise extreme caution when addressing contraindications due to their sensitive nature and potential complications.

Please note that some personal circumstances and/or changing living conditions (for instance: diseases, pregnancy, intake of medication/hormones/supplements or the like) could have an effect on physical and/or allergic reactions.

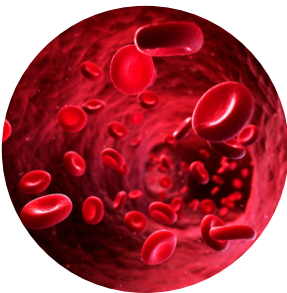


CONTRAINDICATIONS

Preventative



Sunburn - if your clients wants nanobrows but have received a tan or worse, a sunburn, it's better to wait until their skin has returned to its natural colour and healed before scheduling an appointment.

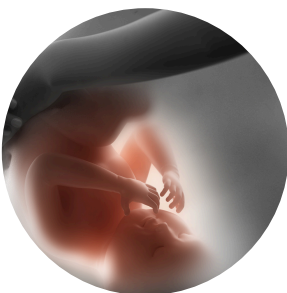


Bleeding Disorder - if there is a risk of excess bleeding to occur, this will prevent appropriate colour deposit.



Autoimmune Disorders - due to the poor skin health caused by autoimmune disorders your client will not be a good candidate.

Clients that have hypertension are usually taking blood thinning medication, which may lead them bleeding more than normal and bleeding must be kept to a minimum. Blood will dilute the pigment and the anaesthetics. Also, thicker scabs are likely to form and scabbing results in excessive loss to pigment (colour).



Other:

- pregnant or breastfeeding
- a heart condition
- haemophilia
- epilepsy
- undergoing chemotherapy
- major heart problems
- has a pacemaker
- organ transplant
- uses or has used Accutane within the last year
- has had botox within the past month

CONTRAINDICATIONS

Restrictive



Unsuitable Skin Types

Clients with eczema, psoriasis, keratosis pilaris, or dermatitis may not retain pigment effectively, making them poor candidates for PMU. Problematic Skin Conditions



Clients with chronic acne, rosacea, or very oily skin often bleed more and retain color poorly. Oily skin, in particular, may cause hairstrokes to blur, creating a less natural result.

Dermatitis & Sensitive Skin

Irritated, flaky skin compromises pigment retention and increases the risk of bleeding, leading to poor outcomes.

Cancer Survivors

PMU can support cancer recovery, especially for brow reconstruction, areola restoration, or skin rejuvenation. While generally safe, healing may be slower due to immune suppression. Always advise clients about extended recovery times and ensure this is reflected in their consultation forms.



CONTRAINDICATIONS

Restrictive



Remember, your client does not have to tell you they have a blood-borne disease.

Always take precautions and follow the proper sanitary practices advised by your local city's guidelines to protect yourself.



Blood thinners, blood pressure medication, and pain killers prevent blood platelets from clumping together which means that they will be more prone to bleeding during a PMU procedure.

You should ask your client to get clearance from their physician before performing any PMU services.



If your client has taken prescription medication of acne, the medication must be discontinued for a minimum of six months before cosmetic tattooing.



Does your client have diabetes, currently on any form of immunosuppressant therapy or any condition that may delay healing?

Diabetic clients who are insulin dependent often do not heal as well and may be at a heightened risk for infection.

It is essential that they keep the blood sugar level under control to reduce the risk of slow healing.

Immunosuppressant drugs reduce the body's immune system and delay healing.

They may need clearance from their physician before you do this procedure.

PATCH TESTING



Patch Test - Anaesthetics

SET UP HYGENIC ENVIRONMENT

Ensure your work station is hygienically clean for patch testing.

CLEAN AREA - INSIDE WRIST

Clean a small area of inside wrist, and wipe with alcohol wipe.

APPLY PATCH TEST

Using a cotton tip, apply anesthetic, leave on for 5 minutes and remove with a clean damp cotton pad.

ASSESS RESULTS

It can take 24-48 hours for sensitivities or allergies to submerge. Check in with your client to ensure there are no signs of allergies or sensitivities.

ALLERGIES & PATCH TESTING



1. Do you have any known allergic reactions or sensitivities to any topical or local anaesthetics?

Most topical numbing agents contain lidocaine. Make sure your client is not allergic to lidocaine before applying the numbing cream.

2. Do you have any allergies (i.e. Polyprion, Bacitracin, Neosporin, Latex, etc.)?

Always have nitrile gloves in handy in case your client is allergic to latex.

Tattoo allergies take many forms, depending on the tattoo ink ingredient causing the problem. These are the signs to look for.

There are several risks to consider before subjecting skin to a tattoo needle, not the least of which is the possibility of infection from viruses like hepatitis and HIV. But even if you have a safe tattoo studio and the cosmetic tattoo artist uses a sterile needle, you're not out of the woods. The tattoo ink can potentially cause an allergic reaction.

A tattoo allergy can result in swelling, irritation, a rash, or some other skin abnormality at or around the site of the tattoo.

Tattoo ink contains several ingredients and chemicals, and you may be allergic to any one of them. Substances like iron oxide, mercury sulphide, ferric hydrate, aluminium, and manganese are only a few of the ingredients that may be included in the ink, depending on the colour. An allergy to any of these substances can cause an allergic reaction once the ink gets into your skin. Red tattoo ink is the most common cause of tattoo allergic reactions, although any colour can be to blame.

CONTRA - ACTIONS

A contra-action is an adverse and unintended reaction that can occur during or after a beauty treatment. Recognising, managing, and documenting contra-actions are crucial for ensuring client safety, maintaining professional standards, and building client trust.

These reactions are not necessarily due to contraindications (pre-existing conditions that make a treatment inadvisable) but rather are unintended side effects that can arise despite following all proper procedures and precautions. Contra-actions can vary in severity and may require immediate attention or specific aftercare to manage.

Expected/Normal Reactions:

- Slight swelling (tender, puffy skin). This can be caused by working on more delicate skin. The course of action would be to apply a cold compress.
- Erythema (redness of the skin due to dilation of blood vessels), This would be caused by a reaction to an external stimulus or infection. The course of action would be to apply a cold compress.

Unexpected/Abnormal Reactions:

- Allergic rash (redness, possible mild irritation to the area). The cause of this would be an allergic reaction. The course of action would be to remove the product and apply a cold compress, advise the client to consult their GP if no improvement within 24 hours.
- Severe swelling (tender, puffy skin). This would be caused by the removal of hair. The course of action would be to apply pressure and wipe over with antiseptic.
- Inflammation or damage to the eye (stinging/ burning sensation to the eye). This would be caused by products entering the eye. The course of action would be to remove the product and rinse in distilled water.

PRE - PROCEDURE ADVICE

Brow Cosmetic Tattoo Before-care Instructions

1. Avoid Blood Thinners

- Do not take aspirin, ibuprofen, or any other blood-thinning medications for at least 48 hours before your appointment, unless prescribed by a doctor.
- If you are taking prescribed medication, please consult your physician before discontinuing use.

2. No Alcohol or Caffeine

- Avoid consuming alcohol, caffeine, or energy drinks for at least 24 hours prior to your appointment. These can increase sensitivity and bleeding, which may affect pigment retention.

3. Skincare and Treatments

- Avoid using Retin-A, retinoids, AHAs, BHAs, exfoliating acids, or any anti-aging products around the brow area for at least one week before the treatment. These products can make the skin more sensitive and affect pigment application.
- Stop using any chemical peels, microdermabrasion, or any other exfoliating treatments on or around the brow area for at least two weeks before your appointment.

PRE - PROCEDURE ADVICE

5. No Botox or Fillers

- Avoid Botox or fillers in the forehead area for at least 2 weeks before the procedure, as this can change the natural positioning of your brows.

6. Medication and Medical Conditions

- Inform your technician if you are on any medications or have any medical conditions. Some medications can interfere with the procedure and the healing process.

7. Sun Exposure and Tanning

- Avoid sun exposure and tanning for at least a week before your appointment. Sunburnt or recently tanned skin is more sensitive and can lead to less predictable results.

8. Moisturize

- Keep your brow area well moisturized leading up to your appointment, but do not apply any lotion or moisturizer on the day of your treatment.

9. Rest and Hydrate

- Make sure to get a good night's sleep before your appointment, and stay hydrated. A well-rested and hydrated body will respond better to the procedure.

10. Patch Test

We always recommend a patch test to ensure no sensitivity or allergies. This is optional and complementary . 48 hours minimum before appointment.

Cosmetic Tattooing is a 2-3 step process. Each session is to be completed 4-8 weeks apart.

SECTION 6
COLOUR
101

COLOUR THEORY

Understanding Colour in Brow Tattooing

Colour selection is one of the most complex and critical aspects of achieving beautiful, long-lasting brow results. In this chapter, we'll cover the fundamentals of colour theory in relation to implanting pigment into the skin.

Think of the skin as a blank canvas—its hue, undertone, and melanin levels will all influence how pigment appears once healed.

Key Considerations:

- The final colour result is determined by the client's natural skin tone and undertone, not just the pigment itself.
- Your colour choice is one of the first things clients notice, so precision and confidence in colour matching are essential.
- Pigment behaves differently in and under the skin—what you see in the bottle may heal warmer, cooler, lighter, or darker depending on skin chemistry.

Pro Tips:

- Use professional-grade pigments that are pre-modified (warm or cool) to neutralise undertones.
- When needed, adjust pigment temperature by adding a drop of a warmer or cooler modifier, depending on the client's skin undertone.
- Always evaluate:
 - Skin depth
 - Fitzpatrick type
 - Existing pigment (if performing a correction)



COLOUR THEORY

Understanding Colour in Brow Tattooing



COLOUR THEORY

The colour wheel

A colour wheel is a visual guide that arranges primary, secondary, and tertiary colours in a circle, showing how they relate to one another.

For SPMU artists, understanding colour theory is essential to:

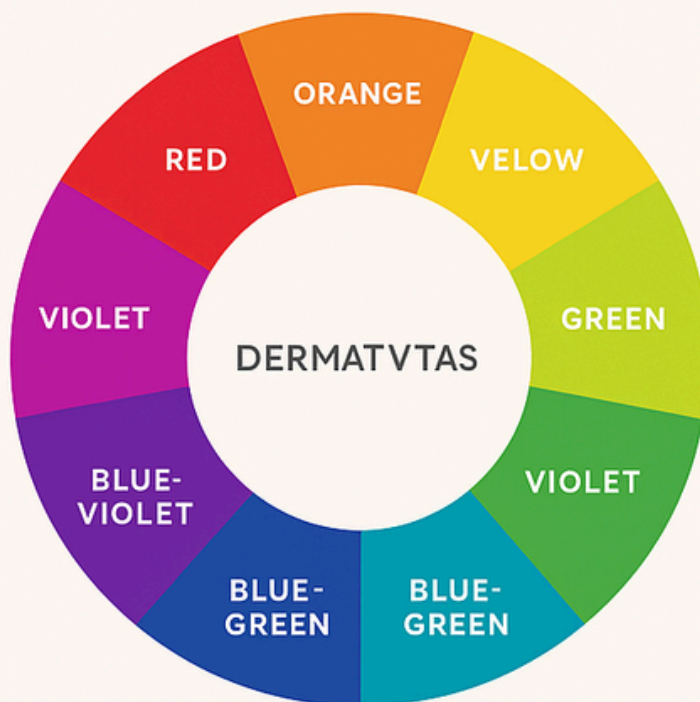
- Predict how colours will behave when layered, blended, or placed side by side
- Create balanced, natural-looking results by neutralising or enhancing undertones
- Make informed pigment choices for different skin types and tones

Mastering the principles of colour theory—and how to apply them to the facial canvas—is what sets advanced artists apart in the industry.



COLOUR THEORY

The colour wheel



- A colour wheel is a visual guide that arranges primary, secondary, and tertiary colours in a circle, showing how they relate to one another
- For SPMU artists, understanding colour theory is essential to:
 - Predict how colours will behave when layered, blended, or placed side by side•
 - Create balanced, natural-looking results by neutralising or enhancing undertones
 - Make informed pigment choices for different skin types and tones

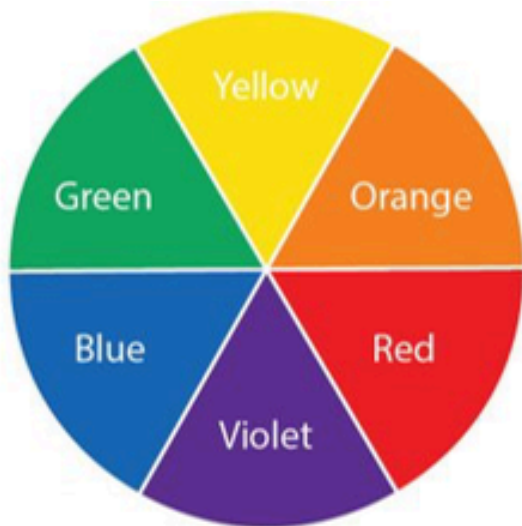
Mastering the principles of colour theory—and how to apply them to the facial canvas—is what sets advanced artists apart in the industry.

COLOUR THEORY



Understanding Primary Colours

Red, yellow, and blue are known as the primary colors. These three pigment colors cannot be created or produced by mixing any other colors. All other colors are derived from these three fundamental hues.



Understanding Secondary Colors

Secondary colors are formed by mixing two primary colors or contrasting colors, resulting in a range of hues. For instance:

- Combining blue and yellow produces green
- Mixing blue and red yields violet

Combining red and yellow creates orange



Tertiary Colours

Tertiary colours - yellow-orange, red-orange, red-purple, blue-purple, blue-green & yellow-green. These are the colours formed by mixing a primary and a secondary colour. That's why the hue is a two word name, such as blue-green, red-violet, and yellow-orange.

COLOUR THEORY

Warm vs Cool Colours

Warm vs Cool Colours

Understanding the difference between warm and cool colours is essential for making confident and accurate pigment selections.

Warm Colours

Warm tones are vivid and energetic, evoking elements like sunlight or fire.

Common warm colours include:

- Red
- Orange
- Yellow

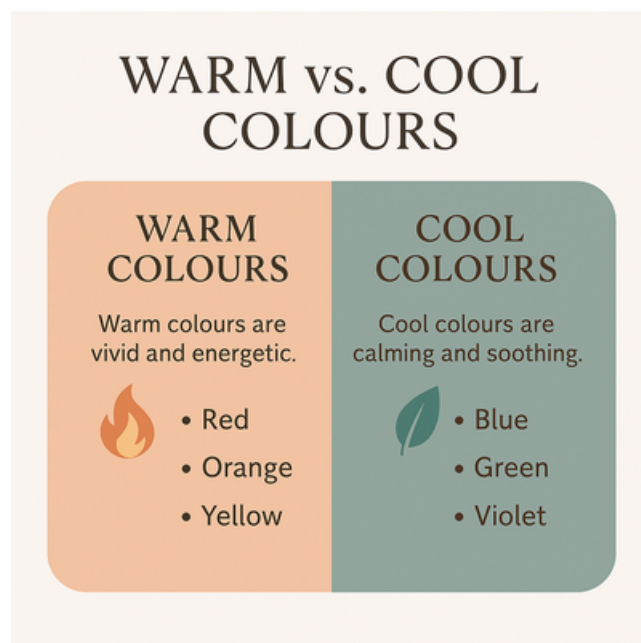
Cool Colours

Cool tones are calming and soothing, often associated with water or nature.

Common cool colours include:

- Blue
- Green
- Violet

By mastering this distinction, you'll be better equipped to neutralise undertones and select pigments that complement each client's skin tone.

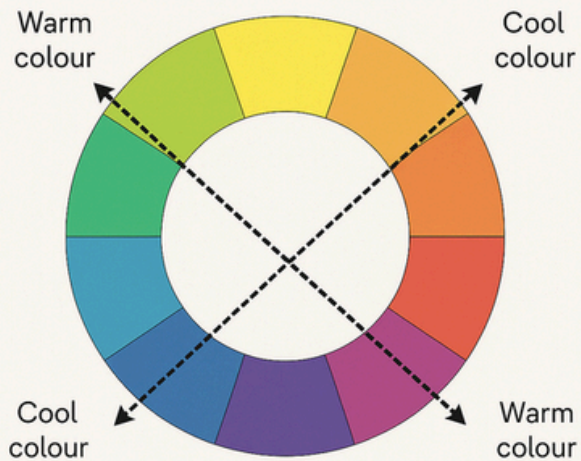


COLOUR THEORY

Neutralising Colour with the Colour Wheel

Neutralising Colour with the Colour Wheel

Cool colours are neutralised by warm colours, and warm colours are neutralised by cool colours.



To neutralise a colour, use the pigment with the opposite hue on the colour wheel.

In colour theory, cool colours neutralise warm colours, and warm colours neutralise cool colours. This is especially important in PMU when correcting or adjusting pigment tones.

To determine the correct neutralising pigment:

- Find the target undertone on the colour wheel
- Use the colour directly opposite to neutralise it

This principle helps achieve balanced, natural results—especially in correction work or when adjusting for skin undertones.



COLOUR THEORY

Understanding Brown in Colour Theory



Brown is a tertiary colour and plays a key role in cosmetic tattooing and colour correction. It can be created in two primary ways:

1. Mixing All Three Primary Colours

Blending red, yellow, and blue in varying proportions produces a wide range of brown tones.

- Adjusting the balance between these three creates warmer, cooler, or neutral browns.

2. Combining Complementary Colours

Mixing one primary colour with the secondary colour opposite it on the colour wheel also results in brown:

- Red + Green
- Blue + Orange
- Yellow + Purple

This method uses the principle of neutralisation to mute or balance intense hues, a technique commonly used in PMU correction work.

The Goal: A Balanced Brown

A well-balanced brown contains equal parts of each primary colour, resulting in a neutral, harmonious shade. Understanding this balance is essential for:

- Creating custom brow tones
- Performing accurate colour corrections
- Avoiding unwanted undertones once pigment heals

This foundational colour knowledge will be especially useful in the upcoming Colour Correction Techniques section.

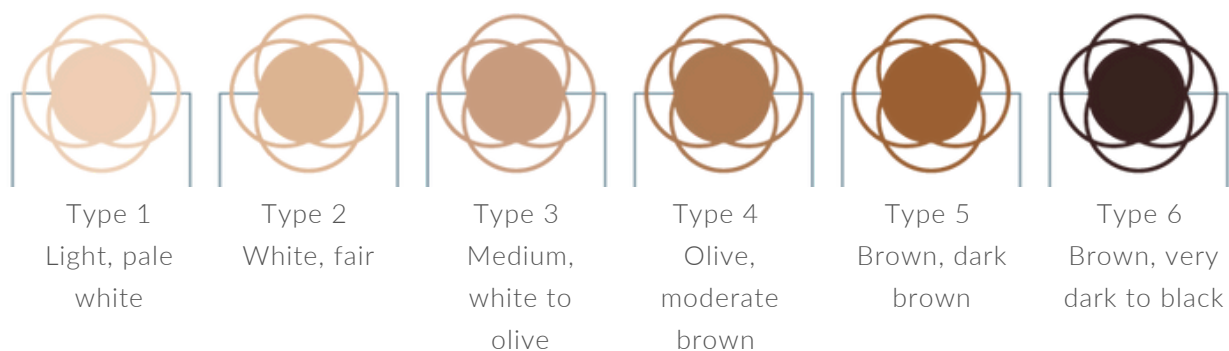
COLOUR THEORY

The Fitzpatrick Scale

The Fitzpatrick Scale is a recognised system used to classify human skin types based on how the skin reacts to ultraviolet (UV) exposure. Developed in 1975 by dermatologist Dr. Thomas B. Fitzpatrick, it was originally created to help determine safe UVA doses for light therapy (PUVA).

While early versions focused on hair and eye colour, the scale was later improved to reflect how a person's skin responds to sun exposure, making it more accurate across a wider range of skin tones.

Today, the Fitzpatrick Scale is widely used in dermatology, laser therapy, and cosmetic tattooing to help professionals assess pigment retention, risk of hyperpigmentation, and treatment safety for all skin types.



As technicians, we customize eyebrow colors based on clients' preferences, natural hair color, and six guiding categories.

- For brown-haired clients, a shade one tone lighter offers a natural look, while up to two tones darker can create definition.
- For black-haired clients, medium to dark brown shades are recommended to avoid an unnatural match.
- Red-haired clients benefit from complementary shades like light blonde, ginger, and warmer browns for harmony.

For blonde-haired clients, taupe is ideal for a natural, cohesive appearance.

COLOUR THEORY

Understanding Undertones

Selecting the Right Pigment Hue for Permanent Makeup

When choosing the right pigment for permanent makeup, it's vital to evaluate both the Fitzpatrick skin type and the warmth or undertone of the client's skin. ****Warmth**** refers to the visible presence of red or pink tones, which can vary from pale or rosy to olive, tanned, or deeper shades. This assessment aids in selecting pigments that complement the client's complexion.

In addition to visible warmth, comprehending the skin's undertone is essential. Undertones are the subtle hues beneath the skin's surface and can vary even among individuals with similar skin tones.

Undertones are generally classified into three categories:

- Cool: Pink, violet, or blush undertones.
- Warm: Yellow, red, or golden undertones.
- Neutral: A balanced blend of both warm and cool undertones.

To accurately identify pigment undertones and skin tones, several methods can be employed:

- Paper Test: Place a drop of pigment on white paper to reveal true undertones.
- Skin Application: Apply pigment directly to the skin to assess compatibility with natural tone.
- Vein Observation:
 - Blue veins indicate a cool undertone.
 - Greenish veins suggest a warm undertone.
- Jewelry Test:
 - Use platinum or silver; a glowing effect indicates a cool undertone.
 - Gold jewelry should create a radiant look for a warm undertone.

COLOUR THEORY

Choosing Colours

Selecting the Right Pigment for Client Brows

When choosing the ideal pigment for a client's eyebrows, it's crucial to take their skin tone and undertone into account. Here's a guide to matching pigments based on different skin tones:

Cool Tones

- Ideal for: Individuals with fair skin and rosy complexions.
- Characteristics: Cool tones usually have undertones of ash-gray, green, or ultramarine blue, while avoiding red hues.
- Effect: These pigments tend to create soft blonde or light brown brows, making them an excellent choice for clients with cool undertones.

Neutral Tones

- Versatility: This palette works well for fair skin, particularly for those with darker undertones such as blue or brown.
- Examples: Shades like alizarin crimson and cadmium red feature red undertones that blend nicely with darker fair skin, though they may appear too intense on very light skin tones.

Warm Tones

- Recommended for: Clients with darker skin that has olive, umber, or chocolate undertones.
- Best suited for: Individuals with brown or black hair, or those who tan easily.
- Benefit: Warm tones amplify the natural warmth of the skin, offering a harmonious and natural appearance.

Key Considerations for Choosing Pigment:

It is generally recommended to begin with a softer colour that can be deepened in future appointments since lightening a colour post-application is quite difficult. Always conduct swatch testing before applying the pigment to ensure it matches the client's skin tone and preferences accurately.

[illegible]

SECTION 7 -
NANOBROWS
PROCESS

STARTING THE TREATMENT

Step 1 - Client Consent Forms

Upon the client's arrival, ensure they complete the consent forms, release forms, and any required medical history documents. It's essential to have these filled out before commencing any consultation or procedural steps.

Confirm that all necessary information has been provided, including a list of any existing allergies, and verify that they have passed the health clearance and disqualification checklist.



Step 2 - Consultation



Conduct a consultation with your client as per the instructions of the Consultation chapter.

Make sure that you discuss with your clients what to expect based on their previous work as well as manage their expectations.

Step 3 - Before Photos

After you've completed the consultation and have got to know your client's goals, you want to take before photos and videos.

Now is a great opportunity to get a lot of content, making sure you have a lot of photos and videos because content is essential to marketing and advertising your business and services. Be sure to take some of the client in different positions and angles for variety.



N A N O B R O W S : S T E P - B Y - S T E P

Step 4 - Identify the Skin Type and Evaluate the Treatment Area



Essential Skin Assessment Before Treatment

Before initiating any treatment, it's crucial to examine your client's skin. This inspection allows you to identify any irregularities and make informed decisions regarding their skin care. After a thorough evaluation, you can provide guidance on their at-home care routine, suggest any additional treatments you may offer, and recommend suitable products.

Understanding Different Skin Types

As a brow artist, you will encounter a variety of skin types. Familiarity with these differences is vital for effectively managing each case. The type and health of your client's skin significantly influence how it responds during procedures and ultimately affects the healing results.

It's essential to recognize the distinctions among normal, dry, oily, and combination skin types. The four most common types of healthy skin include:

- Normal
- Dry
- Oily
- Combination

Skin tone is determined genetically, and our skin is exposed to various internal and environmental factors, leading to variations in skin health.

N A N O B R O W S : S T E P - B Y - S T E P

Normal Skin

It's common to refer to balanced skin as "normal." Healthy skin is referred to as eudermic in medicine. The T-zone (forehead, chin, and nose) may be slightly oily, but overall sebum and moisture levels are balanced, preventing either excessive oiliness or dehydration. Even with regular skin, ageing can cause drier skin. Normal skin appears healthy and radiant.

Normal skin has:

- fine pores
- good blood circulation
- a velvety, soft and smooth texture
- a fresh, rosy colour uniform transparency no blemishes
- is not prone to sensitivity



Clients with normal skin take pigments very well and their healed results are usually exceptional.

N A N O B R O W S : S T E P - B Y - S T E P

Dry Skin

Understanding Dry Skin

“Dry skin” describes a skin type that generates less sebum compared to normal skin. With inadequate sebum production, dry skin lacks the essential lipids necessary for moisture retention and protection against environmental factors. Consequently, its barrier function is weakened.

Xerosis, another term for dry skin, can present in various forms and severity levels. Notably, women are significantly more prone to experiencing dry skin than men, and all skin types tend to become drier with age. In fact, dry skin issues account for approximately 40% of visits to dermatologists, making it a prevalent concern.



Clients with dry skin usually take pigments very well and have the best retention. However, if your client has exceptionally dry skin and experiences dry patches and flakiness, you may notice that during the procedure the brows may look unblended since pigment may take more on those dry patches.

NANO BROWS: STEP - BY - STEP

Oily Skin

Oily skin is defined by increased sebum production, known as seborrhea. This skin type is more susceptible to comedones (blackheads and whiteheads) and various acne forms. Mild acne can present numerous comedones on the face and body, while moderate to severe cases may lead to red, irritated skin with papules and pustules.

Factors contributing to excess sebum production include:

- Genetics
- Hormonal changes
- Medication
- Stress
- Comedogenic cosmetics

Characteristics of oily skin are:

- enlarged, clearly visible pores
- a glossy shine
- thicker, pale skin: blood vessels may not be visible



Clients with oily skin tend to have poor retention with lighter and patchier healed results. With oily skinned clients, you may want to use a darker colour or shade more for better healed results. Going for a bold style will allow for the brows to last longer. You may notice that during the procedure the brows may take longer to complete. Excessive skin oil tends to promote fading so you may advise that healed results may be light and patchy. A touch up appointment will be essential for good healed results and the client's brows may need more maintenance.

NANO BROWS: STEP - BY - STEP

Combination Skin

Understanding Combination Skin

Combination skin refers to a condition where the cheekbones and T-zone exhibit varying skin tones. The T-zone can range in size from quite small to significantly large.

Characteristics of Combination Skin

- **Oily T-Zone:** This includes the forehead, chin, and nose, which often have enlarged pores and may exhibit impurities.
- **Dry Cheeks:** These areas are typically normal to dry, resulting from lower sebum production.

The oiliness in the T-zone results from an overproduction of sebum, while the dry patches stem from insufficient sebum and a corresponding lipid deficiency.



Clients with combination skin may have mixed results. This depends on whether the brow area is oily or dry. If the brow and forehead area show signs of oiliness, please refer to the oily skin type section and if the area is usually dry, please refer to the dry skin type section.

N A N O B R O W S : S T E P - B Y - S T E P

Combination Skin

In contrast to skin type, skin condition can change significantly throughout your life. Several internal and external factors influence your skin's condition, including:

- Climate and pollution
- Medications
- Stress
- Hereditary traits affecting sebum, sweat, and natural moisturizing factors

Additionally, the products you choose and your skincare decisions play a role. When selecting skincare products, it's essential to consider both your skin type and condition.

Dermatologists and skincare professionals evaluate the following criteria to assess an individual's skin type and condition.

Signs of Ageing



Over a lifetime, our skin type can evolve. For instance, teenagers with oily skin may find that their skin becomes drier after puberty, while individuals with normal skin might notice increased dryness as they age.

All skin types undergo a loss of volume and density over time, leading to the emergence of fine lines, wrinkles, and potential pigmentation changes. By observing and understanding these signs of aging, we can better assess the health of our skin.

NANO BROWS : STEP - BY - STEP

THE AGING PROCESS OF THE SKIN

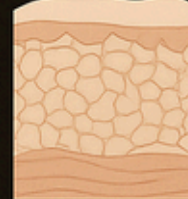
Skin aging is influenced by genetics and hormonal changes as well as sun exposure, lifestyle, and other factors. From age 25 onward, natural aging begins.

IN 20s

IN 30s

IN 40s

IN 50s



- Reduced gland activity
- Loss of elasticity
- Wrinkle formation
- Visible pores
- Facial sagging
- Body contour changes
- Thinner epidermis
- Prominent bone structure
- Uneven fat distribution
- Thinner epidermis
- Prominent bone structure
- Uneven fat distribution
- Sluggish lymphatic drainage
- Increased facial hair
- Liver spots and skin tags

N A N O B R O W S : S T E P - B Y - S T E P

Skin Colour

The way our skin responds to environmental factors such as sunlight, pigmentation challenges, irritation, and inflammation is influenced by our skin color and ethnicity. The primary skin color is dictated by the thickness of the epidermis and the distribution of melanin. Additionally, skin redness is a significant indicator of healthy skin; it can help identify conditions like couperose and rosacea, while also reflecting the efficiency of our blood circulation.

Skin Sensitivity

Sensitive skin is easily affected by various factors, such as skincare products or extreme temperatures, which are usually regulated by healthy skin. Some individuals consistently experience sensitive skin, while others may only encounter it in specific internal or environmental conditions. This sensitivity arises when the skin's natural barrier is weakened, leading to increased irritability and moisture loss. Symptoms can be exacerbated by elements that facial skin is particularly susceptible to, including sunlight and certain ingredients found in cosmetics and cleansers.

Sebum and Sweat Production

The amount of sebum generated by the sebaceous glands plays a crucial role in determining the effectiveness of the skin's barrier function, which in turn affects the overall condition of the skin. Excessive sebum production can result in oily and acne-prone skin, while insufficient production can lead to dryness. Meanwhile, the sweat glands produce sweat to help regulate the body's temperature. Both excessive and inadequate sweating can impact skin health.

Natural Moisturising Factors (NMF's)

Amino acids play a vital role in retaining moisture in the skin, ensuring its elasticity and softness while preventing dryness. These essential components are naturally produced in healthy skin. However, when the skin's protective barrier is compromised, it often struggles to retain these crucial Natural Moisturizing Factors (NMFs), leading to decreased hydration and overall poor skin condition.

N A N O B R O W S :

S T E P - B Y - S T E P

How to Conduct the Skin Analysis		
Asking your Client Questions	• How do you find your skin usually? • What are your main concerns about your skin? • What products are you currently using at home?	This can give you insight into the client's day today experience with their skin and attitude towards it.
Touching your Client's Skin	Gently examine your client's skin by both touch and sight, focusing on the forehead, nose, chin, cheeks, and neck. Observe and assess the following: • Is there an adequate amount of natural oil present? • What is the skin's moisture level—does it feel hydrated or dry? • Is there noticeable perspiration or sweat on the surface? • Without visual cues, how does the skin feel to the touch—smooth, rough, or textured? • What is the skin's temperature—does it feel warm, cool, or clammy? • Does the skin display healthy elasticity and muscle tone? • Is there a presence of excess fatty tissue (adipose tissue)? • Are there any visible imperfections, irregularities, or abnormalities in the skin?	This assessment will help you identify the following skin characteristics: • Comedones (blackheads) • Milia (whiteheads) • Pore size (enlarged or refined) • Wrinkles or fine lines • Broken capillaries • Crepey or thinning skin • Shiny, oily areas • Dry, flaky patches • Overall skin tone and colour • Apparent skin age (e.g., youthful or mature) • Skin texture (e.g., fine, smooth, or coarse)
Skin Colour	• History of the skin-origin	• When assessing skin tone, consider the following: • Evenness of overall colour – Is the skin pale, dark, olive, or uneven in tone? • Underlying tone – Does the skin appear ruddy (red), sallow (yellow), or clear? • Pigmentation – Is there an even tan, or is pigmentation present in patches, such as freckles, lentigines (age spots), or other forms of uneven pigment?
External Factors	• The client's occupation or lifestyle • Home care (or lack of it!) • Medication	• Will that have an affect on the skin? • Is the client using the correct products for their skin type? • Some medication such as steroids can have an effect on the skin.

NANO BROWS: STEP - BY - STEP

Step 5 - Select the Pigments

When selecting a pigment mixture for a client, it's essential to consider a range of factors to ensure the best results. These considerations include the client's skin undertone, skin tone, brow hair colour, natural hair colour, and any existing or previous eyebrow work they may have.

Skin Undertone

The initial and essential step in selecting pigments is to determine the client's skin undertone. Identifying whether the client has a cool, warm, or neutral undertone will assist you in choosing pigments that harmonize with their natural tones. This ensures a more authentic and cohesive look.

Skin Tone

Next, evaluate the client's overall skin tone and identify their Fitzpatrick skin type. This classification will guide you in deciding the appropriate lightness or darkness of your pigment mixture. For example, clients with lighter skin tones may require softer shades, while those with darker skin tones might benefit from richer pigments.

Finalization

To finalize the pigment choice, consider additional aspects such as the color and density of the client's existing brow hair, their natural hair color, and their personal preferences. This thorough approach guarantees that the selected pigment complements the client's natural features and aligns with their desired aesthetic. By taking all these factors into account, you can achieve a beautifully blended and visually appealing result.

The table on the next page is a tool you can use to identify which Fitzpatrick type your client would fit into.

Go through each question with the client and note down each score they receive in the last column.

Then, add up all of the points to get their Skin Sensitivity Score and use this total along with the table to the right to see which Fitzpatrick type they fall into.

Skin Sensitivity Score	Skin Type
0 - 7	Type 1
8 - 16	Type 2
17 - 25	Type 3
26 - 30	Type 4
Over 30	Type 5 & 6

NANO BROWS: STEP - BY - STEP

Question	Score 0	Score 1	Score 2	Score 3	Score 4	Total
What is the colour of your eyes?	pale blue, grey or green	blue, grey or green	pale brown	dark brown	brown/black	
What is the colour of your hair?	ginger	blonde	light brown	dark brown	black	
What is the colour of your non-exposed skin?	reddish	very pale	pale with an olive tint	pale brown	dark brown	
Do you have freckles?	all over	medium	a few	minimal	none	
How does your skin react to overexposure of the sun?	painful redness	burn with peeling	burn without peeling	rarely burn	never burn	
How does your skin tan?	never	slight	reasonable	easily	quickly	
Do you notice a colour change directly (some hours) later sunbathing?	never	hardly	sometimes	often	always	
Is your face sensitive in the sun?	very sensitive	sensitive	normal	very resistant	no problem	
When was your last sun tan?	+3 months ago	2 - 3 months ago	1 - 2 months ago	less than a month ago	less than 2 weeks ago	
Do you expose the area to be treated?	never	hardly	sometimes	often	always	

NANOBROWS: STEP - BY - STEP

Step 6 - Prepare the Eyebrows

Preparing the Client's Eyebrows

- Start by cleansing the client's eyebrows using alcohol wipes to prepare the area and eliminate any dirt and bacteria.
- Ensure you clean the entire surrounding area, including the skin around the eyebrows and directly into the eyebrow hairs.
- It's essential to remove any makeup residue, as well as traces of eyebrow gel or stubborn cosmetics.
- Utilize a mascara wand to brush the hairs, ensuring they are clean and free of tangles.

Once the area is properly prepped, you can proceed with shaping the client's eyebrows.



NANO BROWS: STEP - BY - STEP

Step 7 - Eyebrow Mapping



The Art of Brow Mapping: Creating the Perfect Shape

We've all had brow mishaps—whether from over-plucking, a bad brow appointment, or natural hair loss. As brows grow back, they often return unevenly. While it's tempting to keep plucking stray hairs, the key to clean, balanced brows is brow mapping—a method to determine where to grow and where to remove hair.

Why Brow Mapping Matters

Every set of brows is unique—there's no universal shape that suits everyone. Brow mapping helps artists design a shape that flatters the client's face and enhances their natural structure.

What Is Brow Mapping?

Brow mapping is a technique that uses key facial measurements to outline the ideal brow shape. It involves marking three main points: the start, arch, and tail. These guide the overall shape, ensuring balance, definition, and symmetry.

The Benefits

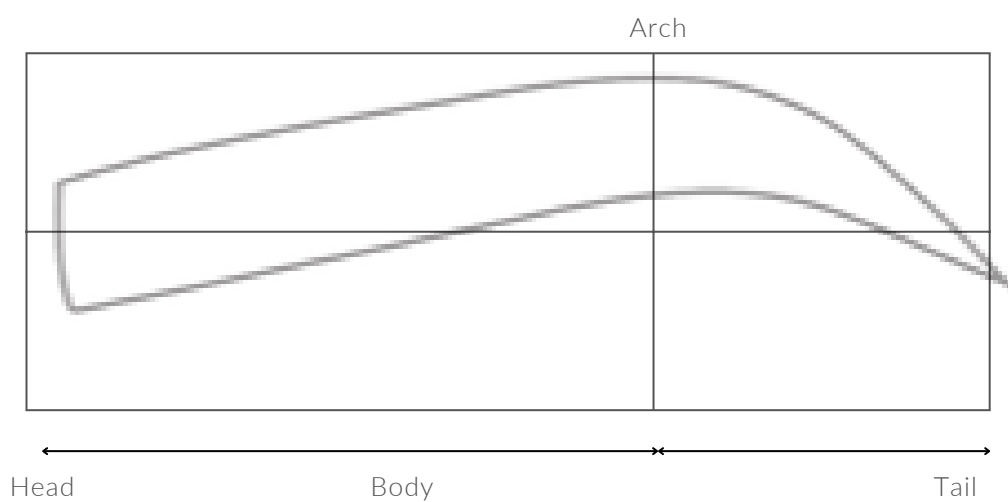
Unlike stencils, which offer a generic shape, brow mapping is personalised. It enhances facial symmetry, defines features, and can even lift the appearance of the eyes.

Experienced artists may not rely solely on mapping, but instead combine mapping principles with an artistic eye—considering brow length, structure, and face shape to tailor each result. The more you work with different brows, the sharper your brow artistry becomes.

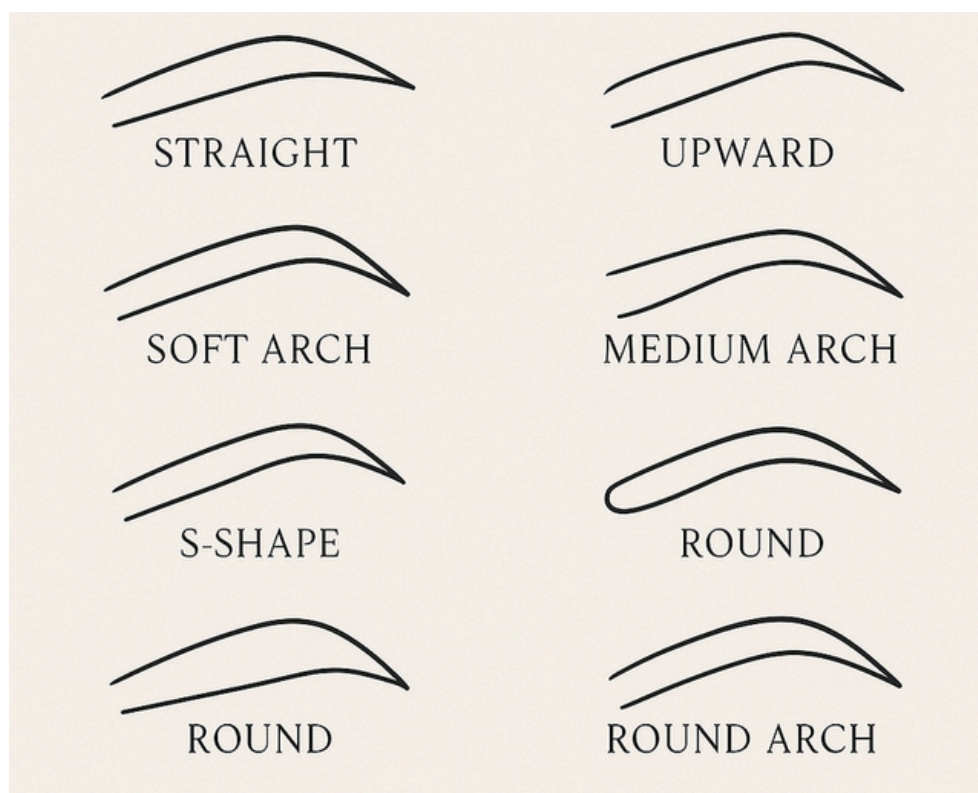
N A N O B R O W S : S T E P - B Y - S T E P

The eyebrow is composed of 3 different sections: the start, the body, and the tail. We divide these sections into thirds when composing the eyebrow to ensure we are accurately creating symmetry between the two.

The composition can be broken down like this:



Common Eyebrow Shapes



NANO BROWS: STEP - BY - STEP

Face Shapes

To determine which eyebrow shapes best complement your client, the first step is to identify their face shape. You can visualize this by imagining a picture frame around the face. In this frame, the eyebrows represent the top, the jawline creates the bottom, and the sides are defined by the area between the temples and the jawline.

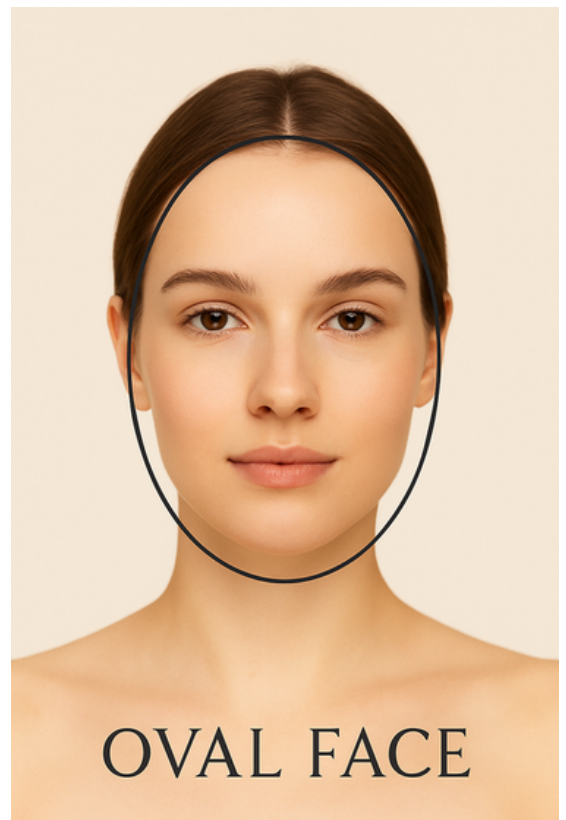
Oval Face Shapes

- The face gracefully narrows down to the chin
- A broader forehead
- Distinctive cheekbones
- An ideal face shape

Eyebrow Objective

Achieving the Perfect Brow Shape for an Oval Face

To preserve the desirable oval face shape, it's important to adopt a softly angled eyebrow design. The oval face is often regarded as the ideal shape, as it complements a variety of brow styles. However, there are a few guidelines to follow to ensure you achieve the most flattering brow shape for an oval face.



Useful Tips

- ***Avoid creating oval brows on an oval-shaped face. To achieve this, ensure that the arch is positioned away from the center of the brows.***
- ***Maintain a soft contour for the brow shape to prevent them from looking overly sharp or angular.***

NANO BROWS: STEP - BY - STEP

Square Face Shapes

- Forehead, cheekbones and jawline are almost the same width
- Square, bony jawline which can be a prominent feature

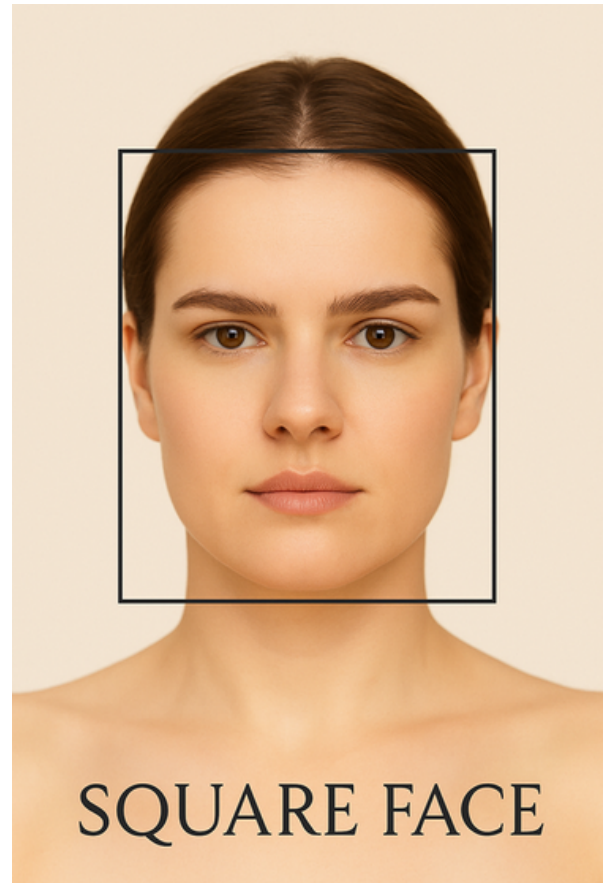
Eyebrow Objective

Softening and Balancing a Strong Jawline

To achieve a softer and more balanced appearance for a strong jawline, consider the following steps:

- Begin with a curved eyebrow shape.
- Gradually introduce more angles to enhance balance.

If the jawline is particularly strong or bony, opt for a more angled brow shape to complement it.



Helpful Tips

- Steer clear of rounded brows on a square face, as they can clash with the face and its features. Additionally, avoid flat brows, as they may make the face look shorter and even more angular.
- Maintain angular contours for the brows, featuring a squarer front and straighter lines. Incorporate a subtle curve under the arch to achieve balance.
- Elevate the arch to elongate the face, positioning it closer to the center of the brow to emphasize the central features.
- Extend the length of the brows to create the illusion of a slimmer jawline.

NANO BROWS: STEP - BY - STEP

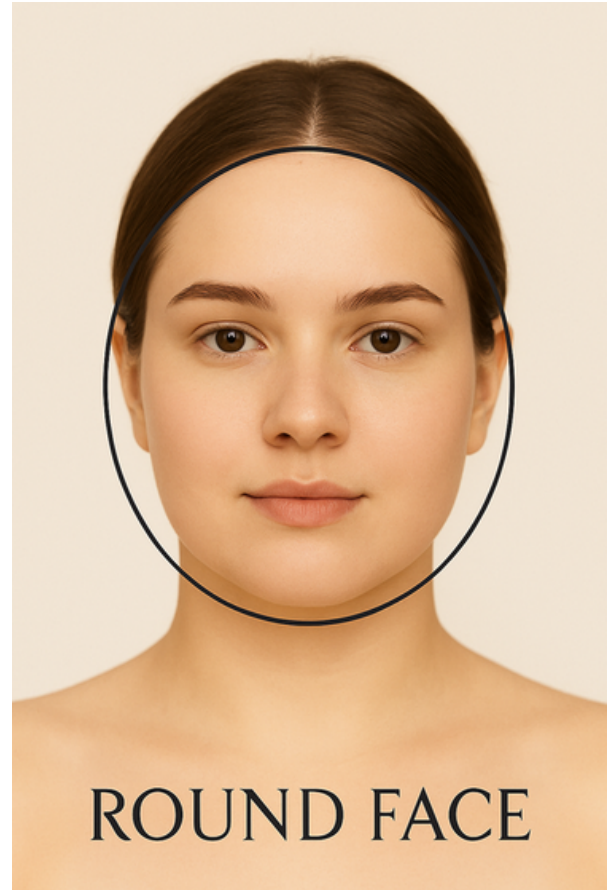
Round Face Shapes

- Face width and length almost the same
- Widest at the cheeks

Eyebrow Objective

Enhancing the Appearance of a Round Face

To create the illusion of a longer face, opt for a high arch eyebrow. The upward and downward lines will guide the viewer's gaze vertically, thereby elongating the face. This technique introduces more vertical lines, which are flattering. Avoid rounded brows, as they can emphasize the roundness of the face.



Helpful Tips

- Steer clear of straight, flat brows on a round face, as they can create a mismatch and make the face appear shorter. Additionally, avoid round brows, as they can accentuate the roundness of the face and its features.
- Refrain from sharp, angular shapes, as they do not complement the natural curves of the face.
- Maintain soft contours for the brows, with a slight curve beneath the arch.
- Brush the hairs at the front upright to introduce an angular element to the brow shape, helping to achieve balance.
- Incorporate height at the arch to elongate the appearance of the face.
- Position the arch closer to the center** of the brow to create a more oval look for the face.
- Extend the length of the eyebrows to give the illusion of a slimmer jawline.

NANO BROWS: STEP - BY - STEP

Rectangle Face Shapes

- The face gently narrows towards the chin.
- There is an elongated structure from the forehead to the chin.
- The chin is somewhat pronounced.

Eyebrow Objective

Enhancing the Appearance of a Long Face

A long face often has an oblong or rectangular shape, characterized by a narrow width and closely set, deep-set eyes. Our goal is to create the illusion of a shorter and wider face. To achieve this, choose a brow shape that is flatter and more curved, with a gentle arch and extended tails. This style will help to visually shorten the face and broaden its appearance at the temples.



Helpful Tips

- Steer clear of a high arch in the brows, as this can elongate the appearance of the face.
- Maintain a flatter brow shape to avoid creating the illusion of a shorter face.
- Opt for soft, curved characteristics that enhance the facial features.
- Position the brows wider apart to shift focus away from the center of the face.
- Place the highest point of the arch further from the center of the brows.
- Create the arch from underneath the brows rather than the top to help open up deep-set eyes.
- Extend the tails of the brows to give the illusion of a wider face at the temples.

NANO BROWS: STEP - BY - STEP

Heart Face Shapes

- The face has a strong taper leading to the chin.
- The chin is typically pointy.
- The forehead often stands out as a prominent feature.

Eyebrow Objective

If you have a heart-shaped face, you'll notice that the forehead is the widest part, while the chin tapers to its narrowest point. Our goal is to create the illusion of a narrower forehead and to soften the chin, making it appear less pointed. Choose a gently curved brow shape that is shorter in length and positioned closer together. This will help draw attention to the center of your face and enhance the overall balance of your features.

Our objective is to create a softer and more balanced appearance for a prominent chin and possibly a noticeable forehead. The forehead may be the widest part of the face. Depending on its prominence, begin by shaping the lower arch with gently rounded brows, gradually adding more volume. This technique not only elongates the forehead but also helps to harmonize the pointed chin.



Helpful Tips

- Steer clear of rounded eyebrows on a heart-shaped face, as they can accentuate the heart shape.
- Avoid flat, straight brows, as they may create a triangular appearance to the face.
- Opt for shorter brows to create the illusion of a narrower forehead, balancing the jawline.
- Position the brows closer together to focus attention on the center of the face.
- Place the arch nearer to the center of the brow to highlight the middle of the face.

N A N O B R O W S : S T E P - B Y - S T E P

Additional Considerations

Amount of Existing Brow Hair

Addressing Hair Growth Imbalance in Brow Shaping

Hair growth imbalances can significantly impact the shaping of eyebrows. If a client has one brow higher than the other, adjustments will need to be made. You'll want to lower the higher brow and raise the lower one to create a balanced appearance. In some cases, this may require sacrificing a few brow hairs to achieve symmetry.

If one brow has a straighter shape while the other is more arched, you'll need to find a middle ground to create alignment while preserving as much brow hair as possible. The straighter brow should be slightly arched, and the more arched brow should be softened and made a bit straighter. Since brow hair is valuable, it's essential to retain as much as you can in the new shape, as this contributes to a more natural look.

Brow Bone / Bone Structure

Considering Bone Structure in Shaping

When shaping brows, it's essential to take your client's brow bone and overall bone structure into account. Often, if your client has pronounced brow bones, there may be unevenness in their brow shape. One side of the face might feature a flatter brow bone, while the other is more prominent. Carefully assess the symmetry of your client's brow bone, as this can impact the overall symmetry of the brow shape.

Brow Muscle Imbalance

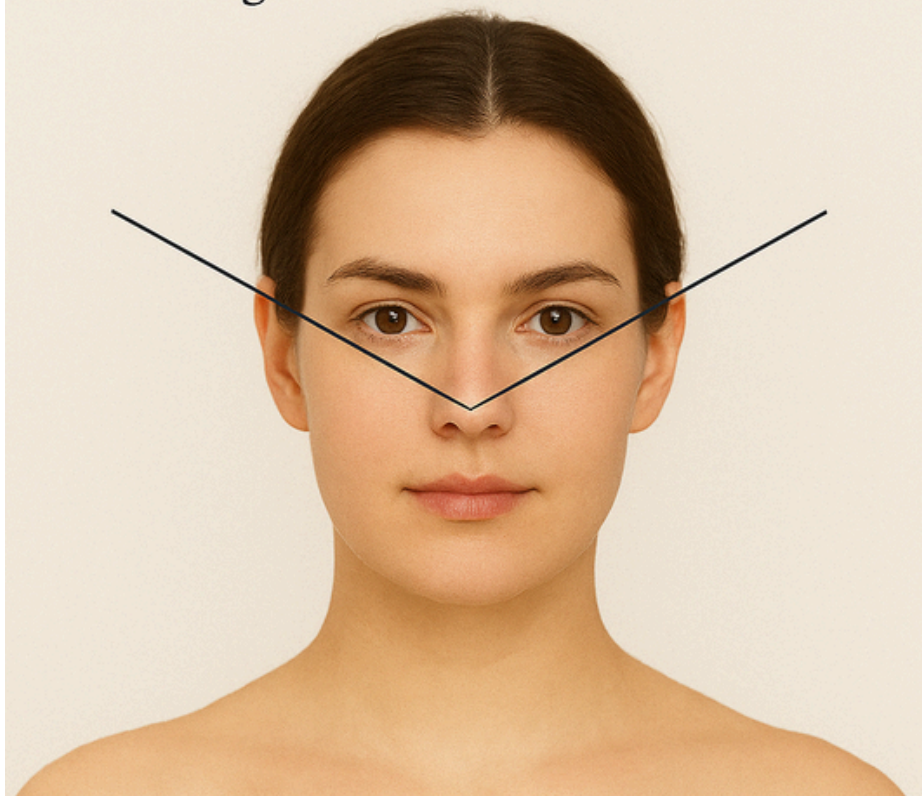
When it comes to shaping, it's essential to consider your client's brow muscles. It's possible that one side of her eyebrow has more muscle development than the other, potentially leading to a more pronounced area on one side. This imbalance can disrupt the overall symmetry of your client's face and, consequently, the symmetry of her brows.

N A N O B R O W S : S T E P - B Y - S T E P

Eye Axis Imbalance

Your client's eyes can play a key role in achieving brow symmetry. One eye may sit slightly higher, lower, be more rounded, or appear longer than the other. Always take note of any eye axis imbalances and factor them into your brow mapping to create the most balanced and flattering result.

Your client's eyes can be a factor to consider when it comes to trying to achieve symmetry. One eye may sit slightly lower, higher, be more rounded, or appear longer than the other. Always take note of any eye axis imbalances and factor them into your brow mapping to create the most balanced and flattering result.

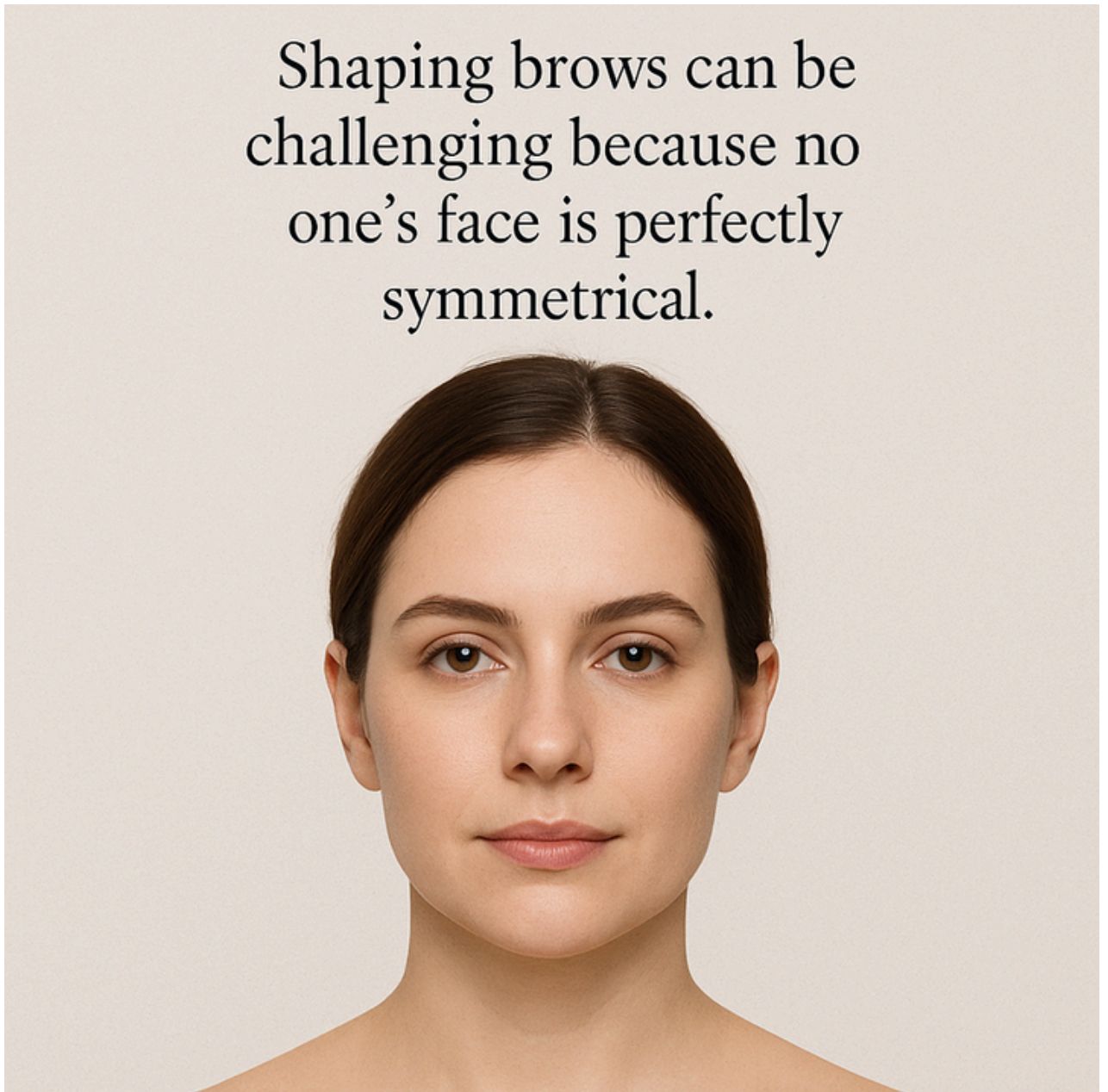


N A N O B R O W S : S T E P - B Y - S T E P

Asymmetry

Shaping brows can be challenging because no one's face is perfectly symmetrical. Along with the common factors that contribute to asymmetry—such as uneven eyes, bone structure, or muscle movement—there may also be other individual features that influence balance. Always assess the face as a whole to account for these subtle differences when designing symmetrical brows.

Shaping brows can be
challenging because no
one's face is perfectly
symmetrical.



N A N O B R O W S : S T E P - B Y - S T E P

The Golden Ratio Technique

The Golden Ratio Technique for Eyebrow Mapping

The Golden Ratio technique is a method employed to achieve symmetrical and visually appealing eyebrows by adhering to the principles of the Golden Ratio (approximately 1.618:1). This mathematical ratio, commonly observed in nature and art, is thought to produce harmonious and balanced proportions.

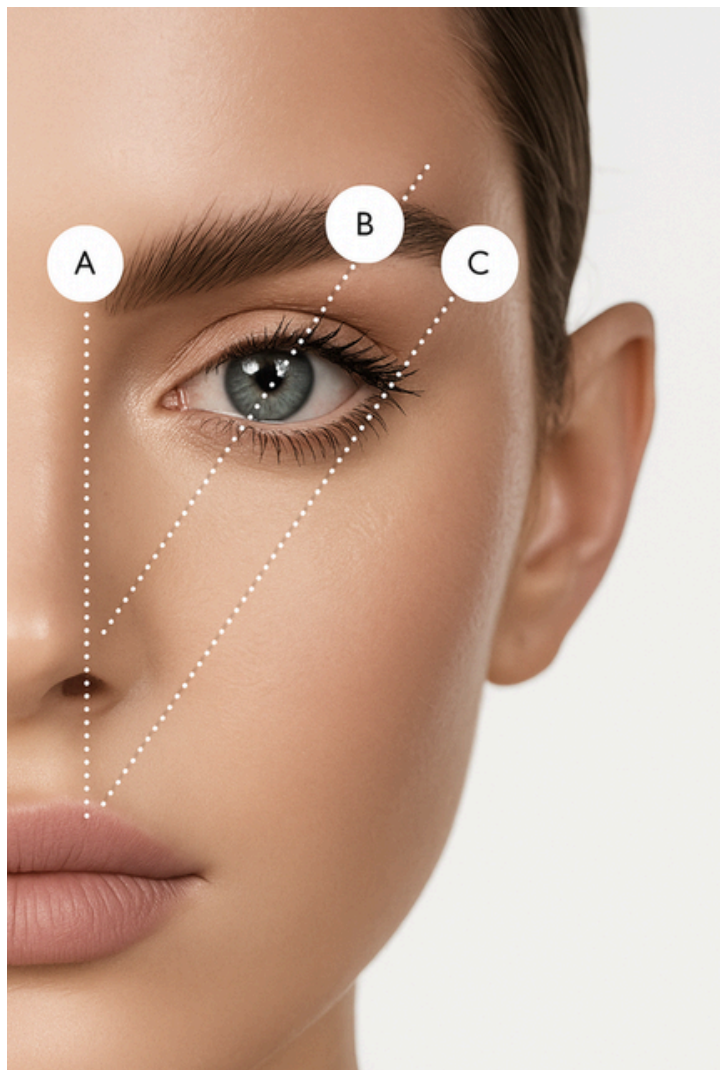
Identify Key Points

Defining Brow Points

Starting Point (A):** Position the mapping tool or a straight edge vertically against the outer edge of the nostril, extending it to the inner corner of the eye. Use a pencil to mark this spot on your brow; this indicates where your brow should begin.

Arch Point (B): With the tool still at the outer edge of the nostril, tilt it so that it crosses through the outer edge of the iris while you look straight ahead. Mark this point, as it represents the highest point of your brow's arch.

Ending Point (C): Once more, place the tool at the outer edge of the nostril and angle it towards the outer corner of the eye. Mark this location on your brow; this is where your brow should conclude.



NANO BROWS: STEP - BY - STEP

Step 8 - Establishing the Guidelines

Defining Your Brows with Precision

- **Use a brow pencil or angle brush** to connect the points you've marked with a light line, outlining the shape of your brows.
- **Draw a horizontal line** from the starting point (A) to the ending point (C), passing through the arch point (B) to create the lower edge of the brow.
- **Establish a parallel line** above it to determine the desired thickness of the brow.



Step 9 - Symmetry Evaluation

Ensure both eyebrows are symmetrical by checking that the points align correctly on both sides of the face. Adjust the points if necessary to achieve balance.

N A N O B R O W S : S T E P - B Y - S T E P

Pre-drawing

Starting the Pre-Drawing Process

Next, you can initiate the pre-drawing phase. Utilize the brow map you've created to sketch the eyebrows and establish the preliminary outline. Lightly pencil in the brows within the string lines and dots you've marked.

- Ensure that the fronts of the brows are not drawn in too dark; keep them light to allow for a smooth transition from the skin.
- This technique helps your client accurately assess whether they love the shape of the brows.

When the front is too darkly penciled, it can make the brows appear thicker or bolder, potentially leading to confusion and indecision for your client regarding their desired shape.



After the brows are pencilled in, conceal the brows with concealer and a concealer brush. This allows me to create a precise and sharp pre-draw and make any tweaks you may need to do.

NANO BROWS: STEP - BY - STEP

When shaping the brows, it's important to manage the client's position effectively. Typically, the client alternates between sitting up and lying down. While they are sitting up, you should stand in front of them to ensure symmetry with their eyes open, as this provides the most accurate representation of the final shape. Shaping when the client is lying down can make it challenging to assess symmetry and shape correctly, especially if their eyes are closed, which may cause the brows to appear relaxed or uneven.

Encourage clients to keep their eyes open and focus on a fixed point, such as your neck or nose, to maintain consistency. It's common for clients with strong brow muscles to have one brow raise when they open their eyes, so shaping should be done with their eyes open to achieve evenness.

While lying down, the client is more comfortable and allows you to rest your hand on their face, providing better stability while drawing. Regularly check the shape by having the client sit up to ensure consistency. Some artists prefer to shape the brows entirely while the client is sitting up, based on their personal technique.

Step 10 - Organize Your Procedure Tray

Now that we're finished with shaping the client, you can setup your procedure tray for the tattoo process. Put away your shaping materials and anything that needs to be sanitized after the appointment for now. Prepare your procedure tray by setting up your hand piece, wrapping it, prepping the numbing cream, the wipes, the wands, etc. Choose the colour for your client and mix the ink. Make sure to shake the pigment bottles thoroughly before using. You can shake the bottle for at least 30 seconds or use a pigment shaker. Squeeze the pigment into a pigment ring or pigment tray and mix the pigment mixture using a toothpick.



NANOBROWS: STEP - BY - STEP

Hand Placement

Essential Hand and Body Placement for Brow Shaping and Tattooing

Achieving optimal results in brow shaping and tattooing relies heavily on proper hand and body positioning. Your comfort level directly influences the quality of your work. Many beginners encounter shakiness during procedures due to discomfort and a lack of familiarity with working closely on a client's face. As a brow artist, it's vital to acclimate yourself to being in close proximity to the client's face, which will enhance your stability and precision.

- ***Understanding the Impact of Tension:*** When you are tense, your grip and control may be affected. Tension in your shoulders and arms can result in a tighter grip, restricted mobility, and increased pressure—all factors that can jeopardize the final outcome. Therefore, finding a comfortable position and relaxing before you begin is crucial; this will enable you to maintain a steady hand and better control throughout the process.
- ***Optimal Positioning During Tattooing:*** Your positioning in relation to the client is critical during the tattooing process. If you are right-handed, sit on the client's right side; if left-handed, choose the left side. This arrangement allows your stretching hand to rest comfortably on the client, promoting better control and stability.

Hand Placement Considerations: While tattooing, your elbow will typically rest on the edge of the bed or the client's arm, and the hand holding the tattooing device should find a comfortable resting spot on the client's face. This hand placement may vary depending on the specific brow section you are working on and the client's facial structure. Adjusting your position as needed will contribute to a more precise and comfortable tattooing experience.



N A N O B R O W S :

S T E P - B Y - S T E P

Stretching the Skin

The Importance of Proper Skin Stretching in Tattooing

Effective skin stretching is essential for precise pigment placement and ensuring overall client comfort during the tattooing process. By stretching the skin, the pigment is deposited directly into the dermis, the layer of skin where it remains most effective and long-lasting. This technique also helps alleviate pain and sensitivity for the client by minimizing the needle's impact on the skin.

When skin is stretched properly, it prevents the needle from pulling or tugging, which can lead to unnecessary discomfort and may compromise the quality of the artwork. The hand used for stretching is the one that does not hold the tattoo machine. For right-handed artists, this is the left hand, while for left-handed artists, it is the right hand. Ensuring adequate skin tension facilitates a smoother application and enhances the overall experience for the client, making it more precise and comfortable.

2 Point Stretch

Effective Skin Stretching Techniques

To achieve optimal skin stretching, utilize your thumb alongside either your index or middle finger. Place these fingers on opposite sides of the area being treated and gently pull the skin in opposite directions. This method ensures that the skin is uniformly stretched across the entire surface.

By employing this stretching technique, you create a smooth and taut surface, which facilitates precise pigment application and enhances client comfort. Maintaining proper skin tension reduces the chances of the needle catching or dragging, leading to a more comfortable and successful procedure. Adjust the direction and tension of the stretch according to the contours of the treatment area to ensure ideal skin conditions throughout the process.

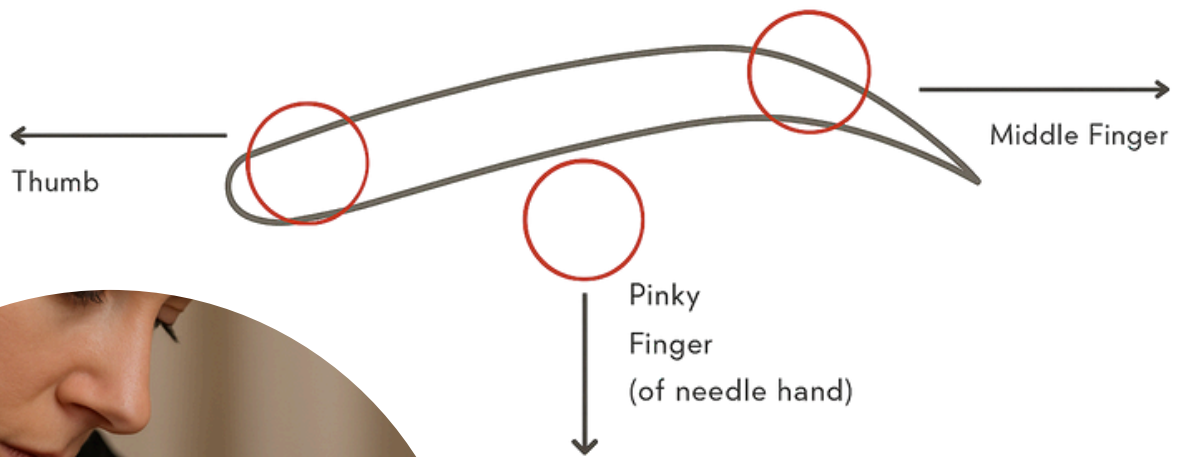


NANO BROWS : STEP - BY - STEP

3 Point Stretch

To perform a 3-point skin stretch, begin by using your stretching hand to create a 2-point stretch. Position your thumb and another finger, such as your index or middle finger, on either side of the treatment area and pull the skin in opposite directions. This initial stretch ensures the skin is taut and smooth.

Next, use the pinky of your machine hand to apply an additional stretch outward, further enhancing the tension on the skin. This three-point stretching technique combines the efforts of both hands to achieve a more comprehensive and controlled stretch. By pulling in multiple directions, you maintain an even surface, which facilitates accurate pigment placement and enhances client comfort. Adjust the intensity of the stretch as needed based on the specific contours and sensitivity of the treatment area.



N A N O B R O W S : S T E P - B Y - S T E P

Hand Piece Grip

If you are right-handed, your right hand will typically be the dominant hand used to operate the machine. Conversely, if you are left-handed, you will use your left hand to hold and control the machine. Proper hand positioning is crucial for achieving both comfort and precision during your work.

To hold the machine effectively, position your pointer finger and middle finger on either side of the machine, cradling it to provide stability and control. Your thumb should rest lightly but securely against the machine, offering additional support and ensuring a firm grip. This hand positioning allows you to maintain a steady hold and manoeuvre the machine with precision, which is essential for achieving accurate and consistent results.

Maintaining a relaxed yet controlled grip is key. A tense or overly tight hold can lead to fatigue and affect the fluidity of your movements, while a loose grip might compromise your control over the machine. Finding a balance where your fingers and thumb offer support without unnecessary strain will help you work more comfortably and efficiently.

Additionally, the position of your hand should facilitate a natural and ergonomic posture, reducing strain on your wrist and fingers. Adjusting the machine's angle and your hand's positioning as needed can enhance your comfort and improve your technique, allowing for better control and a more precise application.



N A N O B R O W S : S T E P - B Y - S T E P

Machine Angles & Needle Depth

The length of the needle can be adjusted using the machine, and it's important to set it correctly to achieve optimal results. The ideal needle length for most procedures should be between 2.0 and 2.5 millimetres, with approximately one-fifth of the needle entering the skin. This ensures precise pigment placement while minimising trauma to the skin.

Although many machines come with numerical adjustments intended to represent the needle length in millimetres, it's essential not to rely solely on these measurements. Visual inspection should be your primary method for checking needle length. Adjust the needle by turning the knob on the machine to achieve the desired depth.

Client skin thickness varies significantly, which means you should always start with a lighter pressure and shallower needle depth when beginning a procedure. Begin with minimal needle penetration, observe how well the pigment retains in the skin, and make adjustments as necessary. If the pigment doesn't seem to stay in the skin or appears too light, gradually increase the needle depth and pressure. Once you find the optimal depth where the pigment is absorbed effectively, maintain that setting. Avoid increasing pressure in an attempt to speed up the process, as excessive needle depth can lead to overworked skin or poor pigment retention. Overworked skin often results in a cooler healing effect and can compromise the overall quality of the final result.

To accurately gauge needle depth, rely on your tactile senses and the level of vibration you feel as the needle moves across the skin. With experience, you will develop the ability to sense the correct needle depth and recognise the subtle feedback from the skin.

N A N O B R O W S : S T E P - B Y - S T E P

Machine Angles & Needle Depth

Setting the correct needle depth is key to proper pigment implantation and reduced skin trauma. Machine settings aren't always accurate, so visual inspection and knowledge of skin anatomy are essential.

Needle Set Too Long

Signs:

- Little to no pigment retention
- Excessive bleeding or trauma
- Client discomfort after first few passes

Cause: Needle is penetrating too deeply, risking tissue damage and poor healing.

Fix:

- Check visually: approx. 1/5 of the needle should extend from the cartridge.
- Turn the adjustment dial counterclockwise to reduce depth.
- Start with light pressure and adjust as needed.

Needle Set Too Short

Signs:

- Pigment pools or spills on the surface
- Wipes away easily, poor retention
- No trauma, but no colour implanted

Cause: Needle isn't reaching the dermis, so pigment stays on the surface.

Fix:

- Slightly increase depth via the machine's dial.
- Test on practice skins for optimal projection.
- Avoid working too superficially, especially on thicker skin.

Pro Tip: Trust Your Eyes

Don't rely solely on numbers (e.g. 2.0mm). Cartridge designs and skin thickness vary.

- Look for 1–2mm of needle projection when running.
- Typical range: 2.0–2.5mm, but adjust to skin type and procedure.

NANOBROWS: STEP - BY - STEP

Drawing Hair

In nanobrows, maintaining control and precision is essential. When creating hair strokes, you want to keep the machine at a consistent 90-degree angle to the skin. This ensures that the strokes remain crisp and natural-looking, without the risk of pigment spreading or strokes becoming blurry. Avoid tilting the machine or drawing sideways, as this can lead to uneven results. Gentle, controlled pressure is key; as with microblading, you'll want to release the pressure gradually as you near the end of each stroke. This tapering technique mimics the natural appearance of real eyebrow hairs, which are thicker at the base and gradually thin out towards the tips.

When performing nano brows, precision and technique are just as critical as in microblading—but the approach differs due to the use of machine-operated needles instead of manual blades. Creating soft, realistic hair strokes with nano requires mastery over needle angle, consistent pressure, and smooth, controlled movement.

Success also depends on selecting the right needle configuration and maintaining the correct stroke depth for optimal pigment retention and minimal trauma.



NANO BROWS :

STEP - BY - STEP

NEEDLE SELECTION & DEPTH CONTROL IN NANO BROWS

◆ NEEDLE CHOICE BY SKIN TYPE

- **Delicate or Mature Skin**
 - Use ultra-fine needles (as small as 0.18 mm)
- **Normal to Coarse Skin**
 - Slightly thicker needles 0.20 mm to 0.25 mm
- **Flexible needles**
 - Flexible needles for better pressure control

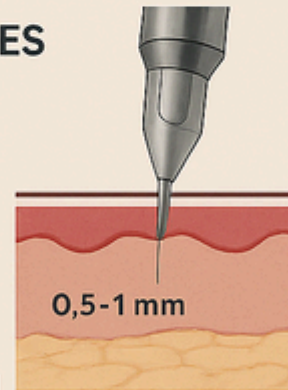


◆ NEEDLE DEPTH GUIDELINES

Ideal penetration depth:
0.5 mm to 1.0 mm
depending on skin thickness

◆ PRO TIPS FOR DEPTH CONTROL

- **Visual cues:** Slight skin blanching or gentle resistance helps confirm you're in the correct layer.
- **Auditory feedback:** A light vibration or subtle 'buzz' as the needle enters the skin often indicates correct pressure and depth. If silent, your pressure may be too light and pigment may not retain well.
- **Work slowly and steadily:** A controlled pace helps maintain consistent depth and stroke definition



NANOBROWS: STEP - BY - STEP

Drawing Hair

In nanobrows, maintaining control and precision is essential. When creating hair strokes, you want to keep the machine at a consistent 90-degree angle to the skin. This ensures that the strokes remain crisp and natural-looking, without the risk of pigment spreading or strokes becoming blurry. Avoid tilting the machine or drawing sideways, as this can lead to uneven results. Gentle, controlled pressure is key; as with microblading, you'll want to release the pressure gradually as you near the end of each stroke. This tapering technique mimics the natural appearance of real eyebrow hairs, which are thicker at the base and gradually thin out towards the tips.

When performing nano brows, precision and technique are just as critical as in microblading—but the approach differs due to the use of machine-operated needles instead of manual blades. Creating soft, realistic hair strokes with nano requires mastery over needle angle, consistent pressure, and smooth, controlled movement.

Success also depends on selecting the right needle configuration and maintaining the correct stroke depth for optimal pigment retention and minimal trauma.

Needle Selection & Depth Control in Nano Brows

Choosing the right needle for your client's skin type is critical in nanobrows. For clients with fine or delicate skin, smaller nano needles (as small as 0.18 mm) are preferred to create fine, precise strokes. Clients with coarser skin may benefit from slightly larger needles, ranging from 0.20 mm to 0.25 mm, to ensure the pigment is implanted deeply enough for proper retention. Flexible needles are ideal for working on sensitive skin, as they allow you to adjust the pressure easily, avoiding strokes that go too deep or appear ashy.

The depth of the needle is another crucial factor. In nanobrows, the needle should penetrate the skin at a depth of about 0.5 to 1 mm, depending on the skin's thickness. This depth allows for sufficient pigment placement while avoiding overworking the skin. Maintaining a steady hand and working slowly ensures that each stroke is uniform, and you can often gauge the correct depth by the sound the needle makes as it enters the skin. A subtle vibration or sound indicates proper pressure, while silence could suggest the pressure is too light, resulting in strokes that are too shallow and don't retain pigment well.

NANOBROWS: STEP - BY - STEP

Pigment Application and Skin Stretching

Key Techniques for Perfecting Nanobrows

When it comes to nanobrows, just like with microblading, using minimal pigment on the needle is essential. Excess pigment can obscure the work area, making it challenging to see each individual stroke and its precise placement. Apply just enough pigment to cover the needle tip and replenish it regularly for consistency.

Additionally, stretching the skin is crucial in nanobrows. This technique creates a smooth surface for accurate stroke application and ensures the pigment settles correctly within the skin. Use your thumb and index finger to stretch the skin gently yet firmly, making sure the stretch is tight but still comfortable for the client. Proper skin stretching not only reduces discomfort but also enhances pigment retention.

Creating Realistic Hair Strokes

To achieve lifelike hair strokes in nanobrows, it's important to replicate the natural growth pattern of real eyebrow hairs. Real hairs tend to be thicker at the base and taper off at the ends. You can create this effect by beginning each stroke with firm pressure and gradually easing off as you complete the stroke. Proper skin stretching is crucial, as it facilitates better pigment implantation and leads to more consistent results. Trying out various stretching techniques can help you discover the most effective approach for your style and hand positioning.

Additionally, maintaining a 90-degree angle is vital for producing fine, crisp strokes. Any tilt to the machine or needle could result in blurred lines, blowouts, or uneven pigment distribution. Work with intention, allowing approximately three seconds for each stroke to achieve full pigment saturation and a seamless appearance. This slow and steady technique ensures that the hair strokes look as realistic as possible, blending effortlessly with the client's natural brows. It is this meticulous attention to detail that creates the hyper-realistic, fine-line effect characteristic of nanobrows.

N A N O B R O W S : S T E P - B Y - S T E P

Creating Hyper-Realistic Hair Strokes in Nano Brows

To achieve lifelike hair strokes in nanobrows, it's important to replicate the natural growth pattern of real eyebrow hairs. Real hairs tend to be thicker at the base and taper off at the ends. You can create this effect by beginning each stroke with firm pressure and gradually easing off as you complete the stroke. Proper skin stretching is crucial, as it facilitates better pigment implantation and leads to more consistent results. Trying out various stretching techniques can help you discover the most effective approach for your style and hand positioning.

Achieving natural-looking, lifelike hair strokes in nano brows requires careful technique, precision, and a strong understanding of hair growth patterns.

1. Mimic the Natural Hair Growth Pattern

- Real brow hairs are thicker at the base and taper at the ends.
- Begin each stroke with firm pressure, then gradually release as you complete the stroke.
- This tapering technique creates dimension and flow, ensuring strokes appear realistic.

2. Stretch the Skin Effectively

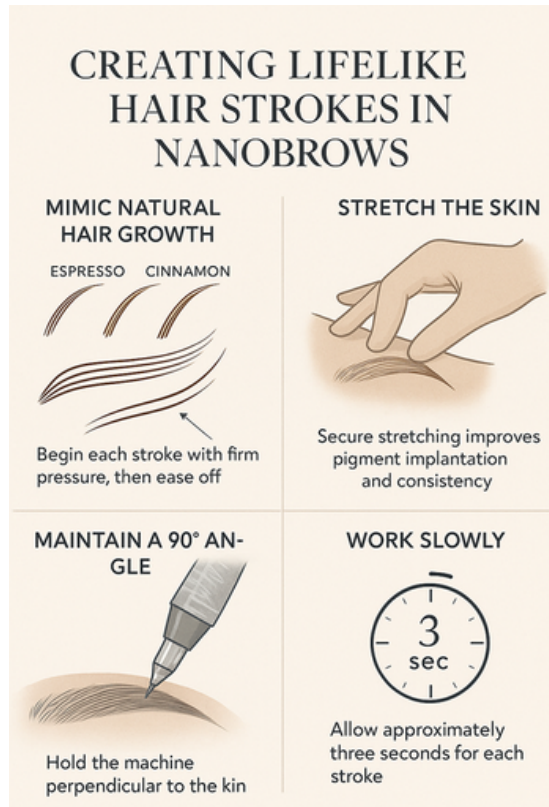
- Proper skin stretching improves pigment implantation and stroke consistency.
- Try different stretching methods to suit your hand position and the client's brow structure.
- Secure, taut skin minimizes drag and prevents stroke distortion.

3. Maintain a True 90-Degree Angle

- Keep your machine perpendicular to the skin at all times.
- Tilting can lead to:
 - Blurry or blurred strokes
 - Blowouts
 - Uneven pigment distribution
- A consistent 90° angle results in clean, crisp lines.

NANO BROWS : STEP - BY - STEP

Creating Hyper-Realistic Hair Strokes in Nano Brows



4. Work Intentionally — Don't Rush

- Allow approximately 3 seconds per stroke.
- This slow, controlled approach ensures full pigment saturation and consistent depth.
- Avoid speeding through strokes, as it compromises accuracy and retention.

5. Mastery is in the Details

The fine-line, hyper-realistic finish of nano brows is achieved through:

- Steady hand control
- Balanced pressure
- Attention to angle and taper
- Patient, deliberate strokes

This combination elevates your work from basic to exceptional, blending seamlessly with the client's natural brows.

NANO BROWS: STEP - BY - STEP

Step 8 - Build the Brow - Basic Stroke Pattern

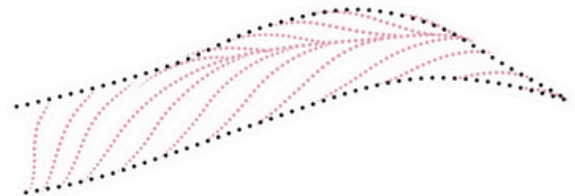
1

Start by shaping the outline of both eyebrows according to your eyebrow mapping guidelines.



2

Begin by establishing guideline hair strokes at the front of the eyebrow and continue toward the tail. Once you have finished that side, proceed to the other eyebrow.



3

Fill in the guideline hair strokes with finer strokes along the bottom.



4

Fill in the guideline hair strokes with finer strokes along the front and the spine.



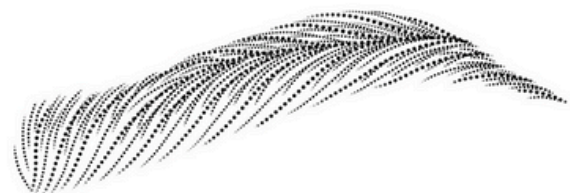
5

To enhance the arch of the brow, use smaller hair strokes to fill in the spaces between the guiding lines.



6

Ensure that all hair strokes are perfected and maintain symmetry throughout.



NANO BROWS: STEP - BY - STEP

Step-by-Step Breakdown: Building a Nano Brow



1. Head

- Start by mapping the head strokes: short, vertical or slightly angled strokes.
- These strokes mimic the beginning of natural brow hair.

2. Head Fill-In

- Add additional strokes between the initial head strokes.
- Keep strokes light and evenly spaced.
- Maintain upward or forward direction depending on the client's hair growth.

3. Transition

- Begin blending from head into the spine area.
- Strokes should curve diagonally with soft tapering at the ends.
- This creates a smooth gradient and flow between zones.

4. Spine

- Establish a base line (spine) to guide overall flow and structure.
- This line is not tattooed, but used as a construction reference.
- Align all strokes so they follow and mimic this natural brow curve.

5. Upper Strokes

- Add strokes above the spine.
- These strokes curve upward and outward, following the arch.
- Keep consistent angles and spacing.

6. Lower Strokes

- Begin filling in the lower arch of the brow.
- These strokes should curve upward slightly, meeting the spine from below.
- Use a lighter hand to keep the lower strokes from looking too harsh.

7. Upper Stroke Fill-In

Add more strokes in between the upper layer.

Vary the length and angle slightly to create natural density.

Don't overfill—leave some breathing room for realism.

8. Lower Stroke Fill-In

Repeat fill-in on the lower stroke layer.

Keep strokes shorter and softer than upper strokes to maintain lightness at the base.

9. Final Look

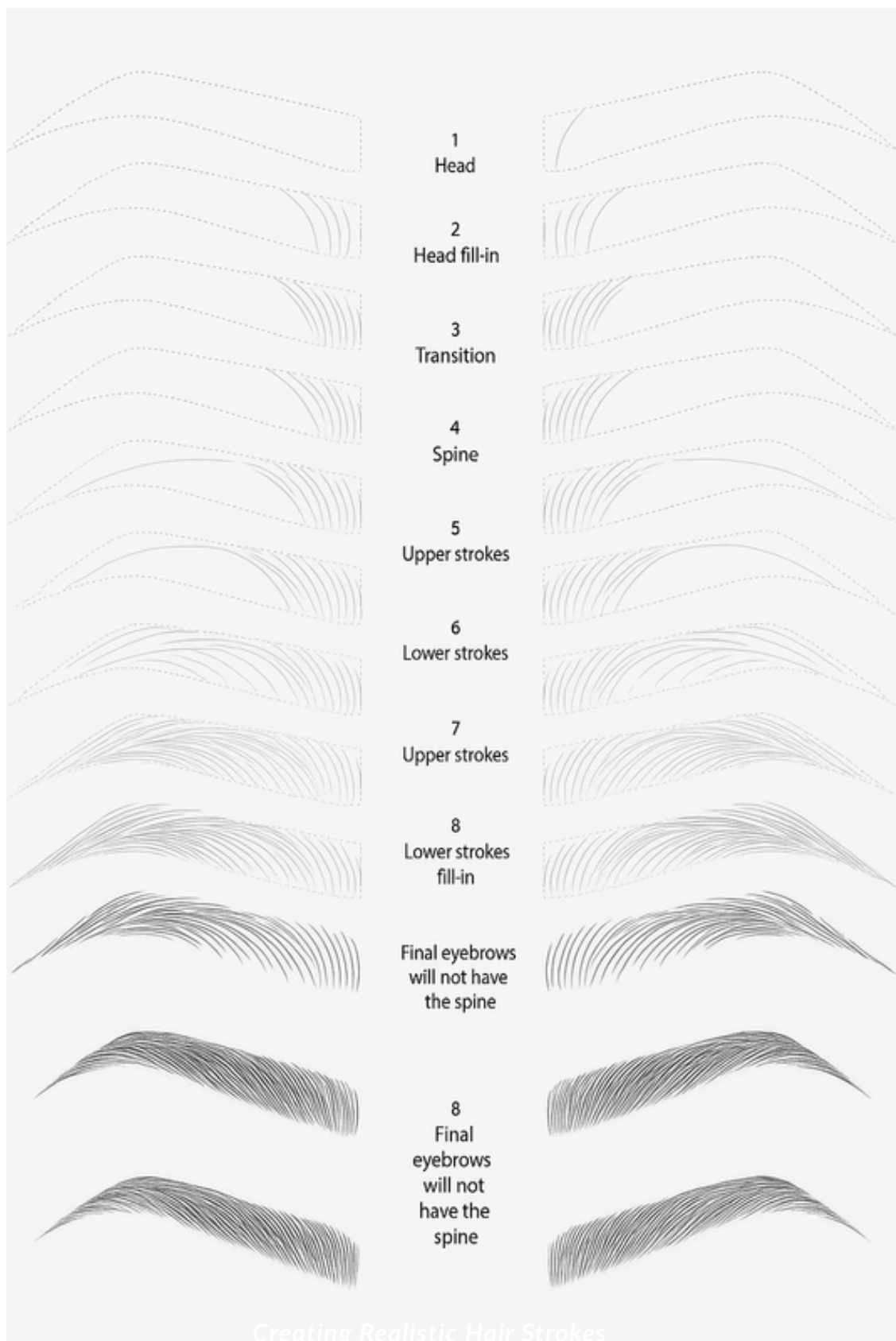
The final brow should appear:

- Balanced
- Evenly spaced
- Full but not overcrowded
- With a smooth transition from head to tail

Note: The spine is not tattooed—remove this guideline from the final work.

NANO BROWS: STEP - BY - STEP

Step-by-Step Breakdown: Building a Nano Brow



NANOBROWS: STEP-BY-STEP

Stroke Patterns



NANOBROWS: STEP - BY - STEP

Step 8 - Build the Brow - Basic Stroke Pattern

CREATING LIFELIKE HAIR STROKES

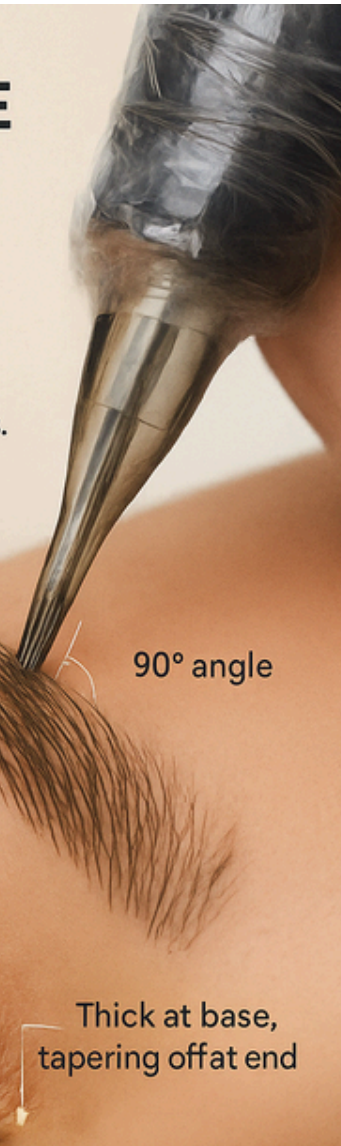
To achieve lifelike hair strokes in nanobrows, it's important to replicate the natural growth pattern of real eyebrow hairs. Real hairs tend to be thicker at the base and taper off at ends.

You can create this effect by beginning each stroke with firm pressure and gradually easing off as you complete the stroke.

Proper skin stretching is crucial, as it facilitates better pigment implantation and leads to more consistent results. Trying out various stretching techniques can help you discover the most effective approach for your style and hand positioning.

Additionally, maintaining a 90-degree angle is vital for producing fine, crisp strokes. Any tilt to the machine or needle could result in blurred lines, blowouts, or uneven pigment distribution.

Work with intention, allowing approximately three seconds for each stroke to achieve full pigment saturation and a seamless appearance. This slow and steady technique ensures that the hair strokes look as realistic as possible, blending effortlessly with the client's natural brows. It is this meticulous



NANO BROWS: STEP - BY - STEP

Step 11 - Final Touch Up Pass

The Touch-Up Pass in Nano Brows: Refine, Blend & Perfect

Once the desired saturation has been achieved in your initial pass, the touch-up pass is your opportunity to elevate the result—refining definition, balancing pigment, and creating a truly seamless finish.

Purpose of the Touch-Up Pass

This final stage is essential for:

- Perfecting symmetry and structure
- Sharpening individual strokes
- Blending pigment for a natural, cohesive result

Key Focus Areas

- Light or uneven spots: Revisit any areas where pigment is too light or appears patchy.
- Blurred or weak strokes: Redefine strokes that lack clarity or direction.
- Balance: Ensure that shading transitions smoothly into hair strokes for a soft, dimensional finish.

Technique Tips

- Use longer, fluid movements to enhance blend and flow.
- Focus on individual strokes that need sharper definition.
- Maintain a gentle hand to avoid overworking the skin—precision is more important than pressure.
- Work purposefully but quickly—this is a refinement stage, not a complete redraw.

Final Outcome

Your goal is to achieve:

- Flawlessly integrated shading and strokes
- Crisp, natural-looking detail
- Well-saturated, harmonious brows that enhance the client's natural features
- This pass brings your artistry full circle, ensuring the client leaves with brows that are polished, perfected, and professionally executed.

NANO BROWS : STEP - BY - STEP

Step 12 - Apply a Pigment Mask

PIGMENT MASK APPLICATION



Pigment Mask Application (Post-Nano Brows)

Once the procedure is complete, apply a pigment mask to enhance retention and ensure even saturation.

Step-by-Step:

1. Apply Pigment Mask
2. Using a disposable lip wand or cotton tip, gently apply a thin layer of your selected pigment over the entire brow area.
3. Occlude with Plastic Wrap - optional
4. Cover the brows with plastic wrap to create a sealed environment and enhance pigment absorption into the skin.
5. Let It Sit
6. Allow the pigment mask to remain on the skin for 10 minutes undisturbed.
7. Optional Comfort Boost
8. For added client comfort, you may mix a small amount of numbing solution into the pigment mask. This can help soothe the skin while the pigment sets.

FINISHING THE TREATMENT

Step 13 - Finishing the Treatment



Client Reveal Moment

Once the procedure is complete, gently hand your client a mirror and invite them to view their new brows.

This is a key moment—be warm, confident, and reassuring. Encourage the client to look closely and express their thoughts. It's an opportunity to:

- Celebrate the transformation
- Address any final touch-up questions
- Reaffirm aftercare instructions

The reveal helps build trust and satisfaction, leaving the client feeling confident and excited about their new look.

Step 14 - Cleaning Up

Post-Treatment Cleanup Guidelines

Once you have finished the treatment, it's important to clean up after your client. This step is crucial for maintaining a hygienic environment, preventing the spread of infections, and ensuring the safety of both clients and yourself as the professional.

Thoroughly cleaning your tools not only extends their lifespan but also helps you conserve your resources. For more detailed instructions, please refer to the Health & Safety section of the manual.

AFTERCARE

Step 13 - Finishing the Treatment

Aftercare refers to the set of instructions and practices provided to a client to follow after receiving a beauty treatment. The purpose of aftercare is to ensure optimal healing, prolong the benefits of the treatment, and prevent any potential complications or adverse reactions. Proper aftercare is crucial for achieving the best possible results and maintaining the health and appearance of the treated area.

The Importance of Aftercare

Aftercare plays a vital role in maximizing the effectiveness of treatment by encouraging proper healing and maintenance, which in turn minimizes the risk of negative reactions and complications. It significantly boosts client satisfaction by offering clear post-treatment instructions, leading to improved outcomes. Furthermore, comprehensive aftercare reflects your professionalism and commitment as a beauty practitioner, fostering trust and confidence with your clients.

Clients should receive clear, written aftercare instructions. Providing a leaflet that explains the advice is a best practice, ensuring they know and comprehend what to expect.

This is also an excellent opportunity to gather feedback on the treatment. Complete their record card with your observations and inquire if they would like to schedule their next appointment with you, and when.

In the unlikely event that your client is unhappy with their treatment, find out why and try to rectify it. Try not to let your client leave feeling dissatisfied with their treatment. Depending on the situation, you can offer to redo part of the treatment, offer them a free treatment, or rebook the treatment again at a discounted price, or even free of charge.

A F T E R C A R E

Nano brows Aftercare Instructions

For the first seven days following the treatment:

- Gently cleanse the treatment area with a mild antibacterial soap, ensuring you rinse away all traces of soap and pat it dry. Repeat this process twice daily.
- After each cleanse, apply a small amount of aftercare ointment using a clean finger.
- Refrain from wearing makeup on the healing area during this period.
- Avoid touching or picking at the treatment area.
- Stay away from steam rooms, saunas, and swimming pools.
- Limit activities that may lead to excessive sweating.
- Refrain from consuming large amounts of alcohol.
- Avoid using facial creams containing acids or retinol.

For 1 month after the treatment:

- Avoid direct sunlight and sun beds
- Avoid facial or skin appointments e.g. chemical peels and forms of exfoliation.
- Avoid facial cosmetic procedures e.g. botox and filler.

Let the client to know to keep in mind that for the first 10 days, their brows will appear darker and bolder. This is a typical occurrence with all types of permanent cosmetic procedures, and that it is typical for the pigment to lighten during the healing period.

Reassure the client that everyone's reaction and recovery to the procedure will be different, as everyone's skin is different. Usually there will be some swelling and tingling for an hour or so after the treatment.

AFTERCARE

The Healing Process

It is important for clients to recognize that a healing period is a natural aspect of the nanobrows procedure, and the final results largely depend on proper aftercare. Adequate care is vital to prevent complications such as swelling, redness, itching, discomfort, and infection. After the procedure, it is normal for the treated area to show redness and swelling, which can range from mild to more pronounced based on the individual's skin sensitivity.

Initial Recovery Phase

In the first few days post-procedure, the brows may appear significantly darker. Complete recovery usually takes around 10 to 12 days. During this time, the skin undergoes a healing process that involves microscopic disruption, similar to the body's natural repair mechanisms. Instructing clients on the appropriate aftercare is crucial for achieving the best results. They should refrain from picking at the area or causing irritation, as this can lead to scarring and pigment loss.

Aftercare Guidelines

Clients should also avoid excessive sun exposure and stay away from extremely hot environments, such as saunas or high-intensity sports, during the healing period. After the initial healing phase, it may seem that some pigment has faded, which is a normal part of the process. The extent of pigment loss can depend on how well the client has adhered to the aftercare instructions. Ensuring proper care will contribute to a more satisfactory final result.

Touch-Up Appointments

During the touch-up appointment, additional shading may be necessary to cover areas needing more pigment or where the color did not settle as anticipated. It's also possible that the brow color may need adjustment to better align with the client's preferences or to darken them if desired. Touch-ups can address various aspects, such as correcting asymmetry, for example, if one brow tail appears closer to the nose than the other. These adjustments are generally minor, and clients should expect some refinements during this follow-up session. At this time, both the shape and color of the brows can be fine-tuned according to the client's specifications.

A F T E R C A R E

Nano Brow Healing Timeline: What to Expect

Day 1 - Initial Darkening

- Pigment begins to settle into the skin.
- Brows may appear darker than expected — this is normal.
- Colour will gradually soften as healing progresses.

Day 2 - Peak Darkness & Early Scabbing

- Pigment reaches its darkest point.
- Light scabbing may begin to form.
- Do not pick or scratch — this can cause pigment loss or patchiness

Week 2 - Peeling & Colour Lightening

- Scabbing continues and begins to flake off naturally.
- Brows may appear lighter, uneven, or faded — this is part of the healing cycle.
- The true colour is still developing beneath the surface.

Weeks 3-4 - Oxidation Phase

- Pigment re-oxidizes, causing colour to return and even out.
- Some areas may still look slightly patchy as the pigment continues to settle.

Weeks 6-8 - Full Healing

- Skin is now fully healed.
- Touch-up appointment should be scheduled during this period.
- This is the time to refine shape, colour, and any faded areas.

A F T E R C A R E

Nano Brow Healing Timeline: What to Expect

NANO BROW HEALING TIMELINE

INSTITUTE OF INK



Pigment begins to darken
as it settles into the skin.



Brows reach peak darkness;
light scabbing may begin.

WEEK
2

Scabs flake off naturally;
colour may appear light
or patchy

WEEK
3-4

Colour re-oxidizes; patchy
areas begin to even out

WEEK
6-8

Full healing is complete;
touch-up appointment
recommended

INSTITUTE OF INK

AFTERCARE

Nano Brow Healing Timeline: What to Expect

EYEBROW HEALING PROCESS



before
the procedure



right after
the procedure



crust
on eyebrows



day 5-7,
healed eyebrows

A F T E R C A R E

Nano Brow Healing Timeline: What to Expect

NANO BROW HEALING TIMELINE

INSTITUTE OF INK



Pigment begins to darken
as it settles into the skin.



Brows reach peak darkness;
light scabbing may begin.

WEEK
2

Scabs flake off naturally;
colour may appear light
or patchy

WEEK
3-4

Colour re-oxidizes; patchy
areas begin to even out

WEEK
6-8

Full healing is complete;
touch-up appointment
recommended

INSTITUTE OF INK

I M P O R T A N T

What should you do if you prick yourself with the needle ?

As a Permanent Makeup (PMU) artist, it is crucial to know how to properly manage a puncture wound, especially since you frequently work with sharp tools and are often exposed to bodily fluids. Although the likelihood of transmitting a blood-borne disease through a needle is statistically low, taking immediate action and providing appropriate wound care are vital for your safety and for minimizing infection risks.

By following these steps, you can ensure that puncture wounds are handled safely and hygienically, thus reducing health risks. Understanding and practicing these procedures not only protects your health but also upholds the professional standards of the industry.

Stay Calm and Assess the Situation

- The first and most important step is to remain calm. Panic can result in missed steps.
- Immediately stop the procedure to prevent further risk or contamination.

Remove Gloves and Clean the Wound

- After halting the procedure, carefully remove your gloves.
- Wash the wound immediately with running water and soap.
- Allow the wound to bleed slightly to help flush out any contaminants, but avoid scrubbing, as this can irritate the wound and increase the risk of infection.
- Do not attempt to suck the wound, as this can introduce bacteria.

Dress the Wound

- Once cleaned, gently dry the wound and apply a plaster or dressing.
- This protects the wound and reduces the likelihood of infection by keeping it clean and covered.

Sanitize and Replace Equipment

- Put on a fresh pair of gloves before handling any tools.
- Dispose of the contaminated needle immediately in a sharps container, following proper biohazard disposal procedures.

Replace it with a sterile needle, ensuring that the handle is re-wrapped with new grip tape and protective wrap.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

SECTION 8
CORRECTION

PIGMENT REJECTION

Understanding Pigment Rejection in PMU

As a permanent makeup artist, it's important to recognize that pigment rejection is a natural —though uncommon—occurrence that can happen post-procedure. Unlike typical pigment fading, pigment rejection refers to a complete loss or failure of the pigment to retain in the skin.

Even the most experienced artists will encounter this issue at some stage. Knowing the causes and how to manage it helps maintain professionalism and client trust.

What Causes Pigment Rejection?

Here are some of the most common factors:

1. Compromised Skin Barrier

- Overworked skin or repeated passes in one area can lead to trauma, preventing pigment retention.

2. Client's Immune Response

- The body may identify pigment as a foreign substance and push it out during healing.

3. Incorrect Depth

- Implanting pigment too shallow may result in no retention, while going too deep can trigger scar tissue or rapid fading.

4. Skin Type

- Very oily or excessively dry skin may not hold pigment well.
- Clients with large pores or thick, resistant skin may experience poor retention.

5. Aftercare Noncompliance

- Picking, applying harsh products, sweating excessively, or failing to follow proper aftercare can lead to pigment loss.

6. Medical Conditions or Medications

- Certain autoimmune conditions or medications (e.g. steroids, blood thinners, or acne treatments) can interfere with healing and pigment binding.

How to Address It Professionally

- Educate Beforehand:
- During consultations, explain that pigment retention varies and that a follow-up session is standard. Mention pigment rejection as a possibility.
- Document Thoroughly:
- Use before/after photos and consent forms that mention pigment variability and the potential for poor retention.
- Offer a Solution, Not a Refund:
- If pigment rejection occurs, invite the client back for a reassessment and a possible complimentary touch-up. Avoid promising results in one session.

PIGMENT REJECTION

Understanding the Healing Process

Pigment loss is often a natural aspect of the healing process. During consultations, it's essential to establish realistic expectations with clients. Clarify that some degree of pigment loss is normal, with approximately 85% retention being typical prior to the touch-up session scheduled for 6 to 8 weeks later. By informing clients about this possibility, you can help manage their expectations and alleviate any unnecessary concerns.

Infection Risks

Understanding Pigment Rejection Risks

An infection can lead to the body's rejection of pigment, pushing it out of the skin and possibly resulting in scarring. It's essential to address any potential health concerns with your client during the consultation. If they are susceptible to infections or have an underlying condition that impacts healing, the likelihood of pigment rejection increases. Additionally, allergic reactions or sensitivities to the pigment can mimic infection symptoms, prompting the body to expel the pigment. Ensure that clients are fully informed about these risks, allowing them to make educated decisions.

Proper Depth of Pigment Placement

Achieving the correct depth during the procedure is vital for long-lasting results. The pigment needs to be placed at the dermal-epidermal junction—deep enough to ensure proper implantation, but shallow enough to avoid excessive trauma. You'll know you've reached the right depth when you hear a slight “tearing” sound, indicating that the needle is cutting through the surface layer of the skin. If the pigment is placed too shallowly, it will be expelled, leading to poor retention.

PIGMENT REJECTION

Importance of Aftercare

Strictly following aftercare instructions is crucial for ensuring successful pigment retention. Clients who pick at scabs during the healing phase may unintentionally remove pigment, leading to a patchy or incomplete result.

- For those who tend to pick or scratch, employing moist healing methods can help lessen the urge to disturb the scabs.

Remind clients that itching is a normal aspect of the healing process and offer advice on managing it without harming the treated area.

Challenges with Oily Skin

Clients with oily skin might face additional challenges regarding pigment retention, as excess oil can cause the pigment to be expelled. Although having oily skin doesn't automatically mean pigment rejection, it can influence the final outcome. It's essential to communicate this possibility to clients with oily skin, enabling them to make an informed decision about the suitability of the procedure for them. With the right technique and aftercare, the effects of oily skin can often be managed, but setting realistic expectations is crucial.

Selecting the Right Pigment for Optimal Results

Choosing the appropriate pigment is essential for attaining the desired outcome. Utilizing an incorrect color may lead to the pigment healing into unforeseen tones, such as grey or red, causing it to appear lighter or different from what was intended. When working over previously treated areas, it's crucial to select pigments that will neutralize any undesirable undertones. Keep in mind that if the client's existing pigment is excessively dark, a removal process may be required before applying a new color.

PIGMENT REJECTION

Using the Right Pigment Colour

Choosing the Right Pigment for Optimal Results

Selecting the appropriate pigment is essential for achieving the desired outcome. Using an incorrect color can lead to the pigment healing into unforeseen tones, such as grey or red, which may result in a lighter or different appearance than intended.

- When working over previously treated areas, it's crucial to choose pigments that will neutralize any unwanted undertones.

If the client's existing pigment is excessively dark, a removal process may be necessary prior to applying a new color.

Preventing Misunderstandings Around Pigment Rejection

Pigment rejection is when the skin fails to retain any pigment after a PMU procedure. It's different from normal fading and can occur even with proper technique. While rare, it's a possibility every artist will encounter.

Why It Happens:

- Overworked or compromised skin
- Immune response rejecting pigment
- Incorrect depth of implantation
- Oily, dry, or resistant skin types
- Improper aftercare
- Medical conditions or medications

How to Prevent Misunderstandings:

- Educate clients upfront about all outcomes, including rejection.
- Be transparent about uncontrollable factors like health or habits.
- Use informed consent forms that clearly outline pigment rejection risks.

Professional Practice Tips:

- Conduct a thorough consultation
- Use proper technique and depth
- Provide clear aftercare
- Offer solutions, not refunds, if pigment rejection occurs

In summary, setting realistic expectations, documenting everything, and communicating clearly helps protect your reputation and keep clients satisfied—even when outcomes vary.

C O R R E C T I V E W O R K

Corrective Work in Eyebrow Tattooing: An Essential Skill for PMU Artists

Permanent makeup has evolved significantly, with eyebrow tattooing becoming especially popular over the last decade. As styles, techniques, and pigment formulas continue to improve, many clients who received eyebrow tattoos in the past now seek corrections—whether due to changes in colour, shape, or outdated methods.

In fact, many experienced brow artists report that nearly half of their paid work involves correcting or enhancing previous eyebrow tattoos. This makes mastering corrective techniques an essential part of every PMU artist's skill set.

What You'll Learn in This Chapter:

In this section, we will explore:

- The difference between a cover-up and a colour correction
- Why and how eyebrow tattoos change colour over time
- Common causes of residual pigments (e.g. red, grey, green, blue brows)
- How to use corrective pigments and neutralisers effectively
- When to accept or decline a correction client
- Key tools and techniques for achieving safe, beautiful corrections

Understanding Correction vs. Cover-Up

When a client with existing eyebrow tattoos books an appointment, the service typically falls into one of two categories:

- Colour Correction – adjusting undesired hues (e.g. red, grey, blue) to bring the brows back to a more natural, wearable tone.
- Cover-Up – redesigning and layering new work over faded pigment to correct shape, density, or design.

C O R R E C T I V E W O R K

Cover Up Appointment

A cover-up refers to tattooing over an existing eyebrow tattoo that has faded evenly and does not contain any unwanted residual colour (such as red, grey, blue, or green).

In these cases, the goal is to:

- Redesign the shape
- Improve symmetry or structure
- Refresh the density or style (e.g. switching to nanobrows or ombré)

Cover-ups are typically more straightforward than colour corrections, as no neutralisation is required. However, a careful assessment of skin condition, pigment saturation, and previous work is still essential for best results.



Colour Correction Appointment

Colour correction becomes essential when a client's existing eyebrow tattoo has faded or shifted to an undesirable hue due to poor technique. Older tattoos may exhibit residual colours such as grey, red, blue, purple, or green. To address these issues, corrective pigments are applied to neutralise these unwanted tones. The most prevalent corrections focus on neutralising either red (warm-toned) or blue (cool-toned) eyebrows.

C O R R E C T I V E W O R K

Why Do Eyebrows Change Colour? Appointment

It's essential to recognize that over time, the color of eyebrows can shift following a permanent makeup procedure. This phenomenon is entirely normal and should not cause concern. To illustrate this point, consider how hair color fades after dyeing. Skin and hair share similar characteristics regarding the gradual fading of color, making the hair dye process a useful comparison.

For example, when someone bleaches their hair and then dyes it pink, the vibrant color won't remain forever. As time passes, the pink may soften into a pastel shade, transition to a peachy pink-orange, and finally become a light orange-yellow. This happens because the cuticle layer of the hair initially retains the color, but eventually, it releases it, leading to gradual changes.

The same principles apply to permanent makeup. When pigment is infused into the skin, it doesn't stay exactly as it was on the day of the procedure. Over time, the body's lymphatic system gradually removes pigment from the deeper layers of the tattoo, while the outer skin layers naturally exfoliate, taking some pigment along with them. If clients do not return for regular touch-ups, the color may eventually evolve into a different shade than what was initially applied.

This process underscores the importance of ongoing maintenance, such as touch-ups, to keep the pigment true to its original hue. Without this care, similar to hair dye, the color can shift and fade in ways that may not be desirable. Understanding this helps manage client expectations, ensuring they appreciate the significance of aftercare and regular touch-ups to maintain their desired appearance.

Why Doesn't This Happen With Traditional Body Tattoos?

The disparity in color shifts between traditional body tattoos and permanent makeup (PMU) for eyebrows can be attributed to the differences in skin types and the pigments utilized.

Facial skin possesses a distinct cellular structure compared to other areas of the body, affecting how pigments age. In traditional body tattoos, the pigments primarily consist of basic colors like red, blue, and yellow. These primary pigments typically fade to lighter versions of the same hue. For example, a red tattoo may gradually become a softer shade of red over time rather than changing into an entirely different color.

C O R R E C T I V E W O R K

In PMU for eyebrows, pigments are often tertiary colors, complex blends of primary and secondary hues. These pigments don't just fade to lighter tones; they can change entirely, shifting from brown to red, grey, or even green as they decompose.

The face, exposed to sunlight and exfoliation, speeds up fading and alters pigment reactions more than traditional tattoos. This interplay with facial skin makes color changes common, necessitating regular maintenance to preserve the desired shade.

What Creates Residual Colours in the Eyebrows?

Several factors can contribute to the appearance of residual colours in eyebrow tattoos. One of the most common causes is incorrect stroke depth during the procedure, where the pigment is implanted too shallowly or deeply. Similarly, choosing the wrong pigment for the client's skin tone can also result in unwanted colour changes as the tattoo heals. Skincare products, particularly those containing exfoliating agents like retinol, glycolic, and salicylic acids, can accelerate pigment fading and lead to residual colours over time. Certain medications can affect the eyebrows' colour, either immediately after the appointment or in the healed results. Environmental factors like excessive sun exposure also contribute to fading, causing pigments to break down and alter in appearance. Finally, lifestyle habits, such as constant and excessive sweating, can similarly promote residual colours in the brows, making aftercare and touch-ups essential for maintaining the intended result.

Several factors can lead to the emergence of residual colors in eyebrow tattoos.

- **Incorrect Stroke Depth:** One of the most common issues arises when the pigment is implanted too shallowly or deeply during the procedure.
- **Inappropriate Pigment Selection:** Using the wrong pigment for a client's skin tone can result in unwanted color changes as the tattoo heals.
- **Skincare Products:** Products that contain exfoliating agents, such as retinol, glycolic, and salicylic acids, can accelerate pigment fading, resulting in residual colors over time.
- **Medications:** Certain medications may alter the color of the eyebrows, either right after the appointment or in the final healed results.
- **Environmental Factors:** Excessive sun exposure contributes to fading, breaking down pigments and changing their appearance.
- **Lifestyle Habits:** Constant and excessive sweating can also promote residual colors in the brows, highlighting the importance of aftercare and touch-ups to maintain the desired outcome.

C O R R E C T I V E W O R K

How Does Incorrect Stroke Depth Affect the Healed Result Colour?

Incorrect stroke depth can significantly impact the final colour of healed eyebrows. When too much pressure is applied during the procedure, the pigment is implanted too deep into the skin, which can lead to brows appearing grey or blue. This bluish or greyish hue typically indicates that the artist pressed too heavily during application.

On the other hand, if inadequate pressure is used, or the skin was not stretched properly, the pigment may not reach the dermis layer effectively. As a result, the brows may heal to a red or pinkish-red colour, often appearing too warm due to insufficient pigment implantation. Both issues can alter the intended colour outcome, making proper technique and pressure control crucial for optimal results.

How Does Improper Pigment Selection Affect the Healed Result Colour?

Improper pigment selection can have a significant impact on the final healed colour of eyebrows. Red brows are often the result of choosing a pigment that is too warm. Warm-toned browns tend to have a red base, and as they fade over time, the brows can turn red or pinkish-red.

On the other hand, blue or grey brows usually occur when the artist selects a pigment that is too cool-toned or too dark. Cool-toned browns have a blue base, and as they fade, the brows can develop a grey or blueish-grey hue. Selecting the right pigment tone is essential to avoid these unwanted colour shifts as the brows heal and fade.

The Importance of Correct Pigment Selection in Brow Tattooing

Choosing the right pigment tone is critical to achieving desirable, long-lasting results. Improper pigment selection is one of the most common causes of unwanted healed colours.

● **Red or Pink Brows**

- Caused by using pigments that are too warm.
- Warm-toned browns often contain a red or orange base.
- As the pigment fades, it may leave behind a red or pinkish hue.

● **Blue or Grey Brows**

- Result from pigments that are too cool-toned or too dark.
- Cool-toned browns typically have a blue or green base.
- As they fade, brows can take on a blue-grey or ashy appearance.

To avoid unwanted colour shifts:

- Assess the client's skin undertone before selecting pigment.
- Understand the temperature and base of each pigment.
- Always consider how the pigment will heal over time, not just how it looks freshly applied.

C O R R E C T I V E W O R K

Key Considerations of Corrective Work

When a client arrives for a correction appointment, it typically signifies her dissatisfaction with either the look of her brows, her earlier experience, or potentially both. Various factors may lead to this sense of displeasure:

- The eyebrows are uneven.
- There is residual colour from the previous treatment.
- The results did not meet the client's expectations.
- The client had unrealistic expectations.
- The client had a negative experience with the previous artist.

Handling Client Cases with Care

It's crucial to approach these situations with caution, particularly if the client has had a negative experience with their previous artist. This could serve as a warning sign, suggesting possible challenges or unrealistic expectations. It may be wise to evaluate whether to take her on as a client.

Understanding Corrections

When it comes to corrections, keep in mind that the new set of eyebrows will generally appear larger, thicker, and at least two shades darker than the original. This is necessary to effectively conceal and reshape the prior work. The existing brows must be sufficiently light and faded to allow the new pigment to blend seamlessly and neutralize the previous shape and color. If the initial work is too dark, using an even darker pigment might be required, which could result in a harsh appearance on the client's face.

In most instances, clients seeking corrections are dissatisfied with their current brow shape, which might also be uneven. Hence, reshaping is an essential aspect of any cover-up or color correction session.

C O R R E C T I V E W O R K

When to Say No to Correcting Previous Brow Work

Not all previous eyebrow tattoos can or should be corrected. In some cases, attempting a correction can actually worsen the outcome, especially if the original work is heavily saturated, poorly placed, or the shape is unsuitable.

Why Corrections Aren't Always the Right Choice

- Successful corrections usually require the new brows to be larger and at least two shades darker to effectively cover the old pigment.
- This can lead to unnaturally thick or overly bold brows, especially when the original shape is off-balance or asymmetrical.
- In some cases, the better professional decision is to decline treatment or recommend removal or lightening first.

Ask These Key Questions Before Accepting a Correction Client:

1. Will the new shape need to be much thicker to cover the old design?
2. Will the new pigment need to be significantly darker to achieve proper coverage?
3. Is the old pigment too saturated or discoloured for a natural-looking result?
4. Will correcting this make the brows look heavy, unnatural, or unflattering?
5. Is the client aware of the limitations, and are their expectations realistic?

If the answer to any of these raises concern, it may be best to recommend removal, fading sessions, or an honest conversation about the risks of proceeding.

- How dark and saturated is the existing work?
- Are the fronts or bulbs of the brows light enough to work with?
- Are the brows even or noticeably uneven?
- Are the brows already thick?

CORRECTIVE WORK

- Does the client want to change the shape of their brows?
- Does the existing work align with their natural brow shape?
- Is the client prepared to come in for multiple correction sessions?
- Do they understand that their brows won't look like virgin brows after correction?
- Is there any visible scarring?
- Are the client's expectations realistic, or are they set too high?

Sometimes, the wisest decision is to respectfully decline a correction. Attempting to fix brows with significant issues may lead to results that are still uneven or excessively thick, ultimately reflecting poorly on you as an artist. Even if the brows appear improved, any imperfections could negatively impact your reputation. Clients may not share the complete story when discussing their brows with others, leading to judgments about your work without considering that you were addressing prior errors. As a PMU artist, it's essential to evaluate the long-term effects on your reputation. In some situations, it may be more prudent to decline than to risk your work being linked to less-than-satisfactory outcomes.

Managing Client Expectations

Managing Client Expectations in Brow Correction Appointments

One of the most important elements of a brow correction appointment is effectively managing your client's expectations. As the artist, it's your duty to clarify that the final results will differ from those achieved with virgin brows. When correcting prior work, you are constrained by the existing shape, color, and size of the brows, which sets clear limits on what can be accomplished.

Clients need to recognize that each correction will lead to brows that are thicker and darker, and it will likely necessitate multiple sessions to reach the desired look. Establishing these realistic expectations from the outset is vital for ensuring client satisfaction.

During the consultation, take the time to thoroughly assess the client's previous work and outline what they can anticipate. For example:

- **Uneven Eyebrows:** If your client has significantly asymmetrical brows, kindly explain that while you will strive for a more balanced look, perfection in symmetry may not be achievable. To enhance symmetry, the brows will need to be slightly thicker.
- **Dark Bulbs/Fronts:** If the front of your client's eyebrows is already dark, make sure to inform them that this may require the brows to appear closer together. It's important to ensure they are comfortable with this change.
- **Dense Front Areas:** In cases where the front of the brows is thick and closely spaced, clarify that it will be challenging to create a light, misty effect with hair strokes in that region due to the density of the existing pigment. Assure them that you do not intend to bring the brows any closer together than their current position.

CORRECTIVE WORK

- Discoloured brows: For clients with highly discoloured brows, such as those with red or blue hues, it may take several sessions to colour correct. Be upfront about the possibility of seeing some residual colour after the first session, but reassure them that subsequent appointments will focus on continuing the correction process.

Identifying Red Flags When Accepting Correction Clients

When working with correction clients, it's crucial to be mindful of specific red flags that can help you avoid potential complications down the line. Recognizing these warning signs prior to accepting a client or starting the tattooing process can alleviate a great deal of stress and safeguard your business. Here are some important red flags to watch for:

Badmouthing the Previous Artist

- Clients who are quick to speak negatively about a previous artist—especially when blaming them entirely for pigment changes or poor results—may pose a risk.
- Why it matters: Pigment shifts often result from aftercare issues, skin type, or fading over time, not necessarily poor technique.
- These clients may be equally critical of you if their expectations aren't met.

Unrealistic Reference Photos

Be cautious if a client brings photos of:

- Virgin skin results while having dense residual pigment
- Brow shapes or sizes that differ dramatically from their current tattoo
- Thin, delicate brows when their existing work is thick and saturated

These requests often signal a lack of understanding about the limitations of corrective work and may lead to disappointment—even if your work is excellent.

Requests for Lighter Brows

Some clients request lighter brows after correction, which is not achievable.

- To effectively cover existing pigment, new brows must be at least two shades darker.
- This indicates misaligned expectations and a need for thorough education before proceeding.

Clients who display these warning signs are likely to have high, often unachievable expectations, or may be difficult to satisfy. These clients can lead to dissatisfaction, bad reviews, or negative word of mouth, none of which are worth the potential earnings. It's often best to decline such clients to avoid the stress and protect your reputation as an artist.

CORRECTIVE PIGMENTS

The Layering Technique for Correcting Discolored Eyebrows

The layering technique is an essential approach for correcting discolored eyebrows. This method involves applying corrective pigments in layers over the affected areas, rather than mixing them directly with the brown pigment.

Key Points

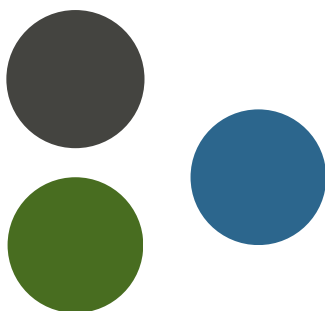
- **Careful Selection:** The corrective pigments are chosen based on the specific discoloration (such as red, blue, or grey tones) and are placed in a separate pigment cup, distinct from the brown pigment.
- **Effective Neutralization:** By layering these corrective pigments separately, the artist can effectively neutralize the unwanted hues, ensuring that the final brown color appears more natural and balanced.
- **Enhanced Control:** This technique provides greater control and precision in the color correction process, resulting in more even and desirable outcomes.

When addressing an undesirable undertone or color, aim to neutralize it using its complementary color.

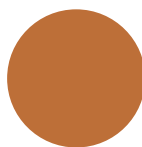
Correcting Grey, Green and Blue

For grey, green and blue hues, use an orange based pigment with warm, golden undertones.

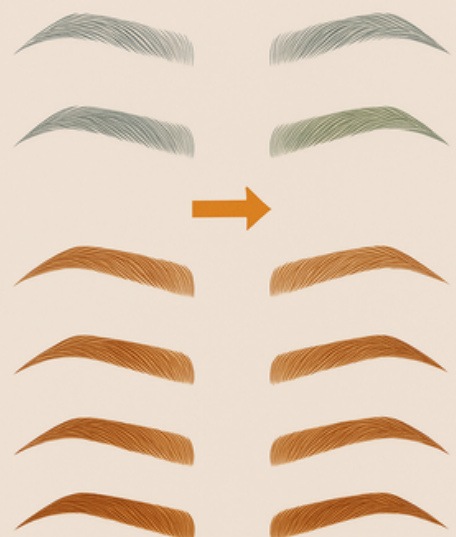
Used to Correct:



Correction Colour:



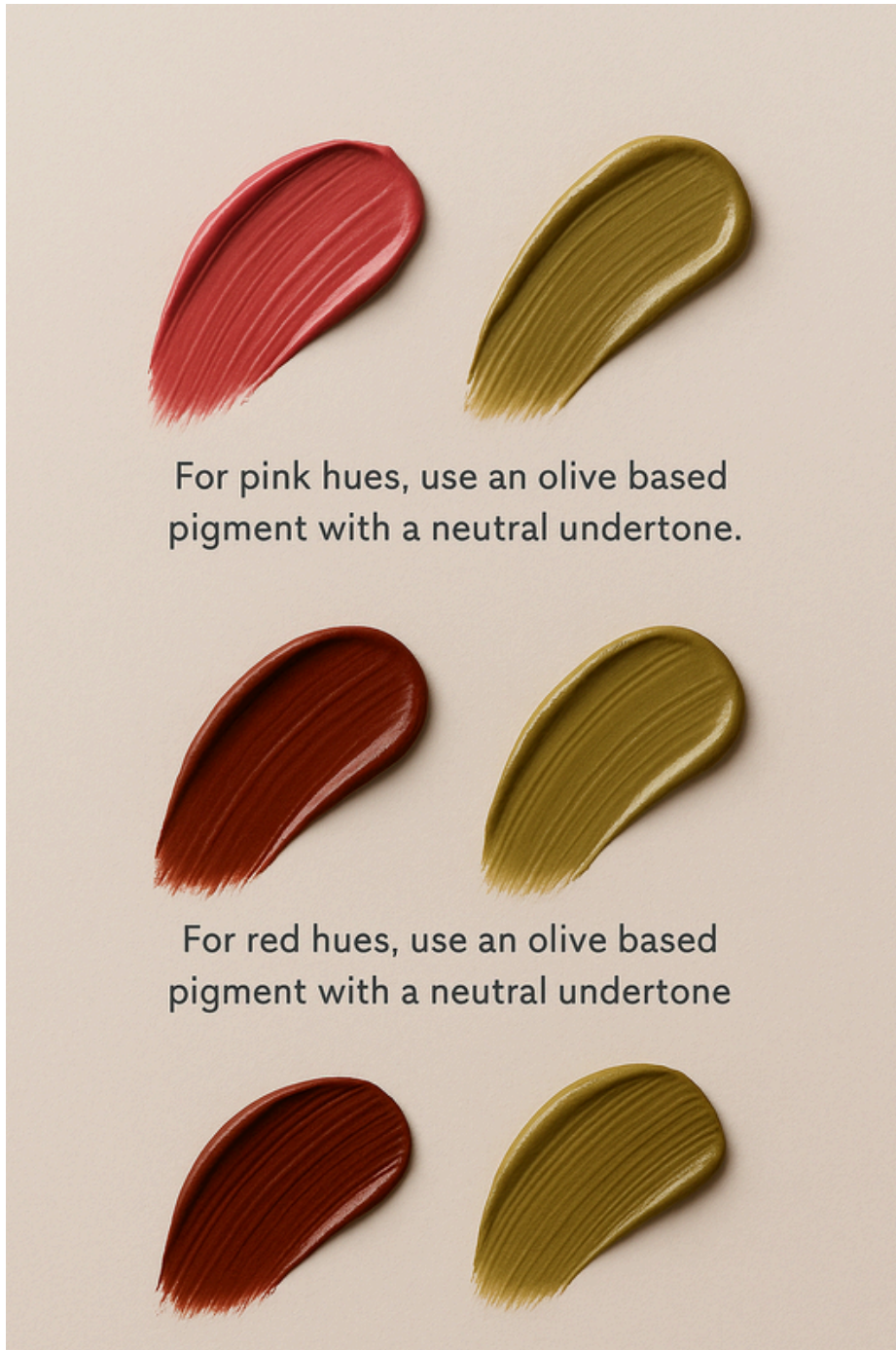
**For grey, green and blue hues,
use an orange based pigment
with warm, golden undertones.**



CORRECTIVE PIGMENTS

Correcting Pink and Red

For pink and red hues, use an olive based pigment with a neutral undertone.



C O R R E C T I V E P I G M E N T S

Correcting Ashy Blue

To achieve an ashy blue tone, opt for an orange-based pigment that features a warm undertone, resembling the color of a pumpkin.



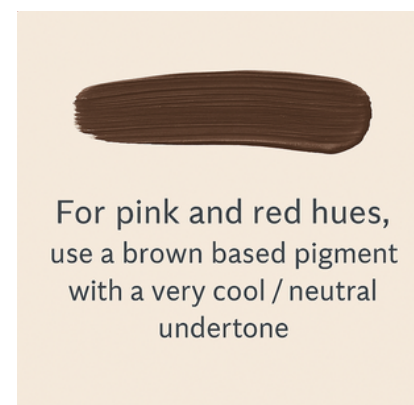
Correcting Purple and Light Grey

For purple and grey tone, use a light orange based pigment with a very warm undertone.



Correcting Pink and Red

For pink and red hues, use a brown based pigment with a very cool / neutral undertone.



Correcting Red and Orange

For warm reds and oranges, use a brown - olive green based pigment with a very cool and neutral undertone.



CORRECTION PROCEDURE

When collaborating with clients who have existing brow tattoos, adapting your technique is crucial, depending on whether you are executing a cover-up or a color correction. While both processes share a similar framework to a traditional eyebrow tattoo, they necessitate extra considerations to ensure the best possible outcome.

Cover-Up Protocol

When collaborating with clients who have existing brow tattoos, it's essential to tailor your technique according to whether you are executing a cover-up or a color correction. While both procedures share a framework similar to a typical eyebrow tattoo, they demand extra considerations to ensure the best possible outcomes.

Colour Correction Procedure

A color correction, in contrast, aims to neutralize unwanted tones that result from the fading of older pigments. Along with defining the shape, it is crucial to address any lingering color in the client's brows—whether they have shifted to blue, red, or any other undesired shade. After outlining the new shape, corrective pigments are applied to counterbalance the existing discoloration.

Color correction involves two vital additional steps:

- The new brow shape must entirely cover the old design, resembling a cover-up procedure.
- Before filling in the brow, 1 to 4 corrective passes of pigment are utilized to neutralize the unwanted color from the previous work.

Once the corrective pigment is applied, the final pigment can be layered on top to achieve the desired tone.

Correction on Previous Work

Eyebrow Correction Procedure

The process starts with mapping and shaping the new eyebrows, followed by a pre-draw to confirm that the client is happy with the suggested design. It is essential to fully cover any previous work and address any asymmetry during this phase.

Next, corrective pigment is applied. Depending on the level of correction required, this may involve 1 to 4 passes of the corrective pigment. Defined hair strokes are then carefully placed throughout the brows, concentrating on the specific areas agreed upon with the client.

Pre - Procedure Readiness

Pre-Procedure Preparation

Session Preparation and Documentation

- Begin each session by having your client complete the necessary consent forms.
- Next, carry out a comprehensive consultation, adhering to the protocols detailed in the Consultation chapter. Discuss their past experiences thoroughly and set realistic expectations for the outcomes, making sure they comprehend what can be realistically achieved.

Capture both before and after photos and videos for a clear comparison of the results. These visuals will not only act as a reference for you and your client but can also serve as valuable marketing material to highlight your expertise and expand your business.

Prepare the Eyebrows

Follow all the necessary hygiene and sanitisation steps outlined in the previous chapter to ensure the eyebrow area is clean and safe.

Proceed with mapping and pre-drawing the eyebrows, following the guidance from the Eyebrow Mapping chapter. Ensure the new shape fully covers the old design. Take the time to check in with your client, confirming they are satisfied with every detail of the pre-draw.

Don't forget to apply and top up numbing agents as needed to ensure their comfort throughout the procedure.

Prepare your Equipment

Make sure you have all the essential equipment organized and ready for the procedure. Pour the corrective pigment into a separate cup, ensuring it is kept apart from the brown pigment cup. Verify that the selected brown pigment is dark enough to blend well and adequately cover the previous work.

COLOUR CORRECTION PROCEDURE: STEP - BY - STEP

Begin the Corrective Action

Applying Corrective Pigment to Eyebrow Strokes

Using a clean needle, start by applying the first layer of corrective pigment to the discolored eyebrow strokes. You can choose to use a separate machine for this step or clean your current needle by wiping it to eliminate any leftover brown pigment from the cartridge. Concentrate solely on the previously worked areas with the corrective pigment, making sure not to tattoo over untouched skin during this phase.

Keeping Your Client Comfortable

Remember to reapply numbing cream as needed throughout the procedure to maintain your client's comfort.

Proceed with color correction as necessary, usually limiting the application to 1-4 passes of corrective pigment, depending on the saturation and condition of the existing pigment. Continue to apply numbing cream where required. After applying the corrective pigment, you may observe a subtle change in the hue of the treated areas. The brows won't instantly look brown; the true correction will only become visible after the healing process. However, you should notice a slight tone change, indicating that the corrective process is effective.

Work on the Virgin Skin

If there is virgin skin that requires you to work on, use a new needle and apply the chosen brown pigment solely to the virgin skin areas. Tattoo in passes, ensuring you build up the colour until the saturation matches that of the existing work.

Final Touch-Up Pass and Blending

Once the saturation of the previously untouched skin areas aligns with that of the existing work, move forward to make 1-2 passes over the entire brow area. This step is crucial for ensuring that the newly tattooed sections blend seamlessly with the existing pigment.

Completing the Process

Ensure that you clean the area meticulously and review your work to confirm that it aligns with your standards. Once both you and the client are pleased with the outcome, get the eyebrows ready for after photos and videos.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.