

Get the look

Sali Hughes on brow shaping

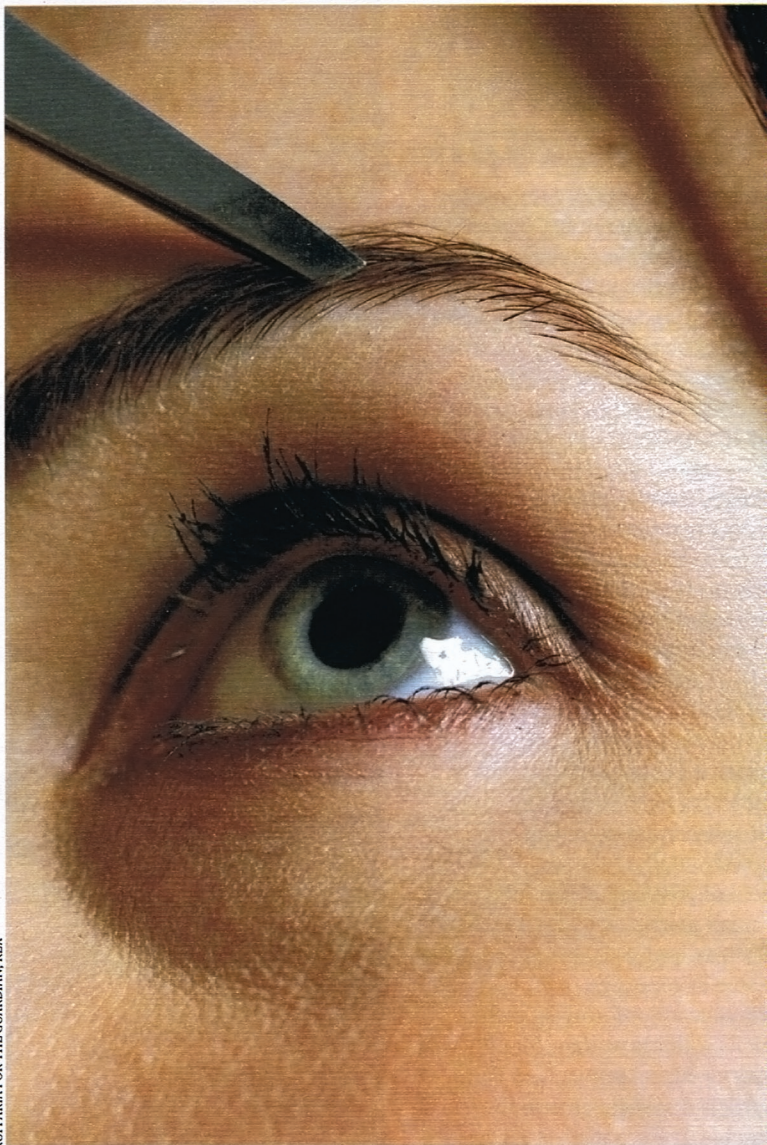
I am daft for brows. They have the magic ability to transform your face while being the only facial feature you can drastically alter without bloodshed. A good, arched brow - thicker than Edith Piaf's, thinner than Kate Middleton's - works better than Botox (it can knock years off you) and yet I see so many neglected ones, I could cry.

I tell anyone who'll listen to get their brows shaped professionally, because it has an incredibly impressive cost/effort/result ratio. Truly, we are talking as little as a tenner and half an hour to set up your brows for a lifetime of simple DIY maintenance.

Salon waxing and tweezing are both fine in the right hands, but I strongly recommend the Indian threading technique. The lines are clean and precise, and ingrown hairs much less likely. There seems to be no correlation between cost and skill, so book a consultation beforehand.

Get your practitioner to thread only below the brow, not from above, and to clean up between the eyes and anything drifting towards the temples. It might hurt. You will sneeze. But you will look fabulous.

Treat yourself to good tweezers to maintain them between appointments. On make-up days, fill brows with a brown eye shadow before setting with brow gel. Here's my essential toolkit.



RUI FARIA FOR THE GUARDIAN, REX

Rubis Slanted Tweezers £20, spacenk.com
These are the best. Incredibly precise and sharp as hell, which makes for a fast, painless pluck.

Miss Sporty Just Clear Mascara £2.99, boots.com
No brow gel I've tried keeps things neater for longer without flaking. Its clear formula suits every colouring.



Givenchy Eye & Brow Prisme £30.50, 01932 233824
Blond, raven, brunette, red-head - I promise your perfect brow shadow and liner is in this kit.

Japonesque Brow Kit £17, johnlewis.com
If you're serious about brows, treat yourself. Fantastic brow powders, gel and tweezers in a beautiful case.

Benefit Hard Angle Brush £12.50, benefit-cosmetics.co.uk
The perfect brow brush - stubby, angled and stiff, with a long handle. Use with matt shadow - pencils can look unnatural.

Suqqu Eyebrow Liquid Pen £18, selfridges.com
I was horrified when I saw this (a felt-tip for brows?!), but it's amazingly natural. Thin, feathery strokes in convincingly flat colours.

