

their skin to give them an idea of what it will look like.

"Most women wear a little bit of make-up, and as you get older you do need a bit of colour. But the more foundation and make-up you wear the more it can actually work against you, because it sits on the skin and exaggerates any lines. That's why permanent make-up is so good.

"Lips last for the longest, the colour will fade over time but there will still be colour there. Having a colour boost periodically will keep the colour looking fresh.

"Eyeliner lasts for three to five years, and eyebrows around 15 months - darker colours may last longer.

"Lips are a brilliant one to have done because as you get older you lose volume in your lips and you can get lipstick bleed. Lip fillers are popular, but a lot of women tend to go over the top and look weird.

"Permanent make-up can bring the lip out to make them look fuller or even create a lip that looks natural."

All procedures cost between £300 and £500, and clients range from young girls to women in their 90s.

Daphne says: "I was recently asked by a mum to do her 11-year-old daughter's eyebrows because she has alopecia and was being bullied at school. Now she's not getting bullied and is thrilled with them.

"One of my oldest clients was a 92-year-old who had her brows and eyeliner done to impress her 85-year-old toyboy!

"I have also applied permanent make-up to a woman who was badly scarred in a car accident and she now looks amazing. It's so inspirational.

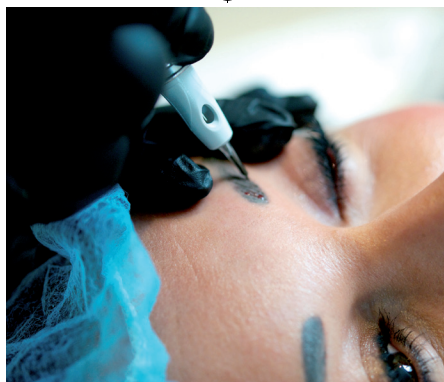
"I spend a lot of time travelling, but it's so rewarding and you meet so many inspiring women."

One of the best skills Daphne has, aside from her friendly and relaxed manner, is a steady and confident hand.

"I've always had steady hands," she admits.

"Before I heard about permanent make-up I restored fine bone china. It's not really that different because it's very intricate and you have to have lots of patience. When you're doing it you lose all sense of time and it's the same when I'm applying the make-up.

"It helps you look as good as you can. Once you have it done you'll never want to be without it. You also find that when a client has one procedure they will have another. It's one of those things that's quite addictive."



EX readers can receive 20 per cent off all procedures if booked between September 8 and October 8. To claim the discount simply quote EX magazine



Tried and tested verdict:

Putting on make-up is supposed to be a skill women are naturally good at, but if that were the case there would be no need for professional make-up artists.

I've always been terrible at applying eyeliner and suffer from inevitable smudges during the day so having eyeliner permanently applied on my upper lid seemed the obvious one to go for.

To achieve the desired look, Daphne first applied removable eyeliner to come up with the perfect shape and colour I was happy with.

I chose a thin black line which was applied using a needle and pigment after an anaesthetic cream had been put on my lids to relieve any discomfort.

To get me used to what it would feel like, Daphne began by touching my lashes with the needle before she started.

When she began for real, the sensation was a little painful, but bearable, and felt like a scratching sensation on the lid. Daphne's steady hand meant within minutes she was already on to the next eye.

Each lid was then given some more anaesthetic before Daphne went over the line again, and this time it only felt like it would if you were applying a pencil eyeliner.

It seemed like within minutes the procedure had been completed and the results were fantastic. The line had been applied with precision and it really opened up my eyes. Before I left I was given some balm for my lids and aftercare instructions, which told me what to expect after my procedure and how to look after my new make-up.

After a day any tenderness had completely gone. I was told the colour would fade after a few days, and it did, but the result looks amazing.

If any gaps occur after the healing process is completed, a free retouch is given within the first three months.

I am thrilled with the way my eyes look now, and they will continue to look fantastic for up to four years, because that's how long it will last.

ANITA MERRITT

Cosmetic Contour
0800 0820 852
www.cosmetic-contour.com