A presenter's five-minute make-up kit

Enough make-up to keep you looking like yourself on camera, in a bag that fits in a coat pocket.

Most on-camera make-up is about control rather than coverage. The aim is to stop shine, soften shadows under the eyes and keep the lips and brows looking like yours. A small kit does that in five minutes, and it fits in the bag you already carry.

What goes in the kit

- [ ] **Blotting papers**
  Take oil off the face without disturbing make-up.
- [ ] **Translucent powder**
  With a puff or a soft brush.
- [ ] **Concealer, one shade lighter than your skin**
  For under the eyes and over any redness.
- [ ] **Lip colour, matte or satin, and a lip balm**
  The balm is for dry lips.
- [ ] **Clear brow gel or a small spoolie brush**
- [ ] **Small mirror, comb and a few tissues**
- [ ] **Your own applicators**
  Do not share them with anyone else on set.

Keep everything in one bag, labelled with your name.

The five-minute routine

1. [ ] **Blot**
   Press a blotting paper gently on the forehead, nose and chin. Do not rub.
2. [ ] **Conceal**
   Dab concealer under the eyes and over any redness, then blend with a fingertip until it disappears.
3. [ ] **Powder the shine**
   Press translucent powder onto the shiny areas only. Powdering the whole face can look flat.
4. [ ] **Brows and lips**
   Brush the brows into shape with a little gel, then add lip colour and blot it once.
5. [ ] **Check on a monitor**
   If one is available, look at the camera's view, because that is the picture that matters.

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Before the day

- [ ] **Test any new product at home a week before**
  On camera if you can. Never try something new on the day.
- [ ] **Check hands and neck if they are in shot**
  They need the same blot and powder as the face.
- [ ] **Ask the crew how long each setup takes**
  Then plan the blot into the gap.
- [ ] **Keep foundation light, and only if you already wear it**
  Thick layers look like a mask on camera.

Worked example

A presenter is due on camera after lunch. At about one o'clock the shine shows on the monitor, so the next take waits while the forehead is blotted and a light press of powder goes on the nose and chin.

Half an hour later the lip colour has faded. A touch goes on, and the blot is repeated before the take.

Touch-up log for the day

Time	Setup or take	What was touched up	Done by (initials)

Common mistakes

- **Trying a new product on the day.** Test it at home a week before, on camera if you can.
- **Heavy foundation.** On camera, thick layers look like a mask and crease in the lines of the face.
- **Forgetting hands and neck.** If they are in shot, they need the same blot and powder.
- **Powdering the whole face.** It flattens the features and can look grey under strong light.
- **No touch-up plan.** Ask the crew how long each setup takes, and plan the blot into the gap.

Lamps are hot, so shine often comes back faster under them than it does at home. Touch up between setups, or whenever the shine returns on the monitor.

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