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READY-TO-USE EYELASH EXTENSIONS

Abstract

An artificial eyelash extension system is described. The system uses a plurality of eyelash filaments. A support strip is attached to the bases of the eyelash filaments. An adhesive element is applied before the artificial eyelash extension system is packaged for sale to a user. A method for applying artificial eyelash extensions is also described.

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Background/Summary

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS [0001] The present application is a continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 18/939,274, filed on Nov. 6, 2024, which is a continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 17/409,705, filed on Aug. 23, 2021, now U.S. Pat. No. 12,171,288, which is a continuation of PCT application No. PCT/US21/47200, filed on Aug. 23, 2021, presently expired, and claims priority from U.S. provisional application Ser. No. 63/068,728, filed on Aug. 21, 2020, presently expired. The contents of each of the applications are hereby incorporated by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION
Field of Invention
[0002] The field of the invention is an eyelash extension system and method for applying same, and more particularly but not exclusively, artificial lashes having a pre-applied adhesive element.
Background
[0003] Artificial eyelashes are popular products that are used to improve the look of a user's lash line through the addition of lash length and/or volume. Such artificial eyelashes typically comprise a lash line strip with eyelash filaments extending from there. The eyelash filaments can be made from mink, synthetic materials, horsehair, and in some instances, human hair. Artificial eyelashes are typically applied by spreading adhesive on or around the lash line strip component of a lash extension and pressing the lash line strip to a user's lash line or proximate thereto. Such eyelash extensions can be difficult to apply and require that a user have access to both the extensions and specialized adhesives.
[0004] More recently, do-it-yourself, under-lash eyelash extension systems have been developed. In these systems, a strip of eyelash extensions is glued to the underside of a user's natural eyelashes in a similar fashion to more traditional above-lash extension systems. The do-it-yourself systems often come in small sections (e.g., wisp lashes, cluster lashes, individual lashes), allowing for an inexperienced user to apply the eyelash extensions without the difficulty of aligning a longer, single strip of eyelash extensions. However, these do-it-yourself systems still require the user to have and apply specialty adhesive either to their lashes or to the lash extension system before use.
[0005] A need exists in the art for eyelash extension systems that eliminate the difficulties of prior art systems. A need also exists for a means that easily facilitates a user to apply eyelash extensions without the drawbacks of existing systems.
SUMMARY OF INVENTION
[0006] An object of the invention is to create eyelash extensions that overcome many of the drawbacks in the prior art. A feature of the invention is that the eyelash extensions have pre-applied adhesive elements before being packaged for sale to a user. An advantage of the invention is that the eyelash extension system is ready to use without the need for any additional supplies such as glue. An additional advantage of the invention is that the user can apply the invented eyelash extension system quickly and with one hand.
[0007] A further object of the invention is to provide a ready-to-use eyelash extension system having a pre-applied adhesive that is easy for a user to apply. A feature of the invention is that the pre-applied adhesive is droplets of adhesive applied to the eyelash filaments of the eyelash extension system. Alternatively, the invention features double-sided tape as the pre-applied adhesive. An advantage of the invention is that users can apply the invented lash extension system without modifying the pre-applied adhesive.
[0008] Another object of the invention is to maintain a ready-to-use eyelash extension system in usable condition before use. A feature of the invention is the use of temporary overlayment of a pre-applied adhesive element that is removed before the use of the eyelash extension system. An

advantage of the invention is that the pre-applied adhesive elements of the eyelash extension system are maintained in clean condition for use by a user.
[0009] Yet another object of the invention is to provide a lash extension system that is easily applied by a user onto their natural lashes. A feature of the invention is that the lash extension system adheres directly to the natural lashes of a user at a position not directly adjacent to the eyelid of a user. An advantage of the invention is that by adhering the lash extension system to the lashes of a user in a position spaced from the eyelid, the user avoids any pain and skin irritation associated with lash systems that are applied to the skin of the eyelid or adjacent thereto.
[0010] The invention provides an artificial eyelash extension system comprising a plurality of eyelash filaments, each having a base and a tip; a support strip attached to the bases of the eyelash filaments, an adhesive element applied to the plurality of the eyelash filaments before the artificial extension system is packaged for sale to a user.
[0011] Also provided is a method for applying artificial eyelash extensions comprising providing to a user an eyelash extension system already having an adhesive element disposed on the eyelash extension system before being packaged for sale to the user, moving the adhesive element of the eyelash extension system into contact with the user's natural eyelashes.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS
[0012] The invention, together with the above and other objects and advantages, will be best understood from the following detailed description of the preferred embodiment of the invention shown in the accompanying drawings, wherein:
[0013] FIG. **1**A depicts a perspective view of an eyelash extension system having pre-applied adhesive elements in accordance with the features of the invention;
[0014] FIG. **1**B depicts a perspective view of an alternative embodiment of an eyelash extension system having pre-applied adhesive elements in accordance with the features of the invention;
[0015] FIG. **1**C depicts a perspective view of an alternative embodiment of an eyelash extension system having pre-applied adhesive elements in accordance with the features of the invention;
[0016] FIG. **1**D depicts a perspective view an embodiment of an eyelash extension system having pre-applied adhesive elements overlaid by a temporary backing in accordance with the features of the invention;
[0017] FIG. **2**A depicts a perspective view of an embodiment of an eyelash extension system having an alternative pre-applied adhesive element in accordance with the features of the invention;
[0018] FIG. **2**B depicts a perspective view of the invention embodiment shown in FIG. **2**A featuring a temporary overlayment of the adhesive elements in accordance with the features of the invention;
[0019] FIG. **2**C depicts a perspective view of the invention embodiment shown in FIG. **2**B featuring an alternative embodiment of temporary overlayment of the adhesive elements, in accordance with the features of the invention;
[0020] FIG. **3**A depicts a schematic of using the eyelash extension system depicted in FIG. **1**A in accordance with the features of the invention; and
[0021] FIG. **3**B depicts a schematic of using the eyelash extension system depicted in FIG. **2**A in accordance with the features of the invention.
DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION
[0022] In various embodiments, the invention provides a ready-to-apply eyelash extension system. The eyelash extension system comprises eyelash filaments extending from an eyelash support strip wherein the filaments feature adhesive elements for attachment to the natural eyelashes of a user. The eyelash extension system may be referred to as a lash extension system or an artificial eyelash

extension system.
[0023] The foregoing summary, as well as the following detailed description of certain embodiments of the present invention, will be better understood when read in conjunction with the appended drawings.
[0024] As used herein, an element or step recited in the singular and proceeded with the word “a” or “an” should be understood as not excluding plural said elements or steps, unless such exclusion is explicitly stated. Furthermore, references to “one embodiment” of the present invention are not intended to be interpreted as excluding the existence of additional embodiments that also incorporate the recited features. Moreover, unless explicitly stated to the contrary, embodiments “comprising” or “having” an element or a plurality of elements having a particular property may include additional such elements not having that property.
[0025] The phrases “lash,” “artificial eyelash,” and “eyelash,” as used herein, are interchangeable and refer to an apparatus that is not part of the wearer's body unless specifically indicated otherwise (e.g., phrases such as “natural eyelash” or “user's eyelash” refer to a part of the wearer's body).
[0026] Turning to the figures, FIG. **1**A depicts a perspective view of one embodiment **10** of the invented lash extension system. The lash extension system may include a plurality of artificial eyelash filaments, a support strip, and an adhesive element. The lash extension system comprises a support strip **12** having a length L and width W. (The width W is a representation and not drawn to scale and may be narrower.) The support strip **12** may be attached to the bases of the eyelash filaments. The support strip **12** has a leading edge from which eyelash filaments **14** extend. The width W of the support strip **12** extends between the proximal edge **12***a* and the distal edge **12***b* of the support strip **12**. As shown in FIG. **1**A, the eyelash extension system **10** features eyelash filaments **14** extending between a base **16** and a tip **18**. The bases **16** of the eyelash filaments **14** are embedded within and/or adhered to the support strip **12**. In the exemplary embodiment shown in FIG. **1**A, the bases **16** of the eyelash filaments **14** are spaced apart, with the eyelash filaments **14** extending away from the support strip **12** such that the lengths of the eyelash filaments **14** are substantially parallel and extending in a direction that is substantially perpendicular to the length L of the support strip **12**.
[0027] While in FIG. **1**A, the width W of the support strip **12** is about ten percent of the length of the filaments **14**; in other embodiments, the width W of the support strip **12** is much smaller than the eyelash filaments **14**. For example, in some embodiments, the width W is less than five percent of the length of the eyelash filaments **14**. The larger width W is shown only for illustration purposes and to be able to show the structure of the support strip **12**.
[0028] As can be appreciated from FIG. **1**A, the eyelash filaments **14** have a variable length and arrangement. Some eyelash filaments **14** are substantially parallel, while other eyelash filaments **14** cross each other. The eyelash filaments **14** will have an average length resulting in a desired overall appearance of length of the eyelashes after application, in one embodiment.
[0029] The eyelash filaments **14** are made from conventional materials used in eyelash extensions. Suitable materials include materials having an appearance similar to human eyelashes. Exemplary materials include mink, horsehair, human hair, synthetic materials, and combinations thereof.
[0030] Materials used in the support strip **12** are well known in the art and include any suitable material for the attaching of the bases of eyelash filaments **14**. Exemplary materials include PBT, nylon, cotton, silk, and combinations thereof.
[0031] A salient feature of the invented lash extension system **10** is the inclusion of an adhesive element **20** disposed on the eyelash filaments **14**. The adhesive element **20** may be applied before the artificial eyelash extension system is packaged for sale to a user, to the plurality of the eyelash filaments. The adhesive element **20** may be applied at a position between the support strip and one-half the eyelash filaments' average length away from the support strip. The adhesive element **20** may be applied continuously to a predetermined location that is less than half of the eyelash filaments' average length away from the support strip. At least some of the adhesive element **20** is

applied to the eyelash filaments **14** at the time of manufacturing of the system. FIG. **1**A shows the adhesive element **20** disposed on each eyelash filament **14**. The depiction of the location of the adhesive element **20** is meant to be exemplary and non-limiting. In several figures, the adhesive element **20** is shown as discrete droplets of adhesive. However, that depiction should not be limiting. In FIG. **1**A, all eyelash filaments **14** are shown with an applied adhesive element **20**. In some embodiments, not all eyelash filaments **14** will receive adhesive. In one embodiment, between one-half and three-fourths of all eyelash filaments comprising the artificial eyelash extension system receive the adhesive element. In other embodiments, the plurality of eyelash filaments comprises multiple layers, and only one layer of eyelash filaments receives the adhesive.
[0032] A benefit of the adhesive element **20** is that the lash extension system is ready to use without applying external adhesive, as will be described below.
[0033] While the figures depict the lash extension system as being used in conjunction with a full-strip artificial eyelash extension system, the same ready-to-use adhesive concepts may be used in conjunction with artificial eyelash extension systems of various styles, lengths, and sizes, such as smaller “wisp” eyelash systems (e.g., KISS Falscara Eyelash made by Kiss Products, Inc. located in Port Washington, NY) that are segmented versions of a full-strip eyelash systems and whose support strip lengths are one-half to one-fifth of a full-strip eyelash extension system's support strip length, or even smaller “cluster” eyelash systems (e.g., KISS Lash Couture LuXtensions, also made by Kiss Products, Inc.), or the smallest “flare” or “individual” eyelash systems (e.g., KISS i•ENVY Ultra Black Flare Short/Medium/Long, KISS i•ENVY Ultra Black 3D Individual Lash Medium/Long, all of which are also made by Kiss Products, Inc.) that may include only a few eyelash filaments **14** attached together at their bases.
[0034] The adhesive element **20** can be disposed on a plurality of eyelash filaments **14** across the entire length L of the support strip **12** or some fraction of the eyelash filaments **14**, such as two-thirds, one-half, or one-third. It will be apparent to one having ordinary skill in the art that the fraction of eyelash filaments **14** having the adhesive elements disposed thereon can be adjusted according to the weight of the section of lash extension system **10** being used. For example, a lash extension system **10** designed for application to all of a user's natural lashes may require that all the eyelash filaments **14** have corresponding adhesive elements. Alternatively, a lash extension system **10** designed for attachment to some lesser portion of a user's natural lashes may only require that one half or a smaller proportion of eyelash filaments **14** bear corresponding adhesive elements.
[0035] As depicted in FIG. **1**A, the adhesive element **20** can be discrete applications or droplets of an adhesive. The adhesive element **20** may be comprised of multiple discrete droplets of adhesive. The adhesive element **20** may be applied to an upward-facing surface of the eyelash filaments. In an embodiment, the adhesive element **20** is disposed at approximately the same position along the length of each eyelash filaments **14** away from the support strip **12**. FIG. **1**A shows the adhesive element **20** as small, flat sections of adhesive overlaying a portion of the eyelash filaments **14**. In alternative embodiments, the adhesive element **20** may be non-cured droplets of adhesive.
[0036] Suitable adhesives for use in the instant invention include any adhesive that can be applied to the eyelash filaments **14** and retain stickiness while the lash extension system **10** is stored in packaging. Suitable adhesives can be applied to eyelash filaments **14**, then stored without drying.
[0037] FIG. **1**A shows the adhesive element **20** as discrete applications of adhesive on the eyelash filaments **14**. An alternative embodiment **30** is shown in FIG. **1**B. The lash extension system **30** shown in FIG. **1**B features adhesive elements **32** extending continuously along the length of the eyelash filaments **14** starting from the support strip **12** to a defined position. In some embodiments, the length along the eyelash filaments **14** covered by the adhesive elements **32** is customized to the weight and other attributes of a lash extension set using the invented system. Preferably, the adhesive elements **32** will extend continuously on the first half to one-third of the average length of the eyelash filaments that extend from the support strip (i.e., the length of the eyelash filament embedded in the support strip is not included in this length). In alternative embodiments, the

adhesive elements **32** are disposed continuously along lengths of the eyelash filaments **14** where the length is not proximate to the support strip (i.e., middle and tip portions of eyelash filaments). Yet, in another embodiment, the adhesive elements **32** may be applied continuously from a position between the support strip **12** and one-half of the eyelash filaments' average length. In other embodiments, the position is selected up to one-half of the eyelash filaments' average length from the support strip **12**.

[0038] FIGS. **1**A and **1**B show the eyelash filaments **14** in the same direction and having similar lengths. In alternative embodiments such as the exemplary eyelash extension section **40** shown in FIG. **1**C, the eyelash filaments **14** extend in different directions from the support strip **12** and can have different lengths. The eyelash filaments may extend from the support strip **12** such that at least some of the eyelash filaments overlap or cross one another. In one embodiment, the eyelash filaments may extend from the support strip **12** such that at least one-quarter of the eyelash filaments overlap or cross one another. The embodiment shown in FIG. **1**C can utilize both the continuous and discrete applications of adhesive elements shown in FIGS. **1**A and **1**B. For example, the embodiment of FIG. **1**C shows the adhesive element **20** much as show in FIG. **1**A.

[0039] FIG. **1**D shows yet another embodiment **50** of the invented eyelash extension system. In this embodiment, the adhesive elements **20** (or like adhesive element **32** from FIG. **1**B) are overlaid with an elongated substrate **52**. The elongated substrate **52** may further include removably overlaying the adhesive elements. The elongated substrate **52** is a thin piece of material that is in removable contact with the adhesive elements **20** disposed on the eyelash filaments **14** extending from the support strip **12**. This temporary overlayment of the adhesive elements **20** maintains the cleanliness of the adhesive elements **20** on the lash extension system **50** before a user is ready to apply the eyelash extension system and prevents the system from tangling or getting stuck to undesired surfaces or objects.

[0040] In the embodiment depicted in FIG. **1**D, the bond between the eyelash filaments **14** and the adhesive elements **20** is stronger than the bond between the adhesive elements **20** and the elongated substrate **52**. This relationship of bond strength corresponds with the ability of a user to peel off the elongated substrate **52** from the adhesive elements **20** without removing the adhesive elements **20** from the eyelash filaments **14** or otherwise damaging the lash extension system **50**.

[0041] In an embodiment, the strength of the adhesion between the adhesive elements **20** and the elongated substrate **52** is tuned by selecting the thickness of an adhesive applied to the surface of the elongated substrate **52** that contacts the adhesive elements **20**. Using particular adhesives on the elongated substrate **52**, applying a thin layer of adhesive allows for easy removal of the elongated substrate **52** from the adhesive elements **20**, while a thicker layer of adhesive will increase the strength of the bond between the elongated substrate **52** and the adhesive elements **20**.

[0042] In another embodiment, the strength of the adhesion between the adhesive elements **20** and the elongated substrate **52** is tuned by applying a pre-glue (an adhesive that does not completely coalesce during storage of the stored eyelash extension system) to the surface of the elongated substrate **52** that is in contact with the adhesive elements **20**.

[0043] FIGS. **1**A-D show the adhesive elements applied on an upward-facing surface of the eyelash filaments **14** of an eyelash extension system. In these configurations, the invented eyelash extension system is removably attached to the underside of a user's natural lashes. In alternative embodiments, the adhesive elements are disposed on a downward-facing surface of the eyelash filaments **14** of an eyelash extension system. In this alternative embodiment, the eyelash extension system can be removably attached to the top of a user's natural lashes.

[0044] FIG. **2**A shows another embodiment **60** of the invented lash extension system. This embodiment **60** features the same configuration of eyelash filaments **14** and support strip **12** as the embodiment shown in FIG. **1**A. In this embodiment, however, the adhesive element **61** in this embodiment **60** is an elongated substrate **62** disposed across the eyelash filaments **14** such that the longitudinal axis x of the elongated substrate **62** is parallel with the length L of the support strip **12**.

The elongated substrate **62** may also be shorter than the length L of the support strip **12**.
[0045] As shown in FIG. **2**A, the elongated substrate **62** is disposed across the eyelash filaments **14** in a direction perpendicular to the length of the eyelash filaments **14**. The adhesive element **61** may comprise an elongated substrate **62** having a longitudinal axis, an upward-facing surface **66**, a downward-facing surface **64**, and an adhesive disposed on the upward-facing and downward-facing surfaces, wherein the adhesive on the downward-facing surface contacts the eyelash filaments. The adhesive used on the upward-facing and downward-facing surfaces of the elongated substrate may be different. The lash extension system or artificial eyelash extension system may be adapted for the removal of the elongated substrate from the user's eyelashes without removing the elongated substrate from the eyelash filaments. The downward-facing surface **64** of elongated substrate **62** is secured to the eyelash filaments **14**. The upward-facing surface **66** of the elongated substrate **62** features an adhesive or other sticky substance disposed thereon.
[0046] A person having ordinary skill in the art will readily appreciate that the elongated substrate **62** can be positioned across the eyelash filaments **14** anywhere along their length. Preferably, the elongated substrate **62** is positioned with its centerline (line x in FIG. **2**A) disposed on the eyelash filaments **14** at a position corresponding to one-third to one-half of the length of the eyelash filaments **14** extending from the support strip **12**. This positioning of the elongated substrate **62** is exemplary and not meant to be limiting. The elongated substrate **62** can reasonably be positioned over any portion of the eyelash filaments **14**.
[0047] The elongated substrate **62** can be any suitable material for overlaying the eyelash filaments **14** without overly weighing down the lashes and without bending the lashes when worn by a user. Suitable materials for the elongated substrate **62** include double-sided tape and other types of thin strips with adhesives applied to both sides.
[0048] A salient feature of this embodiment is the ability of a user to obtain the eyelash extension system **60** and use it without applying their own adhesives either to the system or their lashes. To enable this feature, the eyelash extension system **60** has to be ready to use when desired by a user. As such, the eyelash extension system **60** should not be stuck to undesired surfaces or objects and should feature clean adhesive disposed on the upward-facing surface **66** of the elongated substrate **62**. As shown in FIG. **2**B, in order to maintain the eyelash extension system **70** in a ready-to-use configuration, a backing (second elongated substrate) **72** is removably secured to the adhesive distributed over the upward-facing surface **66** of the elongated substrate **62**. The system overlaid by the backing **72** is shown in the embodiment **70**. This backing **72** is a temporary overlayment on the adhesive on the upward-facing surface of the elongated substrate **62** that prevents the eyelash extension system from sticking to undesired objects or becoming entrained with debris that would undermine the stickiness or appearance of the adhesive.
[0049] The backing **72** is double-sided in one embodiment. The backing **72** can be removably secured to the adhesive distributed over the upward-facing surface **66** of the elongated substrate **62**, can be made from any material suitable for the temporary overlayment of the adhesive on the elongated substrate **62**. Suitable materials include paper, plastic, fiber, and combinations thereof.
[0050] In an embodiment featuring the backing **72**, the bond between the backing **72** and the first elongated substrate **62** is weaker than the bond between the first elongated substrate **62** and the eyelash filaments **14**. This can be accomplished by forming a permanent bond between the first elongated substrate **62** and the eyelash filaments **14** and a temporary one between the backing **72** and the first elongated substrate **62**. Alternatively, the adhesive contacting surface of the backing **72** is scored, frosted, or otherwise treated to prevent over sticking. These configurations are exemplary and not meant to be limiting. A person having ordinary skill in the art will understand that any configuration is suitable wherein the second elongated substrate (backing **72**) can be removed from overlayment of the first elongated substrate **62** without ripping the first elongated substrate **62** from the eyelash filaments **14**.
[0051] FIG. **2**C shows the embodiment **70** of the invented eyelash extension system shown in FIG.

2B with the addition of an element that facilitates the removal of the backing **72** from the elongated substrate **62**. As shown in FIG. **2**C, the backing **72** can feature a terminating end **72***a* that extends past the periphery of the lash extension system and defines a tab **74**. The tab **74** of the backing **72** can be the same shape as the rest of the backing **72**. Alternatively, as shown in FIG. **2**C, the tab of the backing **72** can feature a different and larger shape, such as a circular shape that gives a user a larger area to grab. In use, a user can grab the tab **74** and pull it toward the opposing end of the backing **72** to remove the backing **72** from the eyelash extension system.

[0052] FIG. **3**A depicts a schematic of a method of using the embodiment of the invention featured in FIG. **1**A. The method for applying artificial eyelash extensions may comprise providing to a user an eyelash extension system already having an adhesive element disposed on the eyelash extension system before being packaged for sale to the user and moving the adhesive element of eyelash extension system into contact with the user's natural eyelashes. The step of moving the adhesive element of the extension system into contact with the user's natural eyelashes may comprise contacting an underside of the user's natural eyelashes with the adhesive disposed on the upward-facing surface of the elongated substrate. In the method, the user grasps the tip of eyelash filaments **14** and positions the lash extension system **10** under the user's natural lashes **80** to receive the lash extension system **10**. The user's natural lashes **80** are the user's eyelashes in the depicted embodiment. The user then moves the lash extension system **10** upward so that the adhesive elements **20** of the eyelash filaments **14** contact the user's natural lashes **80**.

[0053] The adhesive elements of the lash extension system can contact any portion of the underside of a user's natural lashes **80**. Preferably, the adhesive elements of the lash extension system are put into contact with the user's natural lashes **80** such that the support strip **12** of the lash extension system underlies the underside of a user's natural lashes **80** or their eyelid.

[0054] A user applying any of the embodiments of the lash extension system described herein using an eyelash applicator such as the KISS Falscara Eyelash Applicator made by Kiss Products, Inc., located in Port Washington, New York. The Kiss applicator is one suitable eyelash applicator for use with the instant invention and is not meant to be limiting. A person having ordinary skill in the art will understand that many false lash applicators are suitable for use with the instant invention. Alternatively, a user may use their hand to grasp the invented lash extension system and move it into contact with the user's natural lashes.

[0055] A salient feature of the instant invention is its ready-to-use nature. Prior art lash systems require applying a bonding solution to the lash extensions and/or the natural lashes of a user before application. The pre-applied adhesive elements are suitable for immediate application to a user's lashes without further preparation of the lash extension system or the user's natural lashes.

[0056] After moving the lash extension system into contact with their natural lashes, the invented lash extension system will stay in place without any further pressing using their hand or an applicator. Further, no additional bonding solutions need to be applied. Once the invented lash system is in place, the user can optionally use the applicator or hand to adjust the precise position of the lash extension system or firmly squeeze the adhesive elements and natural lashes together. Surprisingly and unexpectedly, the inventors have discovered that the step of firmly pressing together their natural lashes and adhesive elements from the lash extension system is not necessary as it was in prior art systems. Similarly, the instant invention does not require the sandwiching of natural lashes between a lash extension system on the top of the lashes and one on the bottom of the lashes in order to form a lasting bond as is found in the prior art. Another significant feature of the instant invention is that the lash extension systems described herein can be applied using only one hand.

Use of Lash Extensions

[0057] FIG. **3**A shows a general schematic for using the invented lash extension system once the adhesive elements are exposed. The embodiment shown in FIG. **1**D, for example, first requires the removal of the temporary overlayment of its adhesive elements prior to adhering the lash extension

system to the natural lashes of a user. A benefit of the system is that the extension can be worn without the application of additional adhesive.

[0058] FIG. **3**B shows a schematic of a method of using the embodiment of the lash extension system shown in FIG. **2**A depicting the embodiment **60** having a support strip **12**, and an elongated substrate **62**. Similar to the schematic shown in FIG. **3**A, the application of the lash extension system shown in FIG. **2**A only requires one step, grasping the end of the eyelash filaments with a hand or applicator and moving the adhesive elements into contact with the desired portion of a user's natural lashes **80**.

[0059] The adhesive element may further include a second elongated substrate temporarily overlaying the adhesive disposed on the upward-facing surface of the elongated substrate, and wherein that second elongated substrate is removed before moving the adhesive element of the extension system into contact with the user's natural eyelashes. Where the adhesive elements of the lash extension system shown in FIG. **2**B are overlaid with a backing (second elongated substrate), the backing is removed prior to application of the lash extension system to a user's natural lashes.

[0060] After the application step in FIGS. **3**A, and **3**B, the user wears the invented lash extension system for a period of up to 24 hours. After wear, the user then grasps the unattached end of the worn lash extension system and gently pulls downward in order to remove the lash extension system from their eyelashes. The lash extension systems can then be stored for reuse. The lash extension systems, once removed, can be reused until their associated adhesive elements wear out. Alternatively, the original adhesive elements of the invented lash extension system can be rejuvenated or removed and replaced with new adhesive elements. Where a user removes the original adhesive elements from the invented lash extension system, the stripped system can then continue to be used as a lash extension system wherein a user applies their own glue.

[0061] The figures show the eyelash extension system having a length that approximates the length of a user's eyelid. This is exemplary and not meant to be limiting. In an embodiment, a user will apply only one lash extension system that removably underlies all or substantially all of a user's natural lashes. In such an embodiment, a user needs only apply one eyelash extension system to their natural lashes. In alternative embodiments, the length of the support strips will be shorter and will require a user to apply more than one lash extension system in order to removably underlie all or substantially all their lashes. In yet another embodiment, a user will cut a longer strip of lash extension systems into a plurality of lash extension systems having desired lengths, forming a cluster of lash extension systems.

[0062] In one embodiment, the steps of use include applying additional glue, drying, and applying heat. The heat-activated adhesive becomes more pliant when heated. In this embodiment, the users will apply heat by using a heat applicator. In one embodiment, the heat applicator is a small heater included in the package. In another embodiment, the source of heat is a force-activated heat pack. In another embodiment, the heat source comprises a layer of material that heats up when exposed to the electromagnetic radiation found in a microwave oven.

[0063] When dried on the lashes, the glue is substantially solid. When heated, the glue changes states to a somewhat liquid or soft—jello-like, jelly-like, or pudding-like state. Such a state and is more comfortable to apply to the natural eyelashes.

[0064] Briefly, an embodiment provides a method for applying artificial eyelash extensions comprising: providing to a user an eyelash extension system already having an adhesive element disposed on the eyelash extension system before being packaged for sale to the user; and moving the adhesive element of eyelash extension system into contact with the user's natural eyelashes.

[0065] In some embodiments of the method, the eyelash extension system comprises a plurality of eyelash filaments, each having a base and a tip; a support strip attached to the bases of the eyelash filaments; and an adhesive element applied, before the artificial eyelash extension system is packaged for sale to a user, to the plurality of the eyelash filaments.

[0066] Further, in some embodiments, the user does not apply adhesive to their natural eyelashes.

In some embodiments, the adhesive element comprises discrete droplets of adhesive. In some embodiments, the adhesive element is applied to an upward-facing surface of the eyelash filaments. In some embodiments, the adhesive element is applied continuously to a predetermined location that is less than half of the eyelash filaments' average length away from the support strip. In some embodiments, the adhesive element comprises an elongated substrate having a longitudinal axis, an upward-facing surface, a downward-facing surface, and an adhesive disposed on the upward-facing and downward-facing surfaces, and wherein the adhesive on the downward-facing surface contacts the eyelash filaments. In some embodiments, the step of moving the adhesive element of the extension system into contact with the user's natural eyelashes comprises contacting an underside of the user's natural eyelashes with the adhesive disposed on the upward-facing surface of the elongated substrate. In some embodiments, the adhesive element further comprises a second elongated substrate temporary overlaying the adhesive disposed on the upward-facing surface of the elongated substrate, and wherein that second elongated substrate is removed before moving the adhesive element of the extension system into contact with the user's natural eyelashes.

[0067] Although exemplary implementations of the invention have been depicted and described in detail herein, it will be apparent to those skilled in the relevant art that various modifications, additions, substitutions, and the like can be made without departing from the spirit of the invention and these are therefore considered to be within the scope of the invention as defined in the following claims.

[0068] It is to be understood that the above description is intended to be illustrative and not restrictive. For example, the above-described embodiments (and/or aspects thereof) may be used in combination with each other. In addition, many modifications may be made to adapt a particular situation or material to the teachings of the invention without departing from its scope. While the dimensions and types of materials described herein are intended to define the parameters of the invention, they are by no means limiting but are instead exemplary embodiments. Many other embodiments will be apparent to those of skill in the art upon reviewing the above description. The scope of the invention should, therefore, be determined with reference to the appended claims, along with the full scope of equivalents to which such claims are entitled. In the appended claims, the terms “including” and “in which” are used as the plain-English equivalents of the terms “comprising” and “wherein.” Moreover, in the following claims, the terms “first,” “second,” and “third,” are used merely as labels, and are not intended to impose numerical requirements on their objects. Further, the limitations of the following claims are not written in means-plus-function format and are not intended to be interpreted based on 35 U.S.C. § 112, sixth paragraph, unless and until such claim limitations expressly use the phrase “means for” followed by a statement of function void of further structure.

Claims

1. An artificial eyelash extension comprising: a plurality of eyelash filaments, each of the plurality of eyelash filaments comprising a first end and a second end opposite the first end; a base comprising a strip of material and a first adhesive, the first adhesive being configured to attach the first ends of the plurality of eyelash filaments to the strip of material; and a second adhesive disposed on the base and on the plurality of eyelash filaments extending from the base toward the second ends of plurality of eyelash filaments, the second adhesive being adapted to adhere to natural eyelashes of a user when the artificial eyelash extension is applied.

2. The artificial eyelash extension of claim 1, wherein the second adhesive is applied to upward-facing surfaces of the base and eyelash filaments, the upward-facing surfaces corresponding to surfaces designed to face toward a top of a user's eye when applied.

3. The artificial eyelash extension of claim 2, wherein the first adhesive is disposed between the second adhesive and at least the base of the artificial eyelash extension.

4. The artificial eyelash extension of claim 2, wherein the second adhesive comprises an adhesive that retains its stickiness during storage of the artificial eyelash extension.
5. The artificial eyelash extension of claim 2, wherein the artificial eyelash extension is approximately one quarter to one third the width of the user's natural eyelashes.
6. The artificial eyelash extension of claim 2, wherein the artificial eyelash extension curls upward toward an upward-facing direction.
7. The artificial eyelash extension of claim 2, further comprising an elongated substrate removably overlaying the second adhesive.
8. The artificial eyelash extension of claim 7, wherein the second adhesive is disposed between the first adhesive and the elongated substrate.
9. The artificial eyelash extension of claim 2, wherein the eyelash filaments extend from the base such that at least some of eyelash filaments overlap.
10. The artificial eyelash extension of claim 2, wherein a strength of the first adhesive is greater than a strength of the second adhesive.
11. An artificial eyelash extension comprising: a plurality of eyelash filaments, each of the plurality of eyelash filaments comprising a first end and a second end opposite the first end; a base comprising a strip of material attached to the first ends of the plurality of eyelash filaments; a first adhesive attaching the first ends of the plurality of eyelash filaments to the strip of material; and a second adhesive connected to the base and applied to the base and the plurality of eyelash filaments before the artificial eyelash extension system is packaged for sale to a user, wherein the second adhesive is adapted to adhere to natural eyelashes of the user when the artificial eyelash extension is applied, and the second adhesive is disposed on and overlaps with the plurality of eyelash filaments.
12. The artificial eyelash extension of claim 11, wherein the second adhesive is applied to upward-facing surfaces of the base and eyelash filaments, the upward-facing surfaces corresponding to surfaces designed to face toward a top of a user's eye when applied.
13. The artificial eyelash extension of claim 12, wherein the first adhesive is disposed between the second adhesive and at least the base of the artificial eyelash extension.
14. The artificial eyelash extension of claim 12, wherein the second adhesive comprises an adhesive that retains its stickiness during storage of the artificial eyelash extension.
15. The artificial eyelash extension of claim 12, wherein the artificial eyelash extension is approximately one quarter to one third the width of the user's natural eyelashes.
16. The artificial eyelash extension of claim 12, wherein the artificial eyelash extension curls upward toward an upward-facing direction.
17. The artificial eyelash extension of claim 12, further comprising an elongated substrate removably overlaying the second adhesive.
18. The artificial eyelash extension of claim 17, wherein the second adhesive is disposed between the first adhesive and the elongated substrate.
19. The artificial eyelash extension of claim 12, wherein the eyelash filaments extend from the base such that at least some of eyelash filaments overlap.
20. The artificial eyelash extension of claim 12, wherein a strength of the first adhesive is greater than a strength of the second adhesive.