

CLOWN CAMP
Make-Up & Costume Notes

July 2002

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CLOWN CAMP
Muskosepi Park, Grande Prairie, Alberta

CLOWN MAKE-UP
&
COSTUME NOTES

Prepared by Shannon Fennell, Make-Up Artist aka Burgundy Red the Clown

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Clown Classifications

There are three basic types of clowns:

Whiteface ☺ **Auguste** ☹ **Character**

Whiteface Clowns

There are three traditional variations of the Whiteface Clown:

Classic (European) Whiteface

Character:

Also referred to as the Pierott clown, this clown is elegant, artistic, colourful, bright and cheery. Their performance is highly artistic and skillful, but done with a comedic or dramatic flair.

Make-Up:

All exposed flesh is covered in white make-up. Minimal amounts of colour(s) and/or glitter is used to express the features of the mouth, nose and eyes. Often a white skull cap is worn in lieu of a wig, and the Classic Whiteface does not wear a comedy nose, false eyelashes or large ears.

Costume:

The Classic Whiteface is considered the most beautiful of all clowns and is often outfitted in a traditional one or two-piece jump suit of white or coloured material to fit the character of the classic Pierott. Styles vary but are generally roomy and well-fitted and may have a detachable collar. The tunic or blouse can be straight, flared, short, medium or long in the sleeves. Buttons, pompons, piping and ruffles should be of contrasting colours. The pants can be straight, flared, ruffled or pantalooned. A hat should fit the clown's character/personality; short or tall cone hat, short cup or flat hats, or the typical "Pagliacci." Gloves should cover the hands and wrists and should be white or coordinating colours.

Straight Whiteface

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Character:

The aristocrat of all clowns, the Straight Whiteface is an elegant clown, artistic, colourful, bright and cheery. When in a situation with other clowns the Straight Whiteface is in charge. And, like the Classic Whiteface, their performance is very artistic with drama and comedic flair. When performing with the Auguste or Character clowns, this clown will remain in charge, set-up the routine, throw rather than receive the pie, slap or kick! Although more comical than the Classic Whiteface, the Straight Whiteface is more reserved than the impish and gregarious Auguste Clown.

Make-Up:

All exposed flesh will be covered in white make-up and minimal amounts of liner colour(s) and/or glitter are used to express the features of eyes, nose and mouth. Varying styles and colours of clown wigs are used.

Costume:

The costume will fit well. Satins, sequins, rhinestones and theatrical fabrics (shiny, flashy, beaded, etc) can be used. A one piece jumper with a ruff is one of the most common Straight Whiteface costumes, however, a two piece suit or tuxedo style is also acceptable. The costume and it's accessories should be colour coordinated. Shoes can be large or small, but should be simple. Gloves are white or a coordinating colour. The colour of a wig is generally chosen to accent another colour in the costume.

Comedy (Grotesque) Whiteface

Character:

The Comedy or, as it was traditionally called, the Grotesque Whiteface, is the most common of the Whiteface clowns today. The Comedy Whiteface is more comical than the Straight Whiteface, but is still the leader when working with Auguste or Character Clowns.

Make-Up:

As with the other Whiteface Clowns, all exposed flesh is covered with white make-up. But the rest of the make-up is what really differentiates the Comedy Whiteface from the other two. The

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Comedy Whiteface design may include false eyelashes, a clown nose, a larger mouth and other features on the face. Some of these may be outlined in black; glitter and sparkles are also used. Clown wigs in varying styles are used in lieu of a skull cap, and the colour is usually chosen to accent another colour in the costume.

Costume:

Although the traditional jumpsuit can be worn, the Comedy Whiteface clown is equally acceptable in brightly coloured shirts and pants, suits and large comedy shoes that complement the costume. White or coordinating coloured gloves should be worn. Their costumes are more “glitzy” and colour coordinated than the Auguste Clown’s costumes. The female costuming does not vary much between the Comedy Whiteface and the Auguste; the tradition of colour coordination, sparkles, glitter, ruffles and ribbon remains. Even if using cotton fabrics, the total look will be pretty and elegant.

Auguste Clowns

Character:

The Auguste Clown is the most comical of all. They are impish, gregarious and thrive on slapstick. Their actions are big, clumsy and awkward. They do not have much in common with the Whiteface Clowns except for the make-up and costume. Their personality is that of a rabble rouser. When appearing with the Whiteface, the Auguste (which is German for “Foolish”) is the brunt of the joke. However, when working with a Character Clown, the Auguste becomes the instigator and is in control of the situation.

Make-Up:

The Auguste Clown has a highly colourful make-up with a base colour of a flesh tone (pink, tan or reddish brown) on the face and neck. The eye and muzzle areas are usually covered in white to produce a wide-eyed expression and to accentuate the mouth design. Designs in and around the eyes and mouth are generally black or red, but the use of other colours is acceptable. A red shadowing around the muzzle area is generally outlined in black (or occasionally red.) The Auguste Clown will normally wear a large comedy nose which is suitable for the size of their face. They generally wear a wig, that can be chosen from many varied styles and colours to accentuate the costume and flesh tone of the Auguste Clown.

Costume:

The Auguste Clown has the widest variety of costume designs to choose from, except that they would not wear the traditional jumpsuit of the Whiteface Clown. The Auguste Clown can wear a jacket or coat; short, medium, or long; with tails or without; or not wear one at all. The pants can be short, long or oversize. Colours and patterns are a free for all; plaids, checks, polka dots, as well as solid colours. Often called “the tailor’s nightmare” the Auguste Clown’s costume colours and patterns should complement the overall clown appearance, whether the colours coordinate or clash horribly. They are usually a notorious prankster and will probably require lots of pockets to carry gags and tricks in. The costume can be accessorized with outlandish items such as small or large ties, vests, gaudy socks, large and comical collars, suspenders, a multitude of styles of clown shoes and hats of every type imaginable, all in various bright colours will enhance the Auguste Clown character. Female costuming does not vary much between the Auguste Clown and the Comedy Whiteface as the Whiteface tradition of colour coordination, sparkles and ruffles remain; but the Auguste female may wear mismatched colours and be totally uncoordinated. She may choose to be a pretty clown or a bumbling, stumbling or slapstick personality, much the same as the male Auguste clown.

Character Clowns

There are several variations within this classification, the most common being the Hobo or Tramp Clown.

Hobo or Tramp Clown

Character:

There are two common variations of the Tramp or Hobo Clown.

The classic Tramp Clown epitomized by Emmett Kelly and Otto Griebling of circus fame, is a forlorn and downtrodden character who has nothing and knows he will never have anything. By nature, he will probably be a loner, which is reflected in his determination to be silent, generally not talking to anyone but his pet. His downcast mannerisms and shuffling burdensome movements reflect his hard life.

The vagabond, elegant or happy Tramp Clown is the businessman, scholar or playboy, who, being fed up with his life, walked out on society for the freedom of the open road. He is the king of the road, happy with what he has and does not expect much. His character may take on some

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of the characteristics of the Auguste Clown. This type of character was portrayed by Red Skelton in his "Freddie the Freeloader" character.

Considered the true American clown, some say the Tramp developed in the days of the Depression in the 1930's, when men rode the rails looking for work. Other historical references indicate that the Tramp Clown make-up goes back to the Vaudeville and minstrel shows of the 1800's and early 1900's. Regardless of its origins, the Tramp Clown is always the brunt of the joke and will be on the receiving end of the pie, slap or kick from the Whiteface and Auguste Clowns. A "Bag Lady" would be considered a female Tramp Clown.

Make-Up:

The make-up represents the soot that was deposited on the face from the coal and wood burning trains that the hobos road. The eye and mouth areas were wiped clean of soot in order to see and eat. White make-up is used in the eye and mouth areas to exaggerate the result of this cleaning process. The upper face is a blend of flesh tones to reflect the outdoor look. The beard line of the male is black or shades of dark grey to reflect the soot in the beard, feathered into the upper cheeks and under the chin. A ruddy nose is used. A little red in the cheeks can help to create a sunburned look. The difference between the two types of Tramp Clowns characters is generally depicted by the shape of the eyebrows and mouth, either up or down to reflect happy or sad.

Costume:

Usually a dark suit, tuxedo, tail or just a shirt and pants; made to look old and worn for the male, and an old worn-out dress and/or coat for the female. These can be well-patched with rags or other materials, with uneven stitching or held together with whatever is available. A dark, battered hat, tattered shoes and socks, a worn shirt and tie will exaggerate the character. Gloves are generally old and worn, often with missing fingers. In keeping with the unemployed status of the Tramp, this character would not wear expensive watches, rings, or new belts, shoes or socks.

Character Clowns - General

A Character Clown is someone who portrays an identifiable character and/or occupation, for example: fireman, nurse, doctor, cowboy, storybook character, a small child, a baby etc. and their design would incorporate aspects of the three basic styles. Representations of animals are not considered clowns.

Clown Make-Up Guide

Professional make-up techniques are pretty standard, and eventually everyone develops a preferred method of their own for working with their face and products. Remember to experiment, keep what works for you and forget about the rest of it! These instructions here are simply a guide to get you started.

PLEASE READ:

If you have sensitive skin, allergies, or other conditions that could be aggravated by make-up products, tools (latex sponges for example) and removers, please use caution and check the labels of anything you plan to use. Remember, a clown will be in public, wearing make-up for several hours at a time, and sometimes in extreme heat or damp... Know your limitations and sensitivities. And test EVERYTHING before you venture out in public wearing it!

BASIC MAKE-UP KIT

For your kit, you will need:

1. A case/container to keep your make-up and supplies in.

Fishing tackle boxes are wonderful, plastic tool boxes, old Hardy Boys lunch boxes, a cosmetic case from a set of luggage, or even a zippered pouch. Whatever keeps your stuff clean and organized, and suits your style.

2. A self-standing mirror.

The style is totally your choice, but make it portable.

3. Cosmetic brushes.

I suggest a minimum of two - a large powder brush (a man's shaving brush will work as well), and a liner/detail brush. The powder brush is to remove excess powder after

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setting your make-up. The detail brush is for drawing your lines and adding details. You will probably find that you will require more than one brush for detail, try out different shapes and sizes and use what works for you. But your design will dictate what tools will work best. And buy quality if you can afford to... Nothing is more aggravating that loose hairs stuck in your make-up!

4. Make-up Colours.

There are many brands out there and everyone has their own preferences for their own reasons. The best results are obtained by using professional theatrical brands of creme make-up in the colours you want. Some brands that are commonly used by professional clowns are: Ben Nye, Kryolan and Mehron. Water based make-ups don't tend to wear as well and don't last as long; properly set creme make-up is waterproof, water based is not!

You should start with at least White, Black and Red, and add other colours as you develop your character and design. Special colours have been created for clowns such as "Auguste" and "Clown White Lite." Start with the smallest containers, try it and see if you like it.

Halloween "clown kits" are not really suitable for professional clowning, they don't last, they don't give a smooth finish and are more irritating to the skin than proper make-up. They are fine for experimenting with designs, and cheaper, but not for public appearances.

5. Cotton Swabs

The ubiquitous make-up tool! You'll need lots, and don't go cheap because nothing is worse than bits of cotton stuck in your make-up.

6. Powder/Powder puffs

You can use baby powder or talcum powder or a cosmetic brand neutral/translucent powder or a professional brand white setting powder. All work equally well... really. Some people don't like the smell of baby power... but it is much, much cheaper than the other types. Under no circumstances should you use cornstarch... it melts! The same goes for flour... it turns to glue!

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Powder puffs are available in drug stores, supermarkets, etc. Some are washable and some are disposable; some are fluffy, some are soft. The puff is used to apply lots of powder to the make-up to set it, so it will get creme make-up on it, therefore I suggest buying less expensive ones.

7. A spray bottle filled with fresh water.

Once the make-up is set with powder and brushed off, many clowns water their face with a fine mist of water. The purpose is to rinse away the powder left on the surface and let the colours shine through. This is an optional item.

8. Rubber Nose.

Not all clowns wear false noses. If you wish to, there are options: you can buy foam rubber clown noses that are ready to wear, you can make one out of a ping pong ball with a hole cut in it, or carve a styrofoam ball and decorate it with glitter. Whatever suits your character. Nose can be attached with fishing line tied to an elastic band, toupee tape (a two side tape that adheres to skin) or prosthetic adhesives. Use whatever works best for you.

9. Accessories.

False eyelashes, big ears, sequins, glitter gels and powders, jewels, eyeglasses, buttons... whatever you wish to use to highlight your character.

10. Make-up Remover.

This is another wide range of products, and everyone has their own preferences. I would suggest that, unless you have a particular brand you like already, that baby shampoo is the least expensive and probably gentler on your skin than most. It has the advantage of being tearless too, which is especially important removing make-up from around the eyes! Other items that work are cold cream, cosmetic brand removers, baby oil, mineral oil, vegetable oil (messy!), etc. Baby wipes are also very good - I use them myself to remove most of my make-up before using cleansers to finish the job.

11. Miscellaneous

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Tissues, small bottle of isopropyl alcohol (99%), moisturizer, cotton pads, baby wipes, small towels, hair clips, latex make-up sponges, stipple sponges (for Tramp Clown beards), liner pencils (an option for drawing designs instead of detail brushes), a palette (the lid off of a yogurt container is perfect as a palette) and a palette knife or similar tool to use to scoop make-up out of containers.

DESIGNING YOUR FACE

You have everything you need to make a clown face... Now what? Designing your face takes time and practice; trial and error. Always be open to new ideas and looks. Don't be discouraged if your first attempts have you looking like a Stephen King nightmare! Try out your designs on friends and family and insist they be honest about the image you are projecting, and LISTEN to their comments and suggestions with an open mind. The whole point of being a Clown is to communicate and entertain, and it helps if your character is appealing. Those who know you best will know if you are being true to your personality.. Or if you are succeeding in projecting a new one!

While it is considered to be in extremely poor taste to “steal” another clown’s facial characteristics, it is perfectly alright to sit down with pictures of many different clowns¹, and mix and match features that you really like. Does your personality lean towards the Whiteface, the Auguste or a Character Clown? Which do you want to be?

¹There are lots of sources for Clown images... and the Internet is very useful - The Clowns of America International at www.coai.org; Ringling Bros. Clown Alley at www.ringling.com; and Carolina Clowns at www.carolinaclowns.com all provide excellent information and images. Try using a search engine to look up “Clowns” and be prepared to spend a couple hours browsing. Of course, the old fashion way of looking up books and magazines works too!

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Are you going to be working from a distance or face to face with your audience? Brighter, bolder colours and large details work for circus performers and parades. Muted tones and details like stars and hearts are more visible on close-up performers.²

Once you have decided what features you want to try you need to adapt them to fit your face and personality. Look at your face in the mirror.. Where are the creases? Do you have dimples? What is your most prominent feature and are you going to highlight it? Do the features you liked on other clowns work on your face? It can help if you draw a simple sketch of your design before you start.

Study how your face moves. Can you stretch it into extreme positions? Elongated, sucked in, raise one eyebrow at a time, move your ears? Practice all the emotions of a clown - happy, sad, great sorrow, bored, curious, playful, flirtatious, playful, afraid, surprise, etc. while watching yourself in the mirror - or better, video tape yourself! Watch how your face moves from one expression to the next, note what areas are the most animated because these are the areas you want to highlight. The eyes and mouth are the most expressive features in the human face; highlight them so that they are noticed.

You need to ensure balance in your clown face design. The features of the face you design need to work with your own face shape in order to be pleasing to the eye.

Will you be a sad or happy clown? Confused or mischievous? Design your face to reflect your character. It is also helpful if you draw your design on paper; this lets you see what it will look like, and gives you a guide to follow when applying your make-up. It is also a cheaper way to try out different designs than doing them with make-up!

PREPARING YOUR FACE & SUPPLIES

As a professional Make-Up Artist I always lay out my make-up and tools, and everything else needed before I start. Use a small towel, some paper towels or tray to lay out everything in front of you, your make-up colours, your powder, your brushes, tissues, cotton swabs, etc. and set up

²If you plan to compete in organizational events, be sure to check the rules and regulations now while you are in the design stage. There can often be a vast difference between the entertaining performing clown and the competition clown.

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your mirror in a comfortable position (if possible). All of your tools should be clean and sanitary. ALWAYS wash your brushes and other tools after you are finished in soap and water, and keep them in a clean and dry location between uses. If it isn't convenient, always have a small bottle of Isopropyl alcohol (99%) in your kit to disinfect things.

Your face should always be freshly washed and dried before you start to apply make-up. You should not have any other products on your face, except perhaps a moisturizer. It is a good practice to use a moisturizer before applying your make-up and after you remove it. Putting it on before makes it a little easier to remove the make-up later, and putting it on after you remove your make-up soothes the skin and puts back some of the moisture the make-up removers stripped.

If you are trying new products, test them on the underside of your forearm first, and leave them for an hour or so. If you haven't developed an itch or rash, it's probably ok. If you are sensitive to any items commonly used in cosmetics, please test first. Nothing is worse than an itchy face under a lot of heavy make-up.

You should also wash your hands well before you begin. Most germs are transferred hand to face, so be careful when handling items as you are working on your face. If you drop your brush on the ground, wash it before using it again. NEVER share brushes or make-up with others (you wouldn't share your toothbrush, would you?)

If you wear contacts you'll need to be careful of the powder, but you shouldn't have problems with the other items. Although, false lashes may not be a good idea, depending on your tolerance.

Since the make-up is oil based and can stain fabrics, always have your own make-up towels. Never use hotel towels or those of other people. If you are stuck, use paper towels.

If you've done a sketch or drawing of your design, prop it up where you can easily see it while looking in the mirror.

Now you are all set-up and ready to start. What type of Clown are you going to be?

CREATING A WHITEFACE CLOWN

The basic colours of the Whiteface Clown are white, red and black but these are not absolutes and you should give your creativity free reign as you develop your character. Clowning is an art form and needs the daring free thinker to survive and grow.

Of course, the base of a Whiteface is ...white. Using your palette knife or scraping tool, scoop a little white make-up onto your palette (plastic lid, plate, etc.) You'll probably need an amount no bigger than your thumbnail to start, and you can always get more – but it's hard to put back in the container. This method allows for less waste and keeps your make-up sanitary. Using a latex cosmetic sponge, or your fingers, thoroughly cover your face, ears (if they will be visible) and neck with a THIN coat of white. Thin foundations are less likely to crack. You want a good solid coverage, but not thick: Using your fingers or a sponge lightly tap or pat all over the covered areas. This will pick up excess make-up and redeposit it in other areas, smoothing out the coverage. Continue to do this until you don't see any streaks or transparent areas. If properly done, this will give a smooth, silky surface that is streak free.

Now, using cotton swabs, you want to remove the white make-up from any spot you will be putting any other colour. (If this seems a little wasteful, you can try to only apply white to where you want it in the end; the only problem is that it is EXTREMELY difficult to get evenly smooth, total coverage of white this way.) Carefully use the swabs to carve away the white; for larger areas, outline the space with the swab and use tissues to remove the white. If you make a mistake, just apply a little more white and pat until smooth again.

If you are going to be applying a nose with glue or tape, you will need to remove all make-up from the area where the adhesive will be applied before you powder.

Once you have removed the white from those areas, it's time to set the base with a good quantity of powder. My preferred method for applying powder is to shake powder onto the powder puff or press the puff into the powder, then work the powder into the puff, then holding the puff slightly curled, with the powdered side towards the skin, press and roll, applying the powder to the make-up. You will need to replenish the powder on the puff occasionally, depending on your coverage, and how much make-up you have left on. You will have enough powder applied when you can see it sitting on top of the make-up. Work it into the make-up to absorb the oils by using a gentle rolling/pressing motion. Gently work the powder into the areas around your eyes and anywhere else you have creases or grooves that might have missed getting powdered. Then let the powder and make-up set for a minute or two. Test the make-up for sticky or wet spots with

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your fingers; it should look and feel dry. Then using the soft powder brush, gently wipe off the excess powder starting in the centre of your face and working out until you have removed as much as you can.

Now you get to apply the colours. Use which ever method works best for you - fingers, brushes, sponges, etc. The rule of thumb is to start with light colours first, because you can cover mistakes with the darker colours, and they blend better. If you intend blending colours, you can mix on your palette or on your face, as long as they haven't yet been powdered. Otherwise, powder after each colour to keep them distinct, and the lines sharp.

This all being said, you can apply all your colours wet and then powder, but the danger of smudging and smearing is much, much greater.

If you are applying make-up to facial hair, use a small stiff brush like a toothbrush, or mascara wand.

Finally, after all your lines, colours and powdering is done, you can use the spray bottle to mist your face. Don't be afraid to get wet. Gently pat (don't rub) your face dry with a towel (not paper!)

Now you can apply any glitter or other items.

This is a basic Whiteface make-up. The difference between the **Classic Whiteface**, **Straight Whiteface** and **Comedy Whiteface** is in the amount of colour applied to the white foundation and in the size and type of facial decorations as described earlier in these notes.

CREATING AN AUGUSTE CLOWN

There are four basic colours for the Auguste Clown which are white, a light or dark Auguste flesh tone, red and black. Remember that nothing is set in stone and to let your creativity flow when creating your character.

The design of the Auguste Clown is different from the Whiteface Clown, but the application process is pretty much the same. Remember to apply colours from the lightest to the darkest. You start by applying white where you want it; on an Auguste Clown this is usually around the

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eyes and mouth. Apply the white make-up in the same manner described for the Whiteface Clown.

Once you have applied, patted and evened out the white make-up, and have a smooth, silky white surface, use your cotton swabs to tidy up the edges, and clean off any spots you plan to add colours to within the white. Then powder the white make-up well to set it, referring to the instructions detailed above for the Whiteface Clown.

The next step for the Auguste Clown is to apply the Auguste colour around the white highlighted areas. Use which ever method of application you find easiest; fingers, sponges, brushes, etc. Work this Auguste flesh tone into all areas of skin that are exposed and have not been covered in white, or, you can gradually blend the flesh tone out to blend with your natural skin tone. Choose which look you like the best. If you are planning to apply a nose, leave the nose free of all make-up so your adhesives will stick.

Many Auguste Clowns forgo using a flesh tone make-up; they simply use the white highlights and leave the rest of the face natural. It is up to you how you want to do it. If your character works leaving part of your face bare and is pleasing to your audience then go for it. However, sometimes a clown can look incomplete without a complete coverage of make-up. It is all personal preference and that is what your character is all about.

Once you have applied and smoothed out the Auguste flesh tone make-up, powder to set it. Now you will add your colours and accents. Remember to work from lighter to darker. You can apply all your colours, then powder carefully, or, add them one at a time powdering as you go. Remember that if you want to blend colours together you must do it BEFORE you powder; so if you wanted to add some red to the Auguste flesh tone on the cheeks, blend the red in before you powder the flesh tone. Powdering after each colour helps to prevent smearing and keeps the lines distinct.

Once you have applied all your colours and lines, and powdered well, you can spray yourself with a mist of water all over your face. Pat dry gently with a towel (not a paper towel). This will take off the excess powder and give a brighter finish. Now you can apply your nose, glitter, eye lashes, etc. and are ready to go.

CREATING A CHARACTER CLOWN

Character Clowns can be as varied as the characters they represent. The most common Character Clown is the Tramp or Hobo Clown, so these instructions will concentrate on that character. If you are creating another type of Character Clown, all of the information provided in these notes for the three basic types of clowns will apply; the method of application remains the same, it's just your placement of colours and other details that are unique. So feel free to express your individuality!

For the Tramp Clown the basic colours are white, red, a dark Auguste or sunburn flesh tone and black. But remember, this is just a starting point; feel free to be creative.

Much of the origin of the Tramp Clown comes from the Old South minstrel shows and this is reflected in how white is often used to highlight around the mouth and eyes; and also the dirt and soot that would accumulate from riding the rails on coal and wood burning trains is represented in the application of black over the face.

Once you have decided on the design for your Tramp Clown, apply the white highlights following the same directions outlined for the Auguste Clown. Ensure a thin, smooth coat of make-up, and then use a cotton swab to clean up the edges and remove any white from where you plan to put another colour. If you are planning to add a beard or soot, be aware that adding black over white will give you a grey. If you are adding a nose, leave your nose clear of make-up or else the adhesives won't stick.

Once your white is where you want it powder well to set-it, ensure it is dry to the touch. Now apply the dark flesh tone carefully around the white, covering on all exposed skin on the face, neck and ears, or, simply blending out into your natural skin tone. Powder to set. There are several Hobo Clowns who simply use highlights around the eyes, mouth and cheeks and leave the rest of the face natural; Red Skelton's characters for example. Again, personal preferences will rule.

Now you will start to add the darker colours to complement and accent your Tramp Clown character. Remember to start with the lighter colours as you can cover mistakes better with the dark ones. If you want to blend colours, remember to do it before you powder. If you want to keep your lines and colours distinct, powder between each one.

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If you are applying make-up to facial hair use a small stiff brush like a toothbrush or mascara wand.

To create a Hobo beard using make-up the best tool is a black coarse “Stipple Sponge.” Simply dab it in the make-up lightly and tap on the face where you want your “five o’clock” shadow to appear. These sponges are sold in squares so use a scissors to trim the sides as you don’t want a straight sharp line when stippling the make-up on. The beard will be a stippled effect which is more natural looking, as opposed to solid colours.

Finish lining your colours and powder well. Brush off the excess powder; use the water bottle to spray your face, and blot with a towel (not paper!)

Now apply your nose and other accessories that you plan to use, and your ready!

Clown Costume Design

There are as many designs of clown costumes as there are clowns. Traditional costumes for each of the three basic types of clown are defined under the heading *Clown Classifications* earlier in these notes. But, as has been stated before, clowning is an art form and freedom of expression is all important! Create your own character and let your costume reflect that personality.

Keep in mind what your character is going to be doing. Are you going to be an acrobatic clown? A dancing clown? A stilt-walker? A juggler? A balloon animal maker? A character act? Your costume will need to be functional for what ever your act will be. If you need to do handstands, you don’t want your hair to come off! If you have gags and tricks that you need props for you’ll need pockets or a purse.

Putting together your clown costume need not be difficult. A pair of pyjamas, a wild wig, oversized fluffy slippers and a teddy bear.... how easy is that! Or your mother’s square dancing dress, complete with crinoline, paired with old steel toed work boots with dayglow coloured laces, and striped tights. Or maybe a tie-dyed tight fitting t-shirt, a pair of old men’s pants about 8 sizes bigger that you are, multi-coloured suspenders, two different shoes, and an old straw hat with a bird peaking out of a hole in the crown? Or even a pink leotard and tu-tu? The possibilities are endless. And not that hard to put together. Or you can purchase a costume from

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a catalogue, or have one made-to-order. It all depends on how much time, energy and money you want to put into it!

What you want for your costume will be dependent upon the character that you are creating.

The first thing to do is raid your closet, your parents' closets, and your grandparents' closets, too! (But be sure to okay it with them first!) Old fashioned items work well; old fashioned can be anything older than last week! Old work clothes, old boots, pieces of old costumes... anything could be what you're looking for! Even old dance costumes or theatrical costumes are suitable. Clothing you wore in 1984 might seem a little over the top now, but it would work if you were a clown! Flowered print plaza pants, paisley shirts, green and yellow plaid golf pants, a gold lame evening gown that you mom wore in 1969, that giant hat you bought at the Grey Cup game...

Then go to thrift stores, second hand stores, liquidation places... check out everything that they have. Often these places will have items that are perfect... brightly coloured polyester leisure suits, oversized flowered cotton mu-mu's, old suit jackets, old fashioned hats, over sized purses, the list can go on, and on, and on... Go and shop! The prices in these places are cheap, usually really cheap, so go for it. Check them out.

You can also shop for new items. Currently colours are very bright and clown like, so you could throw together an outfit in contrasting colours very easily, and accessorize too! Remember to, that this is your creation and if you want to be totally in black and white, that's ok too.

You could also buy your costume from one of the many suppliers that are accessible on the Internet or by mail order. They will make you a costume from a design in their catalogue, but to your specifications on colours and accessories. All sorts of clown accessories are available through these catalogues. Or have your costume made to your own custom design.

Another option is to make your own from scratch. Patterns for clown costumes are readily available from most pattern companies. Check out the catalogues at fabric stores and sewing centres. Check out patterns in every section of the catalogue, you may find a suit or jacket that would be perfect done in a bright rich fabric.

Clown shoes can be as easy as going to a sporting goods store and buying the largest sports shoe they carry, stuff the toe of the shoe, and then wear your normal shoes inside it! Colour the shoes with paints, floppy bows, etc. and there you have big clown feet!

Whiteface Clown Costumes

Tradition guides the Whiteface Clown's costume more than the other types of clowns. Whiteface Clown costumes fit well and are elegant and beautiful. Remember too, that the Classic Whiteface is considered the most beautiful of all the clowns.

Patterns for costumes for characters such as "Pierott" and "Pierette," "Harlequin" and "Pagliacci" are Classic Whiteface costumes. Some patterns found in theatrical costume sections would be appropriate for any of the Whiteface Clowns, such as medieval jester costumes or Renaissance or Elizabethan gentlemen's clothing. But don't limit yourself. Take what you like and use it.

Straight and Comedy Whiteface costumes are usually more elaborate and could be created using standard patterns but with lush, colourful fabrics like velvets and brocades using sequins, rhinestones and other glitzy trims. Short tuxedo type jackets, fitted jumpsuits, matador outfits, would all work. Standard clown costumes - the one piece jumpsuit in contrasting colours with big collar and ruffles suit the Comedy Whiteface. Use trims, pompons, ruffles, buttons and bows in coordinating colours. Be creative and original.

All Whiteface Clowns wear white or coordinating coloured gloves to cover the hands and wrists. Hats are appropriate to the personality and outfit. Wigs are not seen too often with the Classic Whiteface; they will often wear a skull cap in lieu of a wig. The wigs worn by the Straight Whiteface and the Comedy Whiteface are in colours and styles that coordinate with their personality and the colours of their costume.

The Straight Whiteface can wear large or small shoes but they should be kept simple. The Comedy Whiteface wears large shoes in coordinating colours.

Keep in mind that the all Whiteface Clowns are *always* more elegant and colour coordinated than the Auguste and Character Clowns.

Auguste Clown Costumes

Auguste Clown outfits can run the gamut. Bright colours, loud patterns, oversized clothes and shoes, wild hair colours, great big hats, teeny tiny hats - everything goes. They have the widest variety of designs to choose from, except that they would not wear the traditional jumpsuit of the Whiteface Clown.

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Called “the tailor’s nightmare” the Auguste Clown’s costume colours and patterns should be part of your character’s overall personality and appearance, whether the colours coordinate or clash horribly; everything used should be a part of the whole and work to bring the look together.

The Auguste Clown can wear any type of coat or jacket of any length or style; or not wear one at all. The pants can be short, long or oversized. Colours and patterns are a free for all; plaids, checks, polka dots, etc. as well as solid colours.

Auguste Clowns usually perform a variety of tricks or gags so their costumes will require lots of large pockets.

You can use regular patterns to create an effective Auguste Clown costume - just go wild with the colours and accessories! Modify pieces of the pattern to create oversized lapels, giant button holes with giant buttons, make the pants a couple sizes larger, etc.

The accessories of the Auguste Clown are too numerous to list but some ideas are: big or small bow ties, extra wide and long neck ties, tacky vests, gaudy socks, suspenders, any sort of clown shoe available, hats of every description, floppy collars, etc. all in the brightest, loudest, most clashing colours you can find. The Auguste Clown would be the one with the water squirting flower in his lapel!

The female Auguste Clown and Comedy Whiteface can be similar as the Whiteface tradition of colour coordination, sparkles and ruffles can be applied to both, but the Auguste female has the option to wear mismatched colours and be a totally uncoordinated slapstick or she can choose to be a pretty clown with manners. What you want to do with it is up to you!

Hobo or Tramp Clown Costumes

The Tramp Clown costume can often be the easiest one to put together. By definition the clothing of the Tramp Clown is old and tattered, often patched and worn out. Nothing the Tramp Clown wears is new, so it should be easy to locate items of clothing to use.

The best place to find clothing items for a Tramp Clown (other than from your family and friends) is thrift and second hand stores. Or you can order a complete costume from a catalogue.

A Tramp Clown’s clothing is usually dark. An old dark suit, tuxedo with tails or just a shirt and pants made to look old and ripped. Patch the pants and coats with scraps of fabrics using sloppy stitching. Frayed collars and cuffs add to the look; you can rub sandpaper on the edges or just slice the edge open and pull out threads to fray the ends. Old vests and suspenders can be worn.

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For the lady Tramp Clown, old faded dresses with tattered fur collared coats, rolled down stockings with obvious runs in them and broken healed shoes. A “bag lady” would be a female Tramp.

A beat-up looking hat with holes in it, tattered shoes with holes in the toes or bottom of the soles, soiled socks with the big toe sticking out, these all add to the image of the down on their luck Tramp Clown.

Keep in mind that nothing the Tramp Clown has should be shiny and new. So even if you are buying items to use, make sure you wash them and rough them up a bit first. Maybe even pour on the coffee and chocolate to stain them first!

The costume will vary between the forlorn and downtrodden Tramp Clown and the happy vagabond Tramp Clown. Basically, the type of clothing when it was new. The sad Tramp will have mismatched pieces of clothing that he probably foraged in the dumpster for, while the vagabond Tramp probably was wearing a custom fitted tuxedo when he decided to seek the open road. It is your character, what is their story? Fit the costume to the background of your character and it will be all the more believable!

Character Clown Costumes

With all character clowns the costume plays a major part in creating the character. If you are creating a “Baby” clown you could wear an oversized diaper and a baby bonnet; if you were a “Fireman” clown you would probably want to wear big rubber boots and a fireman’s hat. What you want to convey with your costume is the character you have created and since many character clowns portray an identifiable character or profession, the costume is the key element. But be creative by exaggerating features, using oversized props, and make it funny and ridiculous.

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Resource List

Make-Up			
Shirley Potter's 10536 - 102 Ave. Edmonton, AB	Carry Mehron, Ben Nye and Kryolan make-up and wigs	tel: 1-800-661-4926 or (780)424-3534	Phone/Mail order
Studio F/X 112 - 1055 W. Georgia St. Vancouver, BC V6E 3P2	Most brands of make-up, brushes, special effects make-up; will do special orders	tel: (604)685-5509 fax: (604)685-5514	Phone/Mail order
Various websites	All brands and products		
Costumes			
Shirley Potter's 10536 - 102 Ave. Edmonton, AB	Theatrical fabrics and notions, props; costumes for rent	tel: 1-800-661-4926 or (780)424-3534	Phone/Mail order
Fabricland and/or Fanny's Fabrics Grande Prairie, AB	Patterns, fabrics, notions		

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www.mooseburger.com	Ready-to-wear and to-order, clown costumes and accessories				
Various websites	Costumes and accessories				
<p>Websites - these are just a sample of the clown sites out there - there are hundreds if not thousands more ... use GOOGLE to search for: "clowns" "clown make-up" and "clown costumes"</p>					
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