

Step-by-step Guide on how to do a Smokey Eye

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I'm Tob, also known as Laddie online, I'm a 21 year old Transman and I've been documenting my FtM transition on YouTube for over four years now! I'm coming up to 3 years on testosterone and over 2 and a half months post-op top surgery.

Looking back now - I spent so much of my transition whiling away the hours, fretting about not expressing myself too feminine as to be labelled a transtrender or too masculine to look like I'm try too hard; when, finally, I realised it all really doesn't matter and eventually delved back in to the boundless opportunities of expression that makeup would allow. I displayed this new found freedom on my YouTube and social media and, to my surprise, found a swarm of like minded individuals in my comments section letting me know that anyone like us isn't alone! From then on, I continued pushing the bounds of gender expression and, only in recent months, have I begun to appreciate the world of gender nonconformity and how I fit into it. I'm here to show that the world, and the infinite number of boxes it likes to put us in, can leave us well enough alone! As a Physics with Space Science student, I am also here to show that expression of my kind should be welcomed in academia, and that the desire to apply makeup or express oneself, does not have any implications on the intelligence of an individual.

Links:

- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/callmeladdie>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/callmeladdie/>
- twitter: <https://www.twitter.com/callmeladdie/>

SMOKEY EYES:

- You can do your base makeup, like foundation and contouring, after the eyeshadow look is done to avoid fallout (flecks of eyeshadow falling onto your face and merging with your foundation), or you can do your base makeup before the eyeshadow look (as I am doing) and put baking powder on your cheeks/underneath your eyes so that any fallout can be brushed away more easily.
- Use a concealer brush to apply your chosen eyelid primer (or can be applied with a beauty blender, other brush, or even finger), assuring that the primer/concealer is applied all the way up to the eyebrow, inner conner and underneath the bottom lash line of your eyes.
- Take a crease brush and place the transition shade (i.e Cinnamon in BEAUTY BAY Nude Palette) into the crease line with dabbing motions.

- Take a dab of the previously used transition shade (Cinnamon) mixed with a dab of a lighter shade (i.e. Raw Sienna) and use a tapered blending brush, with sweeping motions back and forth, to blend out the top of the crease shade up towards the eyebrow and towards the inner corner of the eye.
- Deepen the crease shade using a slightly darker brown (i.e., Slow Motion) available in your palette, and use the flat shader brush to pack and dark brown (i.e., After Dark) onto the entire lid and go back in with the blending brush and the transition shade to blend it all together. You may have to go back and forth between colours to get the best outcome.
- Mist the flat shader brush with some setting spray or a little water to give it some moisture, then pick up some black eyeshadow (i.e. Illicit) onto your brush. As to not move the black shadow too high (especially with hooded eyes), start by packing the black shade close to the lash line and bringing it up into the brown shade. Take a step back and check if this looks how you want it before applying any more black eyeshadow.
- Once most of the eyelid is covered with black, use a mix of lighter shades to blend them all together again.
- Repeat most of these steps for the bottom eyelid, buffing black and brown onto the bottom eyeshadow and blending down using a transition shade.
- Go in with a clean tapered blending brush (or dust off any pigment from the brush previously used) and buff out any edges of the eyeshadow look that may look uneven.
- Using a large brush, swipe away any fallout from your under eyes and cheeks.

For a more masculine or neutral grunge look you can stop here, but for extra tips with a more feminine look here are a few extra steps (although I have been told I can still give off a masculine vibe even with whopping great false lashes on)

- Choose a highlighter shade, which can be any light shade (i.e., a white Champagne or light gold). Use a small flat brush, sprayed with setting spray or water, or your pinky finger to pack the shimmer onto the inner corner of your eye and just under the arch of your eyebrow. Apply highlighter to the rest of the face if you wish.
- Use an eyelash curler, placing it onto your top lashes, squeezing the mechanism and holding it for around 20 seconds being gentle not to pull the device away from your eyes. Put mascara on your top and bottom lashes, if you have particularly short lashes, the brush can be placed at the base of them and then brushed up to the ends in side-to-side motions for a longer lash effect. You can also stop here if you feel that this is feminine enough for you.

- To check the lashes are the right size, hold them to your lash line to see if they are too long for your comfort, if so, trim the inner corner of the lashes.
- Applying lashes might take some practice! It is important to take your time if you are new to this, it can take some time to get used to it and for the method to stick (pun intentional, my apologies). Apply some lash glue to the base strip of the lashes, wait until the glue dries enough to become slightly tacky. Then, using a lash applicator or your hands, place the lashes onto the centre of the eyes and then push the inner and outer corners of the strip to lid just above your lashes. Press these lashes with the plier into the lashes so they merge and hold until they seem thoroughly secured.
- Finish the look by using setting spray over the entire face (and then applying some lip product like lip gloss or lipstick if you wish).
- Final, final step, put some music on and dance around your room in your new look!

