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Ditching These 5 Makeup Products Made Me 10 Times Happier

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PHOTO: Milk Makeup

It's no secret: I dig makeup. I enjoy it in all forms—weird experimental makeup involving tattoo stamps and black lipstick, no-makeup makeup featuring dewy skin and long lashes. I like the meditative process of applying makeup in the morning and the adrenaline-boosting process of opening a new product. If I let myself, I could spend two hours every day playing with the stuff. I guess I'm in the right line of work?

Here's the problem, though: Because I'm such a makeup junkie, sometimes I fail to remember (and not to get all cheesy on you) that the whole point of makeup is to wear it, not have it wear you. Historically, I've been known to let my enthusiasm take over, leading to such makeup mishaps as distractingly heavy brows and quantities of glitter that should be illegal for adults. Recently, however, I decided that I'm ready to leave my worst makeup mistakes behind me.

Speaking of mistakes and adulthood, at 25, I'm finally at a place where I want my everyday makeup to look sophisticated and grown-up. I no longer care for my routine to feel like a high school science experiment—I want it to feel streamlined and effortless. After all, as fun as it is to play with makeup, it can also be stressful, frustrating, and time-consuming.

These thoughts were validated earlier this year when I had two professional makeup artists evaluate my routine and tell me which products I could stand to lose. (Glittery highlighter and powder bronzer were among them.) Since then, I've taken their professional advice and made a few additional tweaks of my own. These slight shifts in my daily makeup routine have brought me so much unexpected tranquility that I had to share them with you. Keep scrolling to learn how replacing five makeup products made me a truly happier person.

NUDESTIX

Instead of liquid liner:



Nudestix Magnetic Eye Color (\$24)

This may come as a surprise to people who know me personally (or those who follow me closely on Byrdie) because winged liquid liner has always been my "thing." But lately, the meticulous process of applying it just hasn't brought me joy. That may sound silly, but at some point, I realized that I'm ready for a departure from my signature cat eye. Instead, I've been applying a line of Nudestix's Magnetic Eye Color in a shimmery rust shade to my upper lash line, and I've been *loving* it. The product glides on effortlessly and takes thirty seconds to apply (a relief from the 10 minutes I'd spend on my cat eye). Plus, the final look is current and sophisticated in all the ways I want it to.

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