Blend

**History**

The Blend was developed around the end of World War II. Blend is an electrology industry term that literally means the blend of two modalities; electrolysis and thermolysis and it is a blend of the two. Blend is also sometimes called THE blend, dual action or dual mode.

**This is what makes it work.**

Blend involves inserting a fine probe into the follicle alongside the hair shaft. The person receiving treatment holds or touches an electrical contact to enable a direct current. The machine produces a Direct Current and a high frequency radio wave. Both are sent to the probe and both have the same effects as they do independently. See the previous two videos for more info on that. The Direct Current creates chemical lye and the high frequency produces heat. Lye works better and faster with the addition of heat. This reduces the amount of lye and the time needed to treat the follicle. Once the follicle is treated, the hair is removed with little or no resistance.

**Let’s see it in action**

Here we have a diagram of a follicle. The probe is inserted alongside the hair shaft.

The Direct current and radio frequency create a complex area of effect. The two areas of effect overlap. Both currents are weaker near the surface of the skin where the lower moisture content means less current. The radio frequency is concentrated at the tip. This gives the resulting overlapping shape.

The radio frequency is usually turned on first and generates heat very quickly. This helps reduce the sensation by disabling some of the nerves. The heat rises toward the skin surface while the radio frequency is on. The risk of heat rising to the surface is the controlling factor for how much radio frequency can be used and for how long.

The direct current is turned on. Because of the heat from the radio frequency the chemical reaction is faster and requires less lye. The chemical reaction still requires some time which means each follicle takes from 3 to 7 seconds or more. This is a long treatment time for radio frequency, so the RF signal must be set at lower power to safely operate for the longer treatment time needed for the chemical reaction to occur.

 The whitish flow of bubbling lye will be present with this mode because of the electrolysis portion of the blend.

Once the follicle is treated, the hair is removed. The hair should release freely.

An after treatment is required to return the skin PH to normal. The direct current poles are reversed and the probe is replaced by a conductive roller or surface. Now electrons flow the other direction. The radio frequency is left off. The roller spreads aloe over the treated area while neutralizing the alkali surface. This closes the pores and follicles of the skin and the aloe provides a protective layer.

**Let’s consider 4 critical aspects of this mode: Permanence, Treatment speed (including overall progress), Comfort Level and Skin Care**

**Permanence** is how likely regrowth will occur

The permanence of the blend is 4 of 5 tombstones 

Permanence is a key feature of blend. It has the advantages of electrolysis in that the chemical destruction is widespread and thorough. The heat also aids in the follicle destruction. The combined methods of the blend ensure few follicles can regrow.

**Treatment speed** considers follicles per minute and overall progress towards completion.

The treatment speed of the blend is 4 of 5 Rockets 

Blend is a moderate to slow method when considering follicles per minute. Blend is faster than straight electrolysis. The increased chemical effectiveness due to heat reduces the per follicle treatment time. The high permanence of blend along with its improved speed over electrolysis means rapid progress.

**Comfort level** is the measure of how it feels during and soon after treatment.

The comfort level of the blend is 2 of 5 Pair slippers 

Because blend includes thermolysis, it feels very similar to thermolysis. The heat disables the nerves quickly reducing the sensation. Most people experience the after affects as mild swelling, welts, redness and tenderness. Some burning sensation similar to sunburn may be present as well. These go away quickly and can be helped with cold (keep it dry though).

**Skin Care** is the effect on the skin from treatment in the short term and the long term.

The skin care of the blend is 4 of 5 Healing Aloes 

Blend scores well on the skin kindness scale. It can have some adverse effects on the skin. All methods damage connective tissue (collagen) over time. The principle destructive force of the blend should be chemical caused by direct current with increased performance because of heat from the radio frequency. If the blend balance is off and too much radio frequency heat is used, it can cause damage to the skin surface. If the radio frequency is kept in balance the risk of surface damage is low. Overtreatment can appear as widespread white spots that become tiny scabs or wet, weeping follicles. Some scattered scabbing is common. While sharing similar overtreatment risk with thermolysis, the high permanence and low re-treatment reduces damage over time.

**Summary**

Blend is moderate to good in every critical category making it a well-rounded method. Blend can be balanced as a faster and more comfortable version of Electrolysis or as a more permanent slower version of Thermolysis. This depends on the settings and practices of the operator. If the currents and technique are not balanced the treatment is no longer a blend but becomes the method of the dominant current. You should look for an electrologist who balances blend to get the benefit of both currents.

Blend has permanence very close to that of the original electrolysis with shorter treatment times. It was developed to deal with deeply rooted hair in moist skin such the face and underarms. The Blend is a balanced method that can be successful in a broad range of roles.