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By HILARY HOWARD

PRACTICAL Walker mesh bags are sturdy enough to be thrown into the

wash and transparent enough to reveal what kind of makeup is inside.

OR many of us, the New Year brings with it a frenzy of resolutions to streamline and organize one's life. Let's not overlook the pocketbook. More specifically: the makeup in one's pocketbook.

"When you can find whatever you need with your eyes closed, from your lipstick to your hand lotion, you feel light on your feet and self-reliant, like you're on top of the world," said Julie Morgenstern, a professional organizer based in Manhattan. "It's your power on-the-go."

Ms. Morgenstern breaks down makeup organization into three components: your home base (where she recommended "a nice deep drawer" devoted to all on-the-go purse contents like makeup and cosmetics), what you take and how you take it. "You have to ask yourself: 'What are my true essentials? If I had nothing, what would I be desperate for?'" she said.

Most makeup experts suggest applying cosmetics

at home and leaving cumbersome items like foundation and brushes behind, while packing one's bag with products to touch up important areas. However, they differ on which areas are the most important.

For Emily Weiss, the founder of Into the Gloss, a beauty blog, the mouth is what matters most.

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She was a bit taken aback recently when she found herself at a party and noticed five lip products in her clutch. "I mean, just in case I wanted to switch halfway through the night, from a matte red lip to a glossy nude lip," she said.

Ms. Weiss has an excuse, in that she's always sampling new products for her blog, and "lip products are the easiest things to try: they just wipe on and off." Along with the five lip products, which are all "in rotation," she said, she also carries her "essential," Avène Cold Cream Lip Balm, a moisturizer.

But as a rule, Ms. Weiss does her face and eyes at home, so there's no need to pack those products for the day. "The lips really are the only thing you need to touch up," she said.

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,

she said, she would also include a brightening wand like Clarins Instant Light Brush-On Perfector (it adds brightness around dark circles or shadows), a concealer (she's partial to Clé de Peau Beauté) and blotting papers.

The YouTube stylist Jessica Harlow is also a fan of blotting papers (she likes Shiseido), in addition to concealer (Kat Von D Tattoo Concealer) and pressed powder (Lancôme Dual Finish). "Blotting papers always fit in a clutch," Ms. Harlow said, noting that she could get away with just three items for a night purse (the papers, pressed powder and one lipstick), while her day bag would also include the concealer and lip balm.

Ann Orcutt, a New York-based makeup artist, agrees with Ms. Weiss that the majority of the face and eyes can be done at home, but like Ms. Harlow and Ms. Dubroff she is also concerned with keeping

The three elements of makeup organization: home base, what you take and how you take it.

the complexion looking matte and refreshed throughout the day.

"If I leave the house without concealer, pressed powder, a bronzer or blotting tools, I will make a Uturn to go home and get them," said Ms. Orcutt, who favors brands like Make Up For Ever, Face Stockholm and MAC. She rounded out her streamlined pocketbook list with a "middle ground" lip color and travel-size cotton swabs.

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 Japonesque 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

Emily Eddington, a morning-news TV anchor in

Illinois and the creator of YouTube's popular Beauty Broadcast, also thinks the eyelash curler, though unwieldy, is a purse essential. "Our hair falls, and so do our eyelashes," she said. But besides the curler, her on-the-go bag does not include eye makeup; just cotton swabs. "Sometimes it's about taking things away when it comes to touch-ups," she said.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY TONY CENICOLA/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Ms. Weiss agrees and tries to carry Almay Oil-Free Makeup Eraser sticks in both her pocketbook and evening clutch.

Once you've decided what your essentials are, it's time to organize them in your pocketbook.

Ms. Morgenstern realizes that most women are devoted to their large open totes, which she deemed "highly impractical from the organizational standpoint." To prevent the day bag from morphing into an impossible black hole, she suggests a system of pouches in various sizes, each devoted to a single category of items (like makeup), which can be labeled or color-coded, then tossed into the tote (or stored in the "deep drawer" when not in use).

On OpenSky.com, where she recommends organizational products, Ms. Morgenstern is a fan of Baggu bags, which are nylon, zippered, come in sizes ranging from playing cards to backpacks, and fold into nothing. "This company knows people need something small for their cotton balls and Q-Tips," she said.

She also likes the Purse Perfector, a two-part zippered pouch that divides in half. Office essentials (pens, reading glasses) can be placed on one side and makeup on the other. "When you go out at night, you can unzip and take your makeup with you," she said.

Ms. Orcutt prefers Walker Mesh Bags (walkerbags.com) for their sturdiness and transparency. "When they get dirty, you can throw them in the wash with your jeans and then air-dry them," she said. And Ms. Harlow said that she sometimes simply uses Ziploc sandwich bags.

But no matter the method, even makeup artists, it seems, have difficulty streamlining their pocket-books. "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."





plastic surgeon has combined blepharoplasty (eyelid surgery) and browpexy (brow lift) to create an "All-in-One Eye Lid and Brow" lift that he says is less invasive than many similar procedures. The new lift takes 30 minutes and requires two internal stitches and about five days of recuperation. The procedure costs approximately \$4,500 and is available at the practice of Tancredi F. D'Amore, in Corte Madera, Calif. (damoreplasticsurgery.com).

TOUPEES ARE CHEAPER Dr. Robert M. Bernstein, of the Bernstein Medical Center for Hair Restoration in Midtown Manhattan, has become the first doctor on the East Coast to use a robot (below) to help with hair transplants, according to the company that developed the machine, Restoration Robotics. The Artas System for



Hair Restoration uses digital mapping and tracking to extract and harvest "follicular units," a k a hairs. The procedure lasts from four to eight hours and usually costs \$12,000 to \$15,000 (bernsteinmedical.com).

to wear flip-flops to the nail salon in January. Bootie Pies are Ugglike suede and leather boots with collapsible front flaps so that recently painted toes can continue to dry without risking hypothermia to the rest of the foot. The collection, introduced in 2007, now offers a low boot. Colors include offwhite, black and lavender (\$68 to \$88 at bootiepies.com).

les.com). HILARY HOWARD



MARIA TEIJEIRO/GETTY IMAGES (EYE)

