



WHICH NUDE ARE YOU?

There's nothing basic about nude lipsticks anymore. By **Suzanne Wangmann**

Nude lipsticks have to be the most practical lipsticks on the planet: they're protective and look polished during the day, and very sophisticated with dark eye make-up at night.

But, despite the "nude" name, there are many different shades and textures available – and there's an art to choosing the one best for you.

L'Oreal Paris developed a range of nude lipsticks called Made For Me Naturals and, at the counter, there's an easy guide to choosing colours according to your hair colour.

Make-up artist Bobbi Brown meanwhile has a blanket rule: choose the shade that's closest to your natural lip colour. This choice, she says, is always going to look right. With a vast array at the counter – including shades to suit dark complexions – you can ask the assistant to find the best for you.

Team caramel

But what if you want to intensify your lip colour or

give your lips a slightly more caramel effect? For example, when I wear cool colours, such as pink, mauve or dark blue, I like a nude lip colour with a hint of pink in it. I'll add a pink blush and it looks terrific.

But if I'm wearing green, orange, cream or light blue, the more caramel shades of nude work the best. I'll wear a warm nude shade with a terracotta or orange blush and it looks great. So don't be afraid to play. It's hard to go wrong and you'll know when you do because it will make your skin tone look odd, pale and washed out.

Best shades for night

When nude lipstick looks wrong it's usually not the colour that's the problem but the opacity. Some lipsticks contain lots of pigment and have an opaque finish, others are sheer and semi-transparent.

It's hard to go wrong with a sheer finish because it allows your own lip colour to come through and look natural.

Choose an opaque formula

for night time when you want to make more of a fashion statement: the beige and caramel shades are great for this. International make-up artist for Giorgio Armani, Linda Cantello, originally created the beige lips/smoky-eyed look for Tom Ford's models when he worked at Gucci and it's a look that's become timeless.

When you want to look pretty at night time, it's an easy formula to follow: dark eye shadow and loads of mascara with pale lips and a touch of blush. It looks striking when you're wearing dark clothes.

What if you have a dark complexion? Most of the nude shades available will look too light, in which case your best choices are the more caramel shades. Even if it's a sheer formulation, the warmer colours will look better than pinks. **b**

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Sheer



+ **Fair** Bobbi
Brown Metallic
Lip Color, Gilded
Pink, \$44



+ **Medium**
Elizabeth Arden
Ceramide Ultra
Lipstick, Sugar, \$46



+ **Dark** Bobbi
Brown Treatment
Lip Shine SPF 15,
Brownie Nude, \$46

Opaque



+ **Fair** Revlon
Colorburst
Lipstick, Soft
Nude, \$23.95



+ **Medium** Bloom
Lipstick Sweet
Pea, \$28



+ **Dark** Bourjois
Sweet Kiss
Naturel in no 10
Acajou Doux, \$23