



## August Pigment of the Month Face Inks Almost Black



**Almost Black** is a favorite for those that are concerned about their permanent eyeliner appearing too black. It is a great choice since it will heal to a soft or off black but not blue.

### ***Needle Selection:***

I tend to use a 3-Liner for my eyeliner procedures. I set my Nouveau Contour Machine at 130 to 140 unless my client is elderly, then I set it at 110 to 120.

For smudged eyeliner, I use a 7-round or a 3-Slope, depending on the effect I want. They both do a great job. For bottom smudged eyeliner, I like to brush the 3-Slope downward with the flat side of the needle from the outer canthus toward the center of the eye and thinning it out as I move toward the center. Sometimes, I will make a wash but mostly I use my pressure to or lack of to create the effect I want.

### ***Topical Anesthetics:***

I like to pre-numb my clients for 30 minutes with Eyz-A-Blu for eyeliner. We simply ask them to come in 30 minutes prior to their appointment. Eyz-A-Blu stays where you place it and my clients can even read while they are numbing.

Once the skin is broken, I will add some Magic and Duration Ultra (they are mixed together in a pigment cup and on my table) on a micro-brush, then Eyz-A-Blu, then a thin coat of Vaseline. It will be ready to be wiped off in a minute to proceed. I have found this combination to be incredibly effective. Occasionally, during the procedure, I will repeat this layering.

### **Why all the Blacks in Face Inks?**

The Face Inks pigment line has several blacks for several effects.

***Almost Black:*** As described above, Almost Black is a soft and off black and wonderful choice for those that are afraid of having eyeliner that will appear too black.

***Onyx:*** Onyx is a very blue black, meaning it turns blue rather quickly in the skin, especially in natural blondes and redheads. I love to use Onyx on very fair blue-eyed women where blacker blacks would be too harsh. It really is beautiful on women with this coloring.

***Onyx CI:*** Onyx CI is half carbon. It is blacker than regular Onyx due to the carbon. It will eventually heal with blue undertones but stay black far longer than the regular Onyx.

***Black Noir:*** Black Noir has a warm base; however, it heals very black. The warmth in the base is what keeps it black and far less blue. It is a thin consistency but slips into the skin very easily.

***Onyx C:*** Onyx C is straight carbon and the blackest black but must be used with extreme caution!!!! Straight carbon black can easily migrate on bottom eyeliner and can only be used **between the lashes on the top eyelid but not on the eyelid itself!** I add 1 (only 1) drop of Onyx C to my Black Noir and get a deep black. I do not tattoo brown eyeliner unless an alopecia male wants a lash enhancement. Then, I will use a taupe. It is not enough color for a woman and the browns create the illusion of a pink rim around the eyes. This is what we call Rabbit Eye in the makeup world. Eyes will appear tired and red as though the individual was suffering from allergies.

When my clients request brown, I introduce them to Almost Black with a few drops of Palm, which is green. It creates a smoky, gray/green eyeliner that is so beautiful and great for the conservative woman. It will not heal very green so it is non-comital in that regard. The green will be oh-so-slight. I place the mixture on their skin next to their eye so they can see how it lights up the color of their eyes. It truly is beautiful. Generally speaking, these clients want it a bit darker when they return for their touch-up visit. All the fear of a color that is too dark is gone.

### ***Important Things to Remember...***

Any black can migrate if placed too deeply. Natural Blondes and Natural Redheads will migrate more easily than someone with deeper skin tones. Avoid small needle groups that are smaller than a standard 3 you have for your machine. A 3-Micro or any of the single needles will place more risk on the possibility of migrating as these needles travel deeper into the skin.



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