

MARIA TELJEIRO/GETTY IMAGES (EYE)

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Other experts, though, focus on touching up blemishes and shine. Although Pati Dubroff, the celebrity beauty artist for Clarins, would certainly pack a tinted lip balm and the "lipstick of the day" in her purse,

The celebrity makeup artist Scott Barnes's focus, meanwhile, is on eyes. His "five essentials" for a woman's day bag include mascara (Armani Eyes to Kill); a Japanese eyelash curler; and his personal go-to: Naphcon eye drops ("They make your eyes look, bright, white and rested," he said). Mr. Barnes topped off his list with a MAC Cremesheen Glass (a gloss lipstick hybrid) in Boy Bait and a Guerlain bronzer.

But no matter the method, even makeup artists, it seems, have difficulty streamlining their pocketbooks. "It's easy for me to put lightweight makeup bags together for clients, but I have a hard time doing it myself," Ms. Orcutt said. "I don't mind a sore shoulder from toting extra products around if they make me look beautiful. Beauty is pain."

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