ADVANCED PMU

Pigment Theory Quick Reference

Lesson 20 · Pair with Pigment Theory slide overview

What is a PMU pigment?

Not just color — typically **colorants + carrier + stabilizers + other formulation ingredients**.

Main Categories

Type	Basics	Common use
Organic	Synthetic carbon-based (not “plant-based”). Bright, vivid, high strength. Azo / quinacridones / phthalocyanines.	Lips; some brow/liner
Inorganic	Mineral/metal-based. Muted, earthy, opaque, stable.	Brows, liner, correction
Hybrid	Blend of organic + inorganic for balanced performance.	Most modern PMU lines

Key CI Numbers (common teaching references)

- Red iron oxide — CI 77491
- Yellow iron oxide — CI 77492
- Black iron oxide — CI 77499
- Titanium dioxide — CI 77891 (opacity/brightening; may complicate laser removal)
- Carbon black — CI 77266 (very strong tinting; caution for ashy heal risk)
- Chromium oxides — CI 77288 / CI 77289
- Ultramarines — CI 77007

CI reading shortcut (verify with manufacturer docs)

Often taught: CI ≈ 76999 and under → organic family; CI ≈ 77000 and above → inorganic family.

Key Takeaways

- Iron oxides are a subset of inorganic
- Organic ≠ plant-based
- Most modern pigments students use are hybrids
- Skin behavior = formulation + skin + technique + aftercare

Better knowledge. Better artists.