



spring '08:  
**Best Beauty  
Tools**

Everyone knows the itty bitty brushes that come with our favorite cosmetics are usually meant for the trash can. If you're putting your eye shadow on with a sponge tip applicator, you better only be using one shade. Get yourself some real brushes girl! Consider it an investment. With proper care they can last forever. Beauty editor Mickey Williams found some favorite mini-sets that won't break the bank.

[Sephora Blockbuster Brush Set](#)



Mickey says: **"Everything you need and then some. I've used this set professionally. It's super soft and has synthetic brushes for lips, liner and concealer."**

This stellar collection of makeup artist-tested brushes features superb durability and craftsmanship. Though made to last, these brushes are just as beautiful as they are functional. Each frosted pink handled brush is handcrafted from top-quality natural and synthetic fibers.

\$72 at [sephora.com](http://sephora.com)

[Lauren Hutton 7 Piece Professional Brush Set](#)



Mickey says: "**We gave this compact brush set to a big makeup diva. Her first complaint was the powder brush wasn't her 'type'. After one week her tune changed and she became a believer. Lauren Hutton's brushes are soft, portable and this set comes with everything you need for a basic application.**"

Lauren Hutton spent years developing just the right mix, creating professional makeup brushes at an affordable price for you all to use.

\$60 at [laurenhutton.com](http://laurenhutton.com)

#### [Beauty Addicts Pocket Six Brush Set](#)



Mickey says: "**By far, this is the best brush set for mini purses and gym bags. You've got a slanted contour brush for an eye which isn't usually the case with other sets this size. It's perfect for the beauty addict.**"

Beautifully crafted with the finest brush hairs, the PocketSIX Brush set is designed to work hand-in-hand with each formula and texture in the beautyADDICTS color collection. Everything you need for easy, on-the-go application.

\$22 at [beautyaddicts.com](http://beautyaddicts.com)

#### [Q-Tips Cotton Swabs, Purse Pack](#)



Mickey says: **"We handed a purse pack of Q-tips to a busy mom and another to an executive. The mom found these little white wonders to be a new best friend for nails and grooming. The executive found them to be the ultimate makeup touch up tool, and no longer needs to carry around a big brush kit. Whatever your schedule entails, Q-tip purse packs are handy."**

\$1.59 at [walmart.com](http://walmart.com)

#### [Aveda Flax Sticks Makeup Brushes](#)



Mickey says: **"I love the approach and the Flax handles are like little pieces of art, but the Taklon brushes themselves require a bit more work than other synthetic brushes. The approach is clean and green, but I'm not super thrilled with the application."**

The best solutions for eye color—and the environment. Part of our professional makeup brush family, each with an eco-responsible flax-infused handle and luxuriously soft bristles—100% taklon (non-animal) fiber—for superior, controlled application.

\$14 to \$16 at [aveda.com](http://aveda.com)

[beautyblender](#)



Mickey says: "**Super squishy sponge intended for a flawless makeup application. We tested the pink porous sponge and found the biggest benefit of the sponge was its egg shape. The soft-touch, pointed end made blending concealer with foundation seamless.**"

Beautyblender's patent-pending elliptical shape makes application foolproof by allowing you to access hard-to-reach areas with stunning ease. Its suede texture is sensual to the touch and its unique curves fit the contours of your face, leaving your make up dazzling and undetectable. Beautyblender is latex free, non-allergenic and odor free.

\$19.95 at [beautyblender.net](http://beautyblender.net)



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