

PRODUCT REVIEW:

Fantasy-Worldwide Face Paint and related products

Fantasy-Worldwide, www.fantasy-worldwide.com

Available in the USA from Jodi Carr at

www.profacepaint.com



Products: Water based cream make-up, liquid make-up, glitter, brushes and sponges. Company is based in Belgium with distributors and retailers worldwide. Of note is that this company makes and markets refill packs of its cream make-up in eco friendly packaging that you can refill your containers from.

I was first introduced to Fantasy-Worldwide (“FWW”) by Jodi Carr in the summer of 2006. I am always interested in trying out new products and at that time was planning to attend a competition in Belgium being sponsored by FWW in which they provided the products to work with. Jodi as the North American retailer was able to send me a few colours to experiment with.

Since that time I have used it a fair amount and have to say that it is an excellent product. I often paint my own face for jobs using FWW as it is so comfortable to wear.

The cream make-up is applied with a dry sponge – no water is required at all. The application should be with a light touch using very little of the product to start with and applying in light circles. If you want more intense colour you layer it. When I first tried it I applied it heavily and tried to spread it and blend it (as taught to do with another brand) and it was not very successful. I was shown that I needed to apply it softly and in a buffing motion, and to layer it to get a deeper colour. I was very impressed with the ease of application – once I got it right of course!

The liquids were okay. I found them a little watery but was able to work with them well. They blended nicely into the cream base and stayed where they were applied.

The Special Colours are what FWW calls their pearl or shimmer colours and these are particularly gorgeous. The Special White makes all the regular colours shimmer and the Special Pink and Blue are beautiful. The application of these colours is very easy and smooth and they blend well with all the brands I tried with them – both other cream brands and cakes as well.



Wearing FWW is a treat. It is so light that you forget you are wearing anything at all, and your skin does not tighten up as happens with cakes when the water evaporates and the dried paint tightens and starts to flake. FWW stays pliable on the skin and looks as bright hours later as it did when you applied it. And I have to say that I have not experienced any “staining” or lingering colour after removing FWW from my skin. It washes off easily with a little soap and water.

FWW offers a full range of fantasy colours as well as flesh tones and they all blend beautifully and easily.



The colours of FWW are generally very bright and beautiful with one exception – green. So far I have found the greens to be very uninteresting as they look to be based on seafoam green and are quite dull – this may have changed recently but it is my experience. The pinks, reds, purples, blues and yellows are pure and brilliant. Another little glitch is that the yellows and colours made from yellow get quite set in the containers – like a soft cheese – and need to have water added a lot more often than any other colour.

Working with water based cream make-up can be a challenge as if you leave the lids off it will dry up. If that happens you can add some distilled water (as it has no impurities) to the container, let it sit overnight, then pour off the left over water in the morning and the paint will be moist again. If you are working it's best to loosen the lids and leave them on top of the container to keep it covered when you are not actually using it or you could place some on a palette to work with, leaving the main jar closed.

I really love the FWW sponges. They are excellent, wear well and as they are green don't show too much wear and tear from staining. The sponges are dense and larger than many so called face painting sponges, but this is a bonus to me as I prefer stiffer sponges.

FWW's brushes are acrylic and are nice to work with. Their selection of sizes and shapes is very good and useful for face painting. My only observation is that the ferrules are loose on several of mine after minimal use which has never happened with any other brushes I have tried.

FWW's glitter is called "Susan Howard's Magic Dust" and is sold in screw top jars with a wide opening. It is a very fine glitter, easy to apply and the colour selection is very pretty. They also have six colours of UV glitter. The glitter is available in 10 gram or 50 gram jars, and in bags from 150 grams to 1 kilogram.

The most impressive thing to me though, is that FWW has decided to sell eco-friendly refill packs of their cream make-up. You can buy the refills in two sizes/formats: A plastic bag containing 50 grams (1.76 ounces) which will refill the professional size jar once or in a plastic tube (like toothpaste) containing 200 grams (7.04 ounces) and they come in all their colours. This is a brilliant idea and FWW is to be commended for being what I believe to be the first face painting company to do this. It also is great to be able to buy a 200 gram container of paint for large projects and the tube makes it very easy to use on the job.

Reviewed by Shannon Fennell© June 2008

Note: In November 2006 Shannon was the winner of the Fantasy-Worldwide Face Painting Contest in Putte, Belgium. Her prize included €750 worth of FWW products which she has been playing with ever since.

