

The Crown Tools

Give your clients the royal tress treatment with gear fit to tame VICs—very important coifs!





"OFF LABEL" SALON SECRETS

Robert Santana, Matrix Artistic Director and Latin Expressions Team Leader, shares some of his favorite hair hacks to make his artistry truly shine.

Great tools to help apply color can be found anywhere—even the local stationery store. My favorite finds, though not originally intended for use in the salon, are fun and effective aids when I'm creating color for my clients.

PACKING FILM

Recently, I've discovered that packing film, available at Staples and Home Depot, makes my balayage work easier. I buy an enormous roll to cut into the sizes and shapes I need. This material can be rinsed and reused, so it's very cost effective. Because it's sticky on one side, the material doesn't slip when I place it on the hair. It helps maintain the moisture and it doesn't transfer color, Current color trends—like the Candy Strobe collection from Matrix—are about expressing the client's individuality with patterns and pixilation, and about combining many colors. Packing film makes these techniques much easier and neater. Plus, when I use it, it generates so much attention and conversation in the salon!

SPONGES

Because so much of color design right now is about fusion and color melting, it's important to have tools that create soft, gradient diffusion. In addition to using the new sponge applicator from Matrix—it looks like a blush brush with a sponge on the tip—I've discovered that makeup sponges work well. I keep a selection of sizes and shapes on hand to smudge and blend multiple shades along the hair shaft.



