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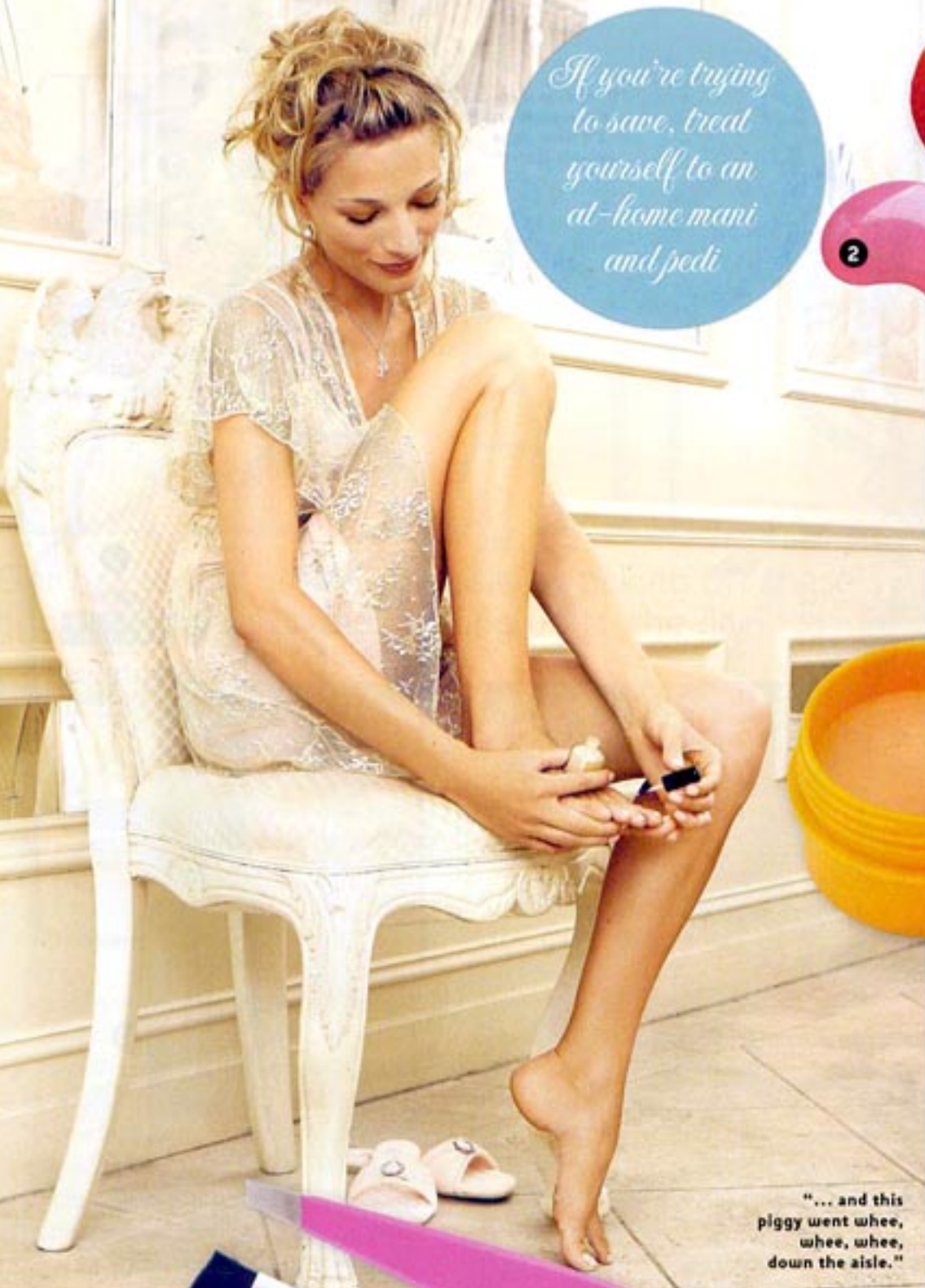
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A STRESS-FREE WEDDING: YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE

If you're trying to save, treat yourself to an at-home mani and pedi



"... and this piggy went whee, whee, whee, down the aisle."



Nail it

They may seem miniscule on the end of your fingers, but neat nails make a mammoth difference to your appearance. So treat them nicely in the lead-up to the big day (read: no biting). Here's our nail-it manicure advice.

WHEN TO DO IT One week before.

IN SALON For nails that won't chip, try a professional gel manicure. One of the leading brands is Bio Sculpture (biosculpture.com.au), which we like because it lasts for weeks and doesn't leave your nails damaged or brittle once removed like acrylics can (you'll have to head back to the salon to get them taken off though).

AT HOME You can prepare your hands and nails for the big day with a few simple products. Be sure to use a nourishing moisturiser like Nutrimetics Lemon Zest Hand Crème (6), \$9.90, which contains shea butter, and rub on Beeswax Cuticle Cream (7), \$6.95 (1800 251 215), daily. Revive soft, flaky nails with Revitanail Nail Strengthener (5), \$29.95. If you're keen to do your own paint job, try a universally flattering nude shade such as OPI Nail Lacquer in So Many Clowns... So Little Time (4), \$19.95, or go for a classic red such as Essie nail polish in Turning Heads Red (3), \$18.95. If you prefer pretty pink, try Endota Nail Paint in Point Cook (2), \$20 (endota.com.au). This looks best when done just one day before. **Rebecca Sloan**

High brow

Skinny, furry, patchy or over-arched ... we're listing the most common crimes against bride-to-be eyebrows. Luckily, we've got your plan to turn naughty brows nice.

WHEN TO DO IT From four months prior.

IN SALON When your brows have been plucked to oblivion or are overgrown, it's best to seek professional help. A brow specialist knows exactly what shape will best flatter your face and how to achieve it. Note: it may take several months of letting them grow out, so be sure to leave enough time for this. The aim is to get them looking groomed, but still natural. Ask friends for any recommendations. The Brow Bar (browbar.com) is great as they're all about making eyebrows look naturally pristine.



AT HOME While the bulk of the brow shaping should be left to the experts, it's essential to have a good brow kit at home for maintenance in between visits. The pint-sized Tweezerman Mini Brow Kit (1), from \$39.95 (1800 251 215), is fabulous as it contains good-quality tweezers, as well as a brush and powder duo for defining brows and filling in any gappy areas. Plus, it's small enough to pack for your honeymoon.

Kate Hudson MID-TONE LADY

BOLD

Medium-toned complexions tend to be Caucasian, but not overly fair and tan easily. To up the allure-factor for a glamorous affair ...

DO call attention to your lips with a classic, matte, red lipstick.

DO define eyes with a liquid eyeliner that has staying power in case of joyful tears.

DO wear lots of mascara and use eyelash curlers to open up your eyes.

DON'T be too heavy handed with the blush as it will compete with your bold lips.

THE KIT

Estée Lauder Stay-in-Place Shadowcreme in Pink Blush, \$40.

Tweezerman Deluxe Eyelash Curler, \$24.95 (1800 251 215).

Clinique High Impact Lip Colour SPF 15 in Red-y-to-Wear, \$36.

Benefit Magic Ink Jet-Black Liquid Eyeliner, \$38.

Revlon Grow Luscious Plumping Mascara, \$21.95.

Clarins Everlasting Compact Foundation SPF 15 in Honey, \$60.



Subtle pinks and peaches give Kate a polished complexion.

NATURAL

A pared-back W-day look will work beautifully with your medium skin tone. Here's how to get the pretty, blushing bride look spot on:

DO let your natural complexion and any freckles shine through by opting for a tinted moisturiser or lightweight foundation.

DO create naturally pretty eyes by using eyeshadows in beige and nude tones with a slight shimmer.

DO pull the whole look together with a peach gloss on your lips.

DON'T go overboard with products and colours – this look is about keeping it minimal so you look like a more polished, glowing version of yourself. ▶

THE KIT

Napoleon Perdis Set Contour & Highlight Palette, \$29 (napoleonperdis.com).

MAC Select SPF 15 Foundation in NC25, \$49.

SELECT SPF 15 FOUNDATION FOND DE TEINT FPS 15 30ML/1.05 FL OZ e

Face of Australia High Definition Liquid Eyeliner, \$11.95.

Bloom Lip Gloss in Gypsy, \$24.