

Fall Hairstyles: Daring Cuts, Natural Colors
Whether Cropped or Fringed, the Cut's the Thing
By Paula Carvajal

"For the everyday girl, a beautiful haircut that pushes away from the face is just perfect," Nichols said. She suggests adding an element like a side-sweeping fringe, which is suitable for all age groups. "For younger girls, a shorter side-sweeping fringe will bring out their beautiful skin," she said. "For older women, I think you will see a longer fringe that falls closer to the cheekbone to create that shadow between the cheekbone and the jaw that really enhances bone structure."

Another twist on fringe is inspired by the 1960s Chelsea bang made famous by Vidal Sassoon. Steve David, celebrity hair stylist and founder of Steve David Salon in Los Angeles, says this bang is great with a shoulder-length shag. "The reason I like this cut is because you can also wear it a little bit undone, so it's great for girls on the go," David said. "You just style it with powder or any texturizing product to separate it, and that's all you need."

One rule of thumb for getting fringe: Have a professional do it. Both David and Nichols caution about the difficulty of cutting your own bangs. Because your eye line is below where you want to cut, it will give you a false illusion. You can end up cutting too much or going too deep into your hairline.

"Fall is all about cut and silhouette," said David, who has worked with actresses Evan Rachel Wood and Charlotte Gainsbourg. "You will see that shorter hair is all the rage," he said, pointing to celebrities like Ginnifer Goodwin and models like Britt Maren, who are already sporting this fashion-forward look.

Short haircuts are not really about age, but rather about the angles of your face, according to David. "If the bones are there and you have a great neck, then this is the cut," he explained. "The thing about short is that it's easy styling. You use less product and you can wear it messy, and it looks fantastic." Going short may seem a bit drastic if you're a long-haired girl, so David suggests working gradually to a short length to avoid any shock as a result of cutting off all your locks at once.

The All-Around Quick Fix

Some days, your hair is greasy or just plain ho-hum. If you don't have time to jump in the shower and start over ... well, you don't have to. Dry shampoo or baby powder is the best under-five-minute fix.

"Johnson's Baby Powder is great," said celebrity hair stylist Steve David. "Just turn you head upside down and work it in your hair with your hands. It adds volume and it adds texture." David said baby powder works well with all hair types: It helps women with greasy hair and adds volume to fine hair.

Amber Nichols of Ken Paves Salon is also a huge dry shampoo fan. Among her favorites, she said, is Unite's 7Seconds Dry Shampoo. "It's great if you feel like your hair is oily," Nichols said. "The important thing is to focus on the root area, then finish off with a really great shine serum applied to the tips of your hair." She suggests Unite's Shina Liquid or Alfaparf's Cristalli Liquid.

Color Me Fashionable

For spring and summer, women experimented with bold, outrageous hair color. Fall is a time to pull back a little and let fashion speak louder than hair color. John Blaine, celebrity stylist for Jean-Claude Biguine Salon, which has locations in New York and Miami, says that this fall, "Blondes will be blond and brunettes will be brunettes."

"Because fashion is so extreme with such strong architecture, hair will need to be a little bit softer," Nichols said. "For fall we will see a lot more of a solid color with dimensional hues. It won't be as extreme. You will see a lot of rich, chocolate browns and deep, rich reds. Everything will be with dimensions, like what you see when hair is in the sun. For our blondes, we are going to see a lot more pretty, buttery blond hair."

However, if you want to make a hair statement, David says platinum blond is the way to go. "You are seeing this trend a lot right now," he said. "But platinum doesn't work for everyone. It works best on fair skin and with short, fashion-forward cuts."

Runway-Worthy Style

Fall is a time where we all get a little busier. This season, there are great, high fashion hairstyles requiring minimal work to get you looking fabulous.

"The biggest trend is pulling back the hair into buns," said Blaine, whose clients include Dita Von Tease, Eva Mendes and Cameron Diaz. "These are low buns being pulled back to the nape of the neck. YSL did a great, tight bun for their runway show."

Blaine says the secret to getting this look...gel. "Gel is making a comeback because it's giving a high impact of shine as opposed to the pomade or wax," he said. His favorite on the market, any gel from KMS. He cautions to read the labels and find one made to suit your hair type.

To achieve this look, Blaine says to start with a smooth blow-dry. Then pull your hair back and twist it into a bun. After you have secured the bun, apply a little bit of the gel on the dry hair to get rid of all the flyways and get the wet, shiny effect to finish off this style. Blaine says buns are a great evening look. "It will make you look very elegant and sexy."

For the daytime, Blaine suggests changing the look from a bun to a loose ponytail at the nape of the neck for a more casual feel.

Another way to add high glamour this fall: jewels. Jewels are being incorporated into the hair or bun as decorative pieces. You can go buy jewels designed for hair, but you can also use what you have in your home. "Be innovative," Blaine said. "If you have great, costume jewelry lying around and love it, this is the perfect time to rock it out, like a great brooch or ring, clip it in with bobby pins."

Old Hollywood glamour is very fashionable. To get this look, Nichols suggests a strong, beautiful s-wave with a low, loosely braided chignon. For this look, start by taking three horizontal sections, starting at your part, and curling them in the same direction. Next, take a mason brush and softly comb out the curls. After, do either a three-strand braid or a fishtail braid. Softly pull the braid apart to give it a softer look. Finally, wrap up the braid in a circle and use a few bobby pins to pin it back. "It's simple, effortless and you shouldn't spend too much time on it," Nichols said.

For a completely effortless, yet runway-worthy look, David recommends the boho-chic hairstyle rocked by model Erin Wasson. He describes it as long layers with a natural wave. "It's a great look if you have it," David said. "All you have to do is spritz your hair with water or sea salt spray to get that beachy hair."

If you don't have a natural wave, David suggests using a bumper curling iron to fake it. Just curl your hair, brush it out, spritz and you're ready to go.

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