

SCULPTING 101

# DEFINE & CONQUER

**NING CHAO** throws some shade on her facial features at makeup school and shows you how to work it

**THANKS TO REALITY TV** and YouTube, the former makeup artist's secret that is contouring has officially gone mainstream. "When Kim Kardashian's makeover selfies went viral, that changed the way people started looking at contouring," says celebrity makeup artist Scott Barnes, who transformed "Mrs. West" in those before-and-after photos. The technique has come a long way since the days of Robert Palmer music videos and Patrick Nagel posters. "In the '80s, people primarily sculpted with blush," explains

Linda Cantello, Giorgio Armani Beauty international makeup artist. "Today, contouring is much more natural-looking."

Riding this renaissance are new foundations, tools, and even creams and serums designed to sculpt cheekbones, enhance eyes, and slim the jawline. Whatever you choose, the classic technique is the same for all face shapes: After foundation, apply your contour in a number 3 shape on each side of the face, starting along the hairline at the center of your forehead, sweeping around the temple and under

the cheekbone, then back out to the ear and finishing below the jawline.

Sounds simple enough, but to step up my game, I sign up for Barnes' seminar at his West Hollywood, California, Salon Republic studio. For \$499, novices and professional makeup artists can learn Barnes' contouring technique. His trade secret is to draw in definition *before* foundation, like the Italian masters and their chiaroscuro, for dramatic results. Starting with a pale concealer, Barnes highlights between the brows, down the center of the nose, underneath the eyes (up to the lower lashline), along the tops of the cheekbones, in the center of the apples of the cheeks, and on the tip of the chin. Then he adds in shadows below the cheekbones and the jawline, angling the lines slightly. "Striping sideways along the cheekbones makes the face look short," Barnes explains. "Contouring upward gives you a little face-lift. It's my back-lash to plastic surgery."

Next, it's time to blend. Barnes recommends using a makeup brush with a flat head, and a smaller brush for areas that require more precision, like the sides of the nose. "Blend from the side of the nose to the bridge so you don't end up with dark stripes," advises Barnes, who lists visible lines as the most common contouring mistake. "You never want someone to look at you and say, 'Honey, *Drag Race* is to the left!'" **mc**



Intense contouring is best left to movie stars and music-video vixens.

## SHADOW ART

Tools of the trade



1. **Becca** Lowlight Sculpting Perfector, \$38. 2. **Giorgio Armani Beauty** Eye & Brow Maestro in (clockwise from left) Gold, Dark Brown, and Light Brown, \$34 each. 3. **Clarins** Shaping Facial Lift Serum, \$80. 4. **Estée Lauder** Sculpting Foundation Brush, \$45. 5. **Tarte** The Sculptor Contouring Face Slenderizer in Park Ave Princess, \$24. 6. **Nars** The Multiple in Na Pali Coast, \$39. For information on where to buy, see Shopping Directory.

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