

the cg! look: beauty

# strokes of genius

Want to turn your eyelids into masterpieces? Let these brushes do the work and make Van Gogh proud! BY EMILY KATE WARREN



## 1 ALLOVER SHADOW BRUSH

**WHAT TO LOOK FOR:** A head  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch wide with soft bristles and a rounded top. **WHY YOU WANT IT:** It'll cover your entire lid in one or two strokes. **HOW TO USE IT:** Dip it into a "base" color that's a shade lighter than your skin. With one of the brush's flat sides against your lid, sweep color from lashes to brow. **TRY:** L'Oréal Paris All Purpose Eye Brush, \$8, at drugstores



## 2 LINER BRUSH

**WHAT TO LOOK FOR:** A head  $\frac{1}{16}$  to  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch wide with stiff bristles and a fine tip. **WHY YOU WANT IT:** The thin, firm tip will give you a sharp line. **HOW TO USE IT:** Dip this brush into a cream or gel eyeliner, or a drop of water plus powder shadow. In one swift motion, drag the brush along your upper lash line, from inner corner to outer corner. Add an extra layer to thicken the line. **TRY:** Bobbi Brown Ultra Fine Eye Liner Brush, \$19, [bobbibrowncosmetics.com](http://bobbibrowncosmetics.com)



## 3 PRECISE SHADOW BRUSH

**WHAT TO LOOK FOR:** A head  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch wide with bristles a little firmer than your all-over shadow brush and a slightly rounded top. **WHY YOU WANT IT:** The smaller brush will let you apply darker shadow exactly where you want it on your lid without covering up all of your base color. **HOW TO USE IT:** Dip it into a dark color (like brown or gray) and dust it just above your crease. **TRY:** Mark Eye Shadow Brush, \$5, [meetmark.com](http://meetmark.com)



## 4 BLENDER OR CREASE BRUSH

**WHAT TO LOOK FOR:** Bristles  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch long that are packed into a tube shape with a dome-like top. **WHY YOU WANT IT:** It blends away any sharp lines for a soft, seamless look. **HOW TO USE IT:** In a tiny windshield wiper motion, blend any harsh lines where one color meets another. **TRY:** Sephora Professional Natural Crease Brush, \$24, [sephora.com](http://sephora.com)



## 5 SMUDGE BRUSH

**WHAT TO LOOK FOR:** Bristles  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch long that are packed into a tubular, rounded-off shape. **WHY YOU WANT IT:** It can turn any hard-edged line into a smoky look in just a few strokes! **HOW TO USE IT:** Rub the bristles over any powder, pencil, or cream eye liner that's along your lash line for a smudgy finish. **TRY:** Make-up Designory Smudger Brush, \$18, [mudshop.com](http://mudshop.com)



Special thanks to celeb makeup artist Nancy Sprague for contributing to this article.

**win it!**

Twenty-five readers will win a set of makeup brushes from Mark: shadow, liner, concealer, lip, and powder brushes, plus a cool case! Go to [cosmogirl.com/winit](http://cosmogirl.com/winit) to enter or see page 161 for info.

