

Good Housekeeping®

# perfect finish

Flawless skin from a bottle

BY MELISSA FOSS

Even Vice President Al Gore has come to realize the importance of the right foundation. Early this summer, when he was making a television appearance in Washington, D.C., the CBS station's makeup artist, Kay Gelborg, surprised him by spraying a light mist of foundation on his face with a low-pressure airbrush. The presidential candidate was so pleased with the smooth, natural finish that he asked Gelborg to join his entourage. She wasn't available, but his staff immediately made arrangements for him to be airbrushed for some on-camera appearances along the campaign trail.

Gore is by no means the only politician to discover airbrushing. His boss, President Clinton, and his opponent's father, George H.W. Bush, both use it. And so does Hollywood: Fans include: Clint Eastwood, Matt Damon, and the cast of *Friends*. But until the machine becomes commercially available—the manufacturer of the professional version, Dinair Airbrush Makeup Systems, promises to introduce a personal-size model before the end of the year—the rest of us can look for other ways to make sure our foundation is perfect.

**\* What type should I use?** Liquid is still the most popular form of foundation—it's easy to put on, looks natural, and can be applied with your fingers. But within the last two years, sticks have made their mark too. Most are cream-based (great for normal-to-dry skin) and provide a high level of coverage—and they won't spill in your purse. Cream-to-powder compacts are long-lasting and often contain extra moisturizers, a plus for slightly drier complexions. And now there's a new addition to the foundation market: Physicians Formula and Isabella Rossellini's Manifesto have introduced ultra-portable capsules. Just pop open the dime-size "pill" and, presto, enough product for a single application.



**\* What color should I buy?** Matching foundation to skin tone is crucial. "Dab a stripe on your cheek, and if it doesn't disappear immediately, you've got the wrong shade," advises makeup guru Bobbi Brown. Don't try it on anywhere but your face—not your arm, not your neck, not your hand. Also, make sure you have a mirror with you when you go shopping; you should go outdoors and look at the color in the light of day. "Nothing is worse than that visible line of demarcation on your neck," Brown says.

You will probably need to adjust colors slightly in the winter if you're a little paler. In the palm of your hand, mix your normal makeup with a drop of concealer (which is lighter than foundation) until you've created the perfect shade.

**\* How should I put it on?** Forget the mask of foundation women wore in the past. Dot foundation just where you need it—probably around your eyes and nose, and on any blemishes—and blend. If you're using a liquid foundation and want a natural look, Brown suggests using your fingers. But if you're after a look that's more sheer, many makeup artists recommend using a sponge (the kind you can buy at the drugstore for about two dollars). The downside: The sponge absorbs the foundation, so you waste a lot. If you're applying a cream-to-powder product, use the applicator provided, then use your fingers or a