

On test

This month, our panel put dryers, shine duos, smoothing creams and plumping powders to the test

Meet our panel



The editor

LOUISE WHITE
I was really excited to try out the new power dryers, and hoped they might cut down my styling time in the morning!



The stylists

JAMES AND BRYN FROM EASTON REGAL HAIRDRESSING
We loved testing the shine duos and power dryers, as our clients always want to know which products to buy.



The reader

JEN OSBORNE
I love straightening balm, so put my expert knowledge to the test when trying out this month's range!



The reader

REBECCA JAWOR
I've loved trying out hair powders to plump up my ultra-fine locks.

Shine duos

Want hair that really glistens? Then opt for one of our shine duos

Matrix Essentials Sleek Look Shampoo, £6.95 & Conditioner, £7.95

★★★★★
The Promise: Gently replenishes moisture and shine and repairs split ends.
Result: Nice consistency and gave a great clean with a shimmery finish.

Pantene Ice Shine Shampoo & Conditioner, £2.19 each

★★★★★
The Promise: Unique formula gives brilliant shine to dull and tired locks.
Result: A really fresh-feeling clean, with a good gloss.

'The Shu Uemura duo are expensive, but give outstanding shine to the hair'

James, stylist



hair HOT BUY!

TIP!
● If you have fine hair, use conditioner just on the ends of your hair

KMS Silk Sheen Shampoo, £12.30 & Conditioner, £13

★★★★★
The Promise: The almond and basil combination gives a soft and shiny finish that will protect the hair against environmental damage.
Result: Created a good lather and gave a healthy, dazzling shine.

Shu Uemura Full Shimmer Shampoo, £21.50 & Conditioner, £29.50.

★★★★★
The Promise: Musk rose oil and Vitamin A enhance shine and restore vibrancy to hair.
Result: Great shine, even on really long, lacklustre locks.

Charles Worthington Salon Results Brilliant Shine Shampoo & Conditioner, £5.10 each

★★★★★
The Promise: This formula gives a luminous sheen by soothing hair cuticles.
Result: Smells delicious, and leaves hair feeling really soft and easy to manage.

Umberto Giannini Big Blow Out Dryer box set, £61.27

★★★★★
The Promise: Ionic dryer with a selection of nozzles designed to create incredible volume, root lift and shine.

Result: A brilliant gift set. This is a great starter dryer for any hair addict.



Mark Hill Salon Professional Style and Shine Power Dryer, £49.99

★★★★★
The Promise: Conditioning ionic technology gently dries hair, leaving it smooth, shiny and frizz-free.

Result: A great everyday dryer at a reasonable price.



Toni & Guy Touch Control Dryer, £39.99

★★★★★
The Promise: Digital touch control features and 2000 watt long-life motor reduce frizz for a fast dry.

Result: It looks amazing, and has a long barrel and small nozzle that really concentrate the heat, and the techy controls are fab for gadget girls.



'The Parlux dryer is stylish and gives a really fast, professional finish'

Louise White, editor

BaByliss Pro Hairdressing Portofino Hair Dryer, £31.99.

★★★★★
The Promise: The ceramic and tourmaline technology will help to create shiny and manageable hair.
Result: This dryer is really powerful and did give a great finish, but it was rather heavy.



Parlux 3200 Compact Hair Dryer, £69.95

★★★★★
The Promise: The new 'K-Lamination' motor is claimed to make the dryer lighter and easier to use.
Result: Available in a variety of pretty designs, this dryer is fun, powerful and really does give a salon finish.



hair HOT BUY!

TIP!
● For a big bouncy blow dry, dry the hair in the opposite direction to where you want it to sit - this will add extra volume to your 'do

Power dryers

We want a dryer that will allow us those precious extra minutes in bed!

FEATURE: JANE MORGAN AND AMANDA HALEY; PRODUCT PHOTOGRAPHY: PIRELLES

Plumping powders

Add texture and volume to limp locks!

Beever Volume Dust, £12

★★★★
The Promise: Absorbs any product that has overloaded your hair.
Result: We really like the fact that this is a unisex product, but hair felt a little sticky after use.

Kevin Murphy Powder Puff, £15.45 each

★★★★
The Promise: Creates volume and texture in your hair whilst giving it long-lasting hold.
Result: Pretty packaging, and it gave the hair a fuller texture, but it's an expensive product.

Lee Stafford Matt Fat Powder, £9.29

★★★★
The Promise: A powder that absorbs moisture and gives a natural, matte finish to the hair.
Result: Really bright, fun squeezing bottle, with a soft fine powder - but it didn't give as good a hold as we would have liked.

Clynol Play With Me Powder Punch Texture Powder, £10.70

★★★★★
The Promise: Achieves separation and hold with a rough, matte finish.
Result: Classic powder that gave long-lasting volume and hold to all styles.

TRESemmé 24 Hour Body Sky High Plumping Powder, £5.50

★★★★★
The Promise: Gives body and an instant root lift to hair.
Result: Great price and easy to use, this TRESemmé powder gave amazing volume and hold.

hair HOT BUY!

TIP!

● Shake the powder into your palms and create a paste before applying to your roots

'The TRESemmé powder really boosted my fine hair, I love it!'

Rebecca Jawor, reader

'The Paul Mitchell serum was amazing! I will definitely be buying it again'

Jen Osborne, reader

TIGI Rockaholic Rock My World Stellar Smoothing Cream, £9.15

★★★★★
The Promise: Protective barriers prevent thermal damage to hair, leaving a smooth, light hold.
Result: A cool product that did offer heat protection and gave a smooth finish, although it wasn't really suited to fine locks.

Boots Expert Heat Protection Straightening Balm, £2.54

★★★★
The Promise: With antioxidants and UV filters, this balm protects hair whilst smoothing.
Result: Thick hair was tamed, but the balm did leave finer locks a little wighed down.

Smoothing creams

We want hair that will hang straight and feel like silk

TIP!
 ● Comb the cream/balm through damp hair to ensure it's distributed evenly

V05 So Smooth Control Smoothing Creme, £3.36

★★★★
The Promise: Protects against heat and moisture loss, leaving hair sleek and frizz-free.
Result: This may be a bargain buy, but it gave surprisingly good results, leaving hair super-smooth.

Sexy Hair Silky Sexy Hair Control Crème, £13.10

★★★★
The Promise: Silk and rice proteins reduce frizz whilst delivering maximum hold.
Result: This balm has a yummy scent and a really nice consistency, plus it worked especially well on curly hair.

Paul Mitchell Super Skinny Relaxing Balm, £14.65

★★★★★
The Promise: Lightweight formula protects against heat and locks out the frizz.
Result: This seemingly lightweight serum tamed even really thick hair - and that's what made it the panel's favourite!

hair HOT BUY!