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Sparks Will Fly
Lusty Secrets of Seduction

Alexander Wang

The new brow shape is squared-off and full, with a less pronounced arch.

The extreme: Makeup artist François Nars darkened models' brows with matte brown shadow at the Marc Jacobs show.

Shape Shifters

Models. Actresses. Waitresses who are aspiring models or actresses. Thicker, lusher brows are everywhere—except, quite possibly, your bathroom mirror. After years of systematically plucking so many brow hairs that they were left with nothing but skimpy lines the width of spaghetti, legions of women have repented. With a little light shaping and filling in (and picture burning), no one ever has to know about your spaghetti-brow past. **By Danielle Pergament**

Fill patches with a pencil and use short strokes to avoid an obviously drawn-on look.

Below, from top: Tweezerman Slant Tweezer, Maybelline New York Define-a-Brow in Dark Blonde, and M.A.C. Brow Finisher.

Tip:

Hold a pencil vertically against the outer edge of the nostril. Where the pencil meets the brow line is where the brow should start. Tweeze any hairs that fall in unibrow territory.

THIS PAGE AND OPPOSITE PAGE: GORUNWAY.COM (2); **DAVID COOK** (STILL LIFES)

• **You need natural light—a lot of it—so head to the equator** (no, not really). Position yourself in a well-lit bathroom, preferably by the window. And never use a magnifying mirror—it's too easy to overpluck.

• **Consider waxing versus tweezing, then choose tweezing.** Not only is it more precise, but "waxing can break the hair," says Kristie Streicher, a brow groomer in Los Angeles. "Tweezing takes longer, but it's such a small area that it's worth it."

• **Here's a bit of heresy:** You don't have to have an arch. In fact, "if your brows are naturally straight, go with that," says Streicher. "Forcing them into an arch can look awkward."

• **If you do have a natural arch, coax it into the most flattering shape.** Grab a pencil and, holding it against the outer edge of the nose, line it up with the outer edge of your pupil while looking straight ahead. Where the pencil meets the brow line is the most flattering place for the arch.

• **Clean up strays underneath the brows and—more heresy!—above the top of the arch.** "Tweezing above the brow actually makes your brows look fuller," says Streicher.

• **If your brows are so lush and full that you don't need to fill them in,** we beg you: Keep it to yourself, then use a spooley brush and clear gel or wax to keep everything in place.

• **For everyone else, choose a pencil** (powders are best left to professionals). The color should be between your brows and the color of your skin, suggests makeup artist Diane Kendal. "It's always better to err on the side of too light."

• **Brush the brows against the grain—from the temple inward—** and then upward and outward. This is the most accurate way to see where the gaps are. Then "make short, angled strokes with a pencil in the direction of the hair growth," says Kendal. "Keep the pencil inside the brow—you can get into trouble if you use the pencil to shape, rather than fill."