

ImpaQt FX

**Foam Latex Prosthetics:
Make-up Application Guide**

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Why Foam Latex?

Learn about foam latex and what makes it unique.

Solid Rubber Masks vs. Foam Latex

Rubber latex has been around for years. Most people are familiar with solid rubber latex – the kind of rubber used to make thin-walled masks. While rubber masks can have plenty of detail and are easy to put on, they have the disadvantage of not allowing the wearer’s facial expressions to be seen, and don’t allow the skin to breathe making them uncomfortable to wear for long periods. You also cannot eat or drink without removing the mask first. And most important, many aren’t convincing – they simply don’t look real, especially upon close inspection.

Prosthetic appliances made of foam latex, on the other hand, can be totally convincing and undetectable, even at close range. They allow the wearer’s facial expressions to show through the make-up. A full range of emotions can be seen through foam latex, since the material acts very similar to real skin. And the wearer can eat, drink and wear the make-up for long periods, an absolute necessity in film making. Once you’ve experienced the quality of foam latex masks, you won’t settle for anything less.

Before You Begin

We want you to have the best possible results with your prosthetic and make-up application. Please read these guidelines and the disclaimer before you begin applying your prosthetic appliance. There are a number of approaches and techniques possible when applying and removing a prosthetic appliance, so you’ll need to decide which approach is best for you.

Safety Tips

- Always perform a skin test on a small area to make sure you don’t have an allergic reaction to any of the make-up products you are using.
- Always follow the manufacturer’s directions that came with each product.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

- Always make sure you have enough solvent to remove the particular adhesive being used.
- Never apply make-up when you are smoking or near an open flame source.
- Only use approved make-up for facial areas.
- If make-up must be used on more than one person, certain safety standards must be maintained. Use either disposable applicators or applicators that can be cleaned between uses. Mascara should never be shared.
- Disposable triangle applicator sponges are perfect for applying all base and rouge colors. For individual use, a natural sea sponge is great because it can be washed and reused. Foam sponges are great for body make-up; they have a large surface area and are easy to clean up (use a grease-cutting soap).
- Brushes must be cleaned after each use with a brush treatment cleaner. Small disposable detail work can also be accomplished with disposable cotton swabs.
- Use common sense, be careful and have fun!

As a make-up artist, professional or amateur, it is your responsibility to learn about the chemical safety; consult libraries, school chemistry departments. Request and read Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS). Before you work with a chemical, investigate its hazardous factors. Use precautions when handling any chemicals. Consult local authorities on proper material disposal.

DISCLAIMER

Most of the items we sell are considered non-toxic. However, the responsibility for the safe use of any product sold rests solely on the buyer or user. No warranty either expressed or implied is given and ImpaQt FX assumes no liability for the use or misuse of any item purchased. All products should be used as directed on the product container or packaging that came with the product. Always use proper ventilation, safety glasses, chemical resistant gloves and common sense when working with hazardous or suspected hazardous materials.

Discontinue using any product that causes irritation (redness, itching, burning, scaling, soreness, or other symptoms). If symptoms persist, please see your doctor. If you are dissatisfied with any product purchased from ImpaQt FX, you may return it for a refund or exchange within 15 days of the purchase date. Our liability for a defective item will not exceed its replacement cost to us.

Make-up Supplies

Here's a list of additional items you'll need to apply and remove your prosthetic appliance.

List of Supplies

- ½ oz Spirit Gum or another adhesive (see list below)
- 1 oz Spirit Gum Remover (or the remover for the adhesive you've chosen)
- Small bottle of rubbing alcohol
- 4" double-sided Powder Puff (1)
- ½ oz Translucent Face Powder
- Disposable Triangle Sponge Applicators (3)
- Stipple Sponge (1)
- Small Make-up Brush (1)
- Disposable Cotton Swabs (5 or 6)
- Rubber Mask Grease Palette or Crème Make-up
- 1 oz Castor Oil
- 1 oz Rubber Latex

Optional

- 2 oz Mehron Barrier Spray if you have sensitive skin
- 1 oz Pro-Adhesive to replace the Spirit Gum adhesive
- 2 oz Pro-Adhesive remover to replace the Spirit Gum Remover

Applying Your Prosthetic

Learn how to attach a foam latex appliance.

Prosthetic appliances can be attached using a variety of techniques. After reading the possible approaches, you'll need to decide which one you want to use.

IMPORTANT: Before selecting any approach, always perform a make-up test on a small area 24 hours before applying the prosthetic to be sure you have no allergic reactions to the adhesive you choose. The test should be conducted by applying a small portion of the prosthetic on an inconspicuous area such as the inside of your elbow. If there is going to be an allergic reaction, it will generally take place within the first hour or so. If a rash develops, discontinue use and clean the area. If the rash does not fade in a day or two, consult a physician.

Choosing an Adhesive

A number of adhesives are available for attaching prosthetic appliances: Spirit Gum, Prosthetic adhesive (called *Pros-Aide*® or *Pro-Adhesive*), Liquid Latex, Toupee Tape and Medical Adhesive. Each is discussed in the section that follows. We recommend that you use Spirit Gum or prosthetic adhesive for attaching your prosthetic.

Spirit Gum

Spirit Gum is an adhesive solution made of gum and ether and is the most common adhesive on the market. We recommend spirit gum over other adhesives if you are just beginning because it is forgiving if you make a mistake. Spirit Gum Remover is needed to remove this adhesive.

Prosthetic Adhesive

Prosthetic adhesive is the standard in the special effects industry for adhering appliances and other make-up components to the skin. It is safe to use on all skin, including sensitive areas. It has a strong bond with high water resistance and is preferred by make-up artists because it will hold make-up in place for long periods.

Prosthetic adhesive is also the base for PAX Paint which is a combination of water-based acrylic colors with prosthetic adhesive. PAX Paint is a flexible color with high bond strengths to skin and many surfaces.

Prosthetic adhesive was originally developed by physicians for long term adhesion of maxillofacial prosthetics. Prosthetic adhesive is also the most difficult adhesive to remove and requires Pro-Adhesive remover.

Liquid Latex

Liquid latex is a rubber that is commonly used to create skin textures such as scars, and wrinkles for old age. It also can be used as an adhesive, but it is not as strong as spirit gum or Prosthetic adhesive. Liquid latex comes in a bottle and is applied with a brush, foam or stipple sponge. It is also used to blend the edges of a prosthetic into the skin so that the make-up becomes seamless. Liquid latex is very difficult to get out of hair, so you should avoid getting it on your hair, eyebrows or eyelashes.

Liquid latex contains ammonia which can bother some individuals. The smell dissipates as the latex dries. Drying can be sped up by using a hair dryer on a low heat setting.

Toupee Tape

Toupee tape is double-sided tape and can be used if you don't like the feel of spirit gum, prosthetic adhesive or liquid latex on your skin. The tape tends to limit the movement of the prosthetic and is more likely to come loose with perspiration, so we do not recommend it for attaching prosthetics. Toupee tape (or medical tape) is stronger than the Scotch® brand double-sided tape. Scotch tape isn't strong or sticky enough to work with prosthetics.

Medical Adhesive

Medical adhesive is used by many make-up artists because it becomes tacky immediately. There's no waiting to apply the prosthetic, but there's also no room for errors. Medical adhesive is applied with a brush.

How to Attach the Appliance

The technique for attaching your foam appliance varies with the type of adhesive you have chosen. The approach for each is relatively simple, but there are a few procedures that are important to follow in order to have successful results.

Adjust the Position of the Prosthetic *Before* You Apply Adhesive

Before you apply any adhesive, position the piece where it will be attached to be sure it will fit properly. Full face prosthetics have been sized to fit most faces whether you are a man or woman. Because of the rubber qualities, adjustments can be made by either gently stretching the piece if too small or pulling upwards on the sides to reduce the area that it covers.



Some make-up artists will temporarily mark the edge of the foam piece by lightly powdering along the edge of it while it is temporarily held in place.

Using Spirit Gum

If you are using spirit gum, using a small make-up brush, paint a liberal amount in the center of the area that will be covered by the appliance. In the case of a full face appliance, start with the bridge and sides of your nose. Next, using your finger, **gently pat the wet spirit gum until it becomes tacky**. If you pat too long, it will lose its tackiness. Too short, and the solvents won't have enough time to evaporate. When the spirit gum **starts** to get really sticky, position the foam over the painted area and press it down gently, making sure it is aligned where you want it to be. Continue this technique, working your way from the center to the edges of the appliance. Be sure you have applied adhesive to every part of your skin underneath the appliance. If you don't, the wearer's facial expression won't show through the foam latex as well and perspiration could pool in these areas.



Work on small areas at a time, attaching the appliance little by little. Gently stretch the appliance as needed to paint the adhesive on areas that may be harder to reach.

IMPORTANT: Use caution when working around the eyes! Apply the spirit gum sparingly so it doesn't run into them.

Using Prosthetic Adhesive

Using a small make-up brush, paint a thin coat of prosthetic adhesive on the inside of the appliance and let it almost completely dry (it will turn clear when dry). Be careful not to let the appliance fold over, since the prosthetic adhesive will stick to itself. Also paint a thin coat onto your skin where the appliance will be positioned and let it *start* to dry. When both are almost dry, gently press the prosthetic into place, starting from the center and working towards the edges. After the appliance is in place, press down firmly to make sure it is securely attached.

Using Liquid Latex

Make sure your skin is clean and free from oils before you apply the liquid latex. Using a make-up sponge, pat on a thin coat of latex on the inside of the appliance and onto the area of your skin where the appliance will be attached. **AVOID GETTING THE LATEX INTO YOUR HAIR, INCLUDING YOUR EYEBROWS AND LASHES**, since it is very difficult to remove from hair when dry. When both are almost dry, gently press the prosthetic into place, starting from the center and working towards the edges.

Using Medical Adhesive

The same technique for attaching your appliance using spirit gum is also used for medical adhesive with one exception. Instead of having to wait for the adhesive to become tacky, you may immediately apply the prosthetic.

Blending the Edges of the Appliance

The beauty of a well-made foam latex appliance is its ability to blend seamlessly with the skin. When properly applied, the edges of the prosthetic are virtually undetectable, so you won't be able to tell where the appliance ends and the skin begins. This is an important step, so take your time and the results will be well worth the effort.

Blending the edges can be accomplished by using either liquid latex **or** prosthetic adhesive. If you use prosthetic adhesive, you will not have a build up of latex on the edges of your appliance, and you will likely save time by not having to clean up the edges of your appliance by removing the older liquid latex.. In addition, you will be able to reuse the appliance without having to clean up the edges since the prosthetic adhesive can be smoothed and reactivated by applying 99% isopropyl alcohol.

Using Prosthetic Adhesive (called Pro-Adhesive)

Apply a small amount of prosthetic adhesive to your skin, overlapping the adhesive onto the prosthetic. You will only need to overlap the edge by approximately 1/8" if the prosthetic is made properly. If you have a gap from the prosthetic to your skin, you can fill the gap using 50% prosthetic with 50% translucent powder. This mix forms a paste called "makeup Bondo™" which can be used to fill any gaps you may have along the edge of the prosthetic. If you apply too much of the makeup Bondo, you can smooth the paste using 99% isopropyl alcohol and a soft bristled brush to apply the alcohol.



Use prosthetic adhesive in place of liquid latex if you are a professional and want to get the most out of your foam latex appliance.

Using Liquid Latex

Apply a small amount of liquid latex to a stipple sponge. A stipple sponge will generally produce the best results, since the texture of the sponge will produce a random and more natural looking surface. Lightly pat on the latex, overlapping the edge of the appliance and skin by approximately 1/4" on each side. Continue to apply a

thin coating of latex along the edge of the entire appliance. When the latex is dry, the edge of the appliance should be blended into the skin. You may add more latex if needed, but be sure the latex has dried in between coats or it could stick to itself and pull up. After the latex has dried, apply a small amount of powder to remove the stickiness.



In a hurry? Use a hair dryer to shorten the dry time of the latex. Be careful when drying someone else's skin so that you don't burn them! You can feel the heat of the dryer by keeping your free hand in close proximity to the area you are drying.



Even if you are careful when applying the latex, hiding the edges can be challenging. If you can still see an edge, you might be able to hide it by adding more texture to edge. For example, if you are creating a zombie, you could press corn meal or coffee grounds along the edge before the latex has dried. You could also flow a small amount of stage blood along the edge to hide it. Once make-up is applied, the edge will be hidden.

Applying Make-up

Learn how to apply make-up to your foam latex appliance.

This is the part of the make-up application where your character really comes to life. Finishing your make-up application involves a few steps: applying a base color, adding shadows and highlights, stippling, and powdering.

Applying a Base Color

Greasepaint or crème make-up can be used to finish your application, but if you use crème make-up, it will degrade the foam latex unless you protect it before applying the make-up. Fortunately, protecting the foam latex is easy – simply apply a *thin* coat of castor oil to the outside of the foam latex where the make-up will be applied. If you use grease paint (RMG provided by Graftobian), no castor oil is needed because grease paint is castor oil-based.



We recommend Ben Nye or Graftobian make-up because both offer quality professional make-up and have been serving the entertainment industry for many years. Both offer convenient color palettes (aka wheels) that give you a range of make-up colors that work well together for a given character.

Select a base color from a palette or create your own by mixing different colors using a sponge or brush. Mix the colors in the lid of your make-up. If you are applying an old age, nose or other appliance that changes your natural appearance, you'll want to pick a base color that matches your own skin tone.

Apply the base color sparingly using a brush or sponge. You'll find that it doesn't take much to cover the entire appliance.



To make your make-up application last longer, dip your brush in 99% alcohol first. 91% alcohol is OK if you can't find 99% - both should be available at your local drug store.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

As you pat on the base color, make sure you apply make-up about 2 inches beyond the appliance and all the way to the hairline. If you don't, you're much more likely to see a line where the appliance ends and the skin begins.

Adding Shadows

With just a base color applied, you won't have any depth to your make-up application until you add shadows and highlights. By adding a variety of darker and lighter colors, you'll create layers that give your make-up depth.

To add shadows, mix up some make-up that is two shades darker than the base color. If you use a color that is too dark relative to the base color, the exaggerated difference will likely not be very convincing or realistic. Look to see where natural shadows will appear – in deeper skin folds and wrinkles, eye sockets, sides of the nose, underneath bones that protrude further out (such as cheek bones), underneath the chin and cheeks, along the temples, and along the sides of the neck.



To see where natural shadows appear, try changing the angle of light so that shadows appear. Apply the shadow color to not only the prosthetic, but the surrounding skin as well.

Apply the make-up with a small brush or sponge, feathering the shadow color into the base color from the center of where the primary shadow appears. Feathering or softening of an edge can be achieved by lightly patting an area with your finger or sponge.

Adding Highlights

Highlight colors should be 2 to 3 shades lighter than the base color. Using a small brush or sponge, apply the highlight color to raised areas that would naturally have more light – for example, brows, cheek bones, the ridge of the nose, forehead and the chin. Feather (soften) any edges by lightly patting the highlighted areas with your finger or sponge. The next step is to further soften any hard edges of the make-up by stippling.

Stippling

Stippling is a technique that adds another important layer which creates more depth and realism to your make-up application. Skin is naturally mottled (has spots), so we are trying to recreate this look using this technique. Mix a color that is darker than the base color (such as the color you used for adding shadows). Using a stipple sponge, *gently* pat on the make-up, creating another subtle texture layer.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES



Be careful not to overdo the stippling! Stop *before* you think you've stippled enough, since you can always add more later if needed.

Now apply another stipple layer using a color that is lighter than the base color (such as the highlight color you used earlier). Stippling takes some practice, but the results are worth the time invested.

Setting the Make-up

The last step is to set the make-up with setting powder so that it won't smear. Neutral Set powder is recommended, since it won't affect the overall color of your make-up, but any powder will work with one exception – do not use pressed powder (typically women's make-up compacts). You can also use cornstarch or baby powder if desired, but consider the scent of baby powder if you choose to use it.

Powder can be applied using a powder brush or a puff. If you use a powder puff, load the powder into it by putting a generous amount of powder onto the puff, folding it in half and rubbing the two halves together. If you use a powder brush, roll the brush into the powder to load it. Press (don't wipe) the powder puff or brush onto the make-up to set it. Once set, the make-up will not smear.



You can't use too much setting powder, but if you use too little, the make-up can smear. Use a generous amount of powder and make sure all the make-up areas are covered.

Any excess powder may be brushed off with a dry brush or even a damp paper towel or wash cloth. Don't wipe the make up – simply blot it gently.

Removing Make-up

Learn how to remove your foam latex appliance.

Removing the make-up and appliance is easy, but should be done carefully and without rushing so that your foam latex appliance can be reused.

Removing Your Appliance

Spirit Gum

If you attached your appliance using Spirit Gum, you'll want to use rubbing alcohol to remove the prosthetic. Spirit Gum remover contains mineral oil which will degrade the foam over time, but you will still use it to remove the Spirit Gum residue from your skin.

Dip a Q-tip or cotton swab in rubbing alcohol. Beginning at the top edge of your appliance, gently rub the tip or cotton ball along the edge of the foam latex until it begins to loosen. Gently lift off of the appliance a little at a time, working your way from one side of the appliance to the other. Apply more alcohol as needed, but be careful not to get any in your eyes. After the appliance has been removed, apply powder to the piece to remove any stickiness that may be left over. To remove any left over Spirit Gum, apply Spirit Gum remover to a cotton ball and gently rub the area.

Prosthetic Adhesive

Since prosthetic adhesive is very sticky, it will take a little longer to remove. You can either use prosthetic remover, 99% isopropyl alcohol to loosen the prosthetic adhesive, or mineral oil (baby oil). If you use baby oil, you'll need to wash the appliance right away since the mineral tends to degrade the foam over time. To remove your appliance using baby oil, dip a Q-tip or cotton swab in the oil.

Begin at the top edge of your appliance, gently rub using the tip of a soft bristled brush with 99% isopropyl alcohol. With the baby oil, use a cotton ball along the edge of the foam latex until it begins to loosen. Gently lift off of the appliance a little at a time, working your way from one side of the appliance to the other. If you attached the foam latex appliance using prosthetic adhesive, be sure to powder it before putting it in a plastic bag.