

How to do midlife glam the Amal Clooney way this summer

Clooney's sophisticated take on the 70s Studio 54 vibe is the perfect inspiration for summer festivals, concerts or even a wedding party

By Lucia Ferrari
27 June 2023 - 3:05pm

Related Topics
Make Up: Amal Clooney



Amal Clooney knows a thing or two about midlife glam | Credit: Getty

Amal Clooney rarely gets it wrong. Last weekend, the human rights lawyer attended her friend Charlotte Tilbury's 50th birthday party in Noto, Sicily (you may remember scenes from *White Lotus* season two were filmed there) wearing a slinky, silver sequin gown with accompanying va va voom makeup (see below). Her hair and make-up artist Dimitris Giannetos described it as 'Studio 54 Glam'.

And while shimmering sequins and glitzy eye make-up may normally be more associated with the Christmas party season, Clooney proves that it works equally well for the summer too. Her sophisticated, sun-kissed take on the 70s Studio 54 vibe is the perfect inspiration for summer festivals, concerts or even a wedding party.



Starting with the hair, session stylist Syd Hayes (who has styled everyone from Kate Moss to Gisele) has a secret weapon for creating long, beachy waves if you're not an expert at blow drying your own hair. 'The [Babyliss Wave Secret Air Hair Waver](#), £150, is a foolproof hair tool to create long lasting loose curls and waves quickly and easily,' he says. 'The hair is drawn into a ceramic curl chamber where it is heated and dried to form a perfect wave.'

If you've got a wide barrelled curling tong, you can of course use this too. John Frieda stylist Zoe Irwin is a fan of the [GHD Curve Classic Curl Tong](#), £134 and says, 'For results like Amal's hold the tong diagonally curling away from the face. And try not to touch the curls until the end when they have cooled. Once all curled, comb through with a wide tooth comb so you keep body and movement in it.'



Both Hayes and Irwin rate Sam McKnight's hair styling products for this look. A couple of spritzes of Sam McKnight's [Cool Girl Superlift Volumizing spray](#), £26, is probably one of the easiest ways to bring volume to even the flattest midlife hair. I always have a bottle of this (and a spare) in my bathroom cabinet.

But trying to keep hair frizz-free is also key, especially in the summer. Irwin suggests trying something like [Virtue's Frizz Block Smoothing Spray](#), £42, before blow drying the hair to keep the curls glossy and keep fly-aways to a minimum.



Clockwise from left to right: Guerlain's Terracotta Bronzing Powder, £46; Waterproof Sensational Sky High Mascara, £11; GHD Curve Classic Curl Tong, £134; Babyliss Wave Secret Air Hair Waver, £150; Cool Girl Superlift Volumizing spray, £26; Ruby Hammer's Lip Serum Balms, £18

Now for the makeup.

Makeup artist Ruby Hammer thinks that, 'the key to pulling off something as glam as this is to keep it all super blended. And if you haven't got access to a professional makeup artist like Amal Clooney has, then slightly underplay the look so as not to look too 'done'.

Hammer goes on to say that the right bronzer is key. 'But in the summertime, always check if your face matches your arms, neck, shoulders and décolletage. A bronzed face with a much paler neck and chest looks so unpolished.'



Clockwise from left to right: Jones Road The Bronzer, £32; Rare Beauty Soft Pinch Liquid Blush, £22; Virtue's Frizz Block Smoothing Spray, £42; Hourglass Caution Extreme Lash Mascara, £30; Chanel's Les Beiges Healthy Glow Bronzing Cream, £46

A creamy bronzer like [Chanel's Les Beiges Healthy Glow Bronzing Cream](#), £46, works brilliantly and can be brushed over the body too. [Jones Road The Bronzer](#), £32 and [Westman Atelier Beauty Butter Bronzing Powder](#), £69, are beautiful matte bronzers which are perfect in the summer as they won't make the skin look extra shiny. Hammer's go-to bronzer is [Guerlain's Terracotta Bronzing Powder](#), £46, as there's a shade for every skin tone.

As far as the eyes are concerned, make up artist Wendy Rowe says the [Victoria Beckham Satin Kajal Liners](#), £26, would be great for this look because they come in the perfect sparkly but chic colours, plus they are so easy to apply.



Left to right: Victoria Beckham Satin Kajal liners, £26; Westman Atelier Beauty Butter Bronzing Powder, £69

'Use a darker colour liner on the outer corners of the eye, really close to the lash line, but don't go all the way across the eye as it's not flattering,' she says. 'Then use a silver pencil or highlighter on the inner corner of the eye to open up the eye and give the look this 70s feel. Then finish with lots of mascara. A good non smudgey summer mascara is [Maybelline's Waterproof Sensational Sky High Mascara](#), £11. [Hourglass Caution Extreme Lash Mascara](#), £30, is also very good.'

As far as blusher goes, 'a creamy, matte blush is better than a powder in the summer,' continues Rowe. 'And place it a bit higher than you normally would, almost under the eye. [Charlotte Tilbury's Matt Beauty Blush Wand](#), £30 is excellent'. Also very good is [Rare Beauty Soft Pinch Liquid Blush](#), £22, which comes in a matte lightweight finish.

Finally, the lips are lined with a subtle brown lip pencil. 'This is a retro makeup trick but make sure it's a really soft brown colour otherwise it will look a bit too 80s,' says Ruby Hammer. 'Amal is probably wearing [Charlotte Tilbury's Lip Cheat in Pillow Talk](#). When it comes to lipstick, don't pick anything too chalky. It's just not flattering'. [Hammer's Lip Serum Balms](#), £18, in Pink or FX are moisturising and are great if you're not a huge fan of wearing a heavy lipstick in the summer and definitely won't leave any lipstick on the rim of your Paloma cocktail glass.

[Caution Extreme Lash Mascara](#), £30, is also very good.'

As far as blusher goes, 'a creamy, matte blush is better than a powder in the summer,' continues Rowe. 'And place it a bit higher than you normally would, almost under the eye. [Charlotte Tilbury's Matt Beauty Blush Wand](#), £30 is excellent'. Also very good is [Rare Beauty Soft Pinch Liquid Blush](#), £22, which comes in a matte lightweight finish.

Finally, the lips are lined with a subtle brown lip pencil. 'This is a retro makeup trick but make sure it's a really soft brown colour otherwise it will look a bit too 80s,' says Ruby Hammer. 'Amal is probably wearing [Charlotte Tilbury's Lip Cheat in Pillow Talk](#). When it comes to lipstick, don't pick anything too chalky. It's just not flattering'. [Hammer's Lip Serum Balms](#), £18, in Pink or FX are moisturising and are great if you're not a huge fan of wearing a heavy lipstick in the summer and definitely won't leave any lipstick on the rim of your Paloma cocktail glass.