



312

CUT HAIR USING A COMBINATION OF BARBERING TECHNIQUES

Men can spend as much time and effort on their hair as women and the techniques you will learn in this unit will enable you to create a variety of looks from one haircut. Learning the basic techniques will give you the knowledge, skills and confidence to generate a clientele that you can build on. Enhancing your skills will give you the opportunity to produce a variety of different styles.

After reading this chapter you will:

- know how health, safety and legislation affect cutting services
- understand the current trends in barbering
- know the tools and products to use when providing services
- be able to provide cutting services using basic barbering techniques.

Health and safety

HEALTH & SAFETY



For a full recap on health and safety when cutting hair, see the health and safety and legislation chapters.

HANDY HINT

Keeping your work area clean and tidy prevents accidents, injuries and risks of cross-contamination.

HEALTH & SAFETY



If you accidentally cut your client, apologise to him and, wearing gloves, remove any hairs from the wound and cover it with a plaster – checking first that he is not allergic to plasters! Dispose of the contaminated waste in a suitable bin with a lid and complete the accident book. Ask your client whether he is happy for you to continue with the rest of the haircut.



Your responsibilities for health and safety



As with all services, you must follow the health and safety Acts when cutting men's hair and minimise the risk of harm to you and others.



Activity

List all the potential hazards and risks that you and your client may encounter during the service. How could you prevent each hazard becoming a risk?

Safe working practices

The safe working practices that must be followed are:

- working safely and hygienically, including avoiding cross-contamination
- client preparation, protection and positioning
- barber positioning and posture, including ensuring that you can easily reach your tools.

Work safely and hygienically

When preparing for your client's arrival, you must ensure that all work surfaces are cleaned and sterilised with chemical disinfectant spray/wipes. Use your time effectively and prepare all tools and equipment in readiness for the service, checking that your workstation is ready for your client's service, with clean sterile tools and equipment. Make sure the floors are hazard-free – that there are no hair cuttings/wet floors that your client could slip on and no trip hazards from trailing wires, etc.

To minimise the risk of cross-infection always ensure that the salon has a plentiful supply of clean, washed gowns and towels, and check whether any need to be washed or dried. You should change your Barbicide solution regularly, so that it can be used between every client for disinfecting your cutting tools.

Once your client arrives, complete a thorough consultation, gown and protect your client, position them comfortably, and maintain a good posture yourself.

Throughout the service ensure that you take care when using tools and equipment to minimise the risk of damage and that you use sustainable working practices. When using a razor you must wear gloves to prevent any cross-contamination.

At the end of the service remove any waste, ensuring you protect the environment and recycle where possible. Turn off all electrical items and prepare your tools and work area for the next service.

Activity

Discuss how you can protect the environment when cutting men's hair.

Activity

In pairs, discuss the safety considerations that are relevant to cutting men's hair. Refer to the health and safety chapter if you need further guidance.

HEALTH & SAFETY



Refer to the health and safety and legislation chapters for more information on best practices for working safely and hygienically.

INDUSTRY TIP

Always turn off taps after you have shampooed the hair, switch off electrical appliances when not in use and use products sparingly to prevent wastage and overloading the hair. Always dispose of used razor blades in a sharps box and take care when removing blades.



Sharps bin



Always listen to your client and be honest yet tactful with advice

HANDY HINT

Keep your client free of hair cuttings to protect his clothes and ensure he is comfortable throughout the service.

HANDY HINT

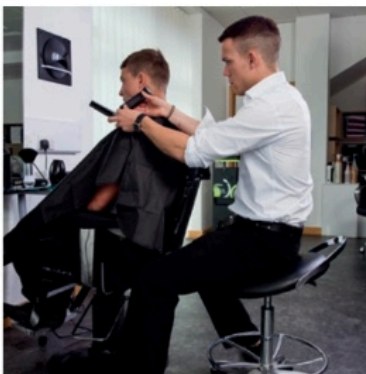
If your client's posture is unbalanced or he is sitting with his legs crossed, your resulting haircut could be unbalanced, as your client might have a tendency to lean to one side. Always ensure your client is sitting upright with his legs uncrossed.

HANDY HINT

During the service you will need to adapt and change your body position, and that of the client, to ensure you maintain a balanced, even and accurate haircut throughout.

VALUES & BEHAVIOURS

Refer to the values and behaviours chapter for more information on maintaining effective, hygienic and safe working methods.



Comfortable working on a cutting stool

Activity

Discuss with a colleague how you think a client would feel if you used combs, scissors or clippers with the previous client's hair still on them!

Client preparation, protection and position

It is advisable to begin the initial consultation before you gown your client, to ascertain his style of dress and overall image. You should ask him about his day-to-day lifestyle, work patterns and available time to commit to styling his hair. Always listen to what your client is asking of you and be honest yet tactful with the advice you give him. You should use open questions to obtain as much information as possible and finish with closed questions to confirm what has been agreed.

Activity

List the protective clothing available for clients during barbering services.

The positioning of yourself and your client are most important when cutting the hair, as the result and balance of the finished look can be affected.

When he is gowned and protected, you must ensure that your client sits comfortably with his back supported by the chair, in an upright position with his legs uncrossed and evenly balanced.

Barber position and posture

You must stand with your body weight evenly distributed throughout the entire cutting process. This will not only prevent fatigue and back problems but also ensure the haircut is balanced. Sit on a cutting stool while cutting hair short or for working on the back of your client's head and adjust the height of the barber's chair to ensure you work comfortably. This will prevent you from bending and overstretching and help to maintain your comfort, which is essential during the cutting service.

Importance of questioning clients

You must always carry out a thorough consultation with your client to identify the service objective, your client's needs and whether you are able to carry out his request. During the consultation you should tell him how long the service should take and how he can maintain the look between salon visits. The consultation process should continue throughout the cutting service, as you should update him on the progress of the haircut and check you are cutting to the



Client consultation

Carry out a consultation with your client

During the consultation you should ask questions about how much hair he would like taken off the length and the layers. You must be specific with your questions to achieve an accurate account of his needs. Show him in the mirror how much hair you are going to remove to confirm what you assume to be the agreed lengths and amounts. Use visual aids, such as barbering images/magazines, to agree on styles and shapes. Always give your client the option to try something different from his current style, and give him the opportunity to express his thoughts about the finished look.

When you have decided on a style together, ask him which products he currently uses to style his hair, to identify whether you need to recommend any alternative products for his new image.

Confirm client satisfaction

Now you have carried out a consultation and discussed the client requirements, you will need to consider the relevant factors to confirm with your client whether it will be achievable. If a style is not suited to the hair type, you should politely explain why and offer your professional opinion, suggesting alternative options.

At the end of the service you must ask your client whether he is satisfied with the end result to ensure that he leaves the salon happy and pleased with his haircut.

WHY DON'T YOU ...

Use a smart phone or tablet to search for men's styling images online?



The internet is a great source of ideas for men's styles

HANDY HINT

You may use different communication skills with male clients which involve more banter and mockery, and your topics of conversation may also be very different from those you have with female clients. You will, however, still need to remain professional throughout the service and ensure your communication skills are effective and clear.

HANDY HINT

Always give clear instructions and repeat back what your client has asked of you; this will help you to gain the client's confidence in the service.



HANDY HINT

Reasons why clients leave their barber/hairstylist:

- The barber did not recommend anything new or interesting.
- The barber did not listen to the client's request.
- The barber created a style that was not suitable for the client.
- The barber cut the hair too short/left it too long, even after consultation and agreeing the lengths.
- The service took too long.

HANDY HINT

Revisit chapter 302 for more in-depth information on consulting with your client.

Activity

Ask a male colleague to pretend to be your client. Ask him to visualise a style and then ask the relevant questions to identify the image and look he requires. Use at least three open and two closed questions to obtain as much information as possible about his requirements.

HANDY HINT

Ask your client where he wears his parting, but always check visually for the natural fall of the hair.

Factors that may influence services

You need to consider factors that might affect the outcome of the service required.

There are many factors that could affect how you cut the hair, the tools that you use and the styles that you recommend. You must consider these factors prior to and during the service. The first factor that you must take into consideration is what your client wants. His requirements are what your whole consultation is all about, and now you must determine whether there are any factors that might affect your achieving the desired result.


You should discuss your client's lifestyle to ensure that he does not have any barriers that could prevent him achieving the desired result. Is the chosen style easy to maintain and does it fit around work requirements?

As some men have a more manual job, they can be prone to bumps on the head; as they tend to wear their hair shorter than women the head is not as well protected. Always check the hair and scalp for any lumps and bumps that could cause discomfort to your client when you are combing through the hair.



HANDY HINT

For more information on hair characteristics and classification, see chapter 302.

Hair characteristics

Characteristic	Impact on service
Elasticity 	Elasticity can affect the cutting technique. For medium to longer hair with poor elasticity you should avoid pulling with too much tension during the cutting process. Ensure the hair has an even moisture balance when you cut it – either all wet or all dry – to ensure the effects of poor elasticity are not worsened.




Characteristic	Impact on service
<p>Porosity and hair condition</p>  <p>Porous hair</p>	<p>Hair that is damaged is likely to be porous – this can affect the cutting technique and client comfort.</p> <p>If the hair is porous and the cuticles are open, then hair is more likely to tangle during the cut and this may cause client discomfort. You should use a wider-toothed comb and spray the hair with leave-in conditioner to aid the combing process. Avoid using a razor on porous hair and take care when using clipper grades as they may get caught in the dry porous hair.</p>
<p>Density</p>  <p>Abundant hair</p>  <p>Sparse hair</p>	<p>Density can affect the choice of style and cutting technique.</p> <p>Abundant hair might need to be thinned out to create the desired look. Consider whether abundant hair will enhance the look; if not, suggest alternatives.</p> <p>Sparse hair will need to be blunt cut/club cut to maintain as much thickness as possible. Avoid cutting the hair too short.</p>
<p>Texture</p>  <p>Coarse-textured hair</p>  <p>Fine hair</p>	<p>Texture can affect the choice of style and cutting technique.</p> <p>Coarse-textured hair might not suit the desired look; you will need to recommend styling products to help achieve a smoother result.</p> <p>Clipper cuts or very short cuts might not suit fine hair; you might also need to use supporting hair products.</p>
<p>Hair growth patterns</p>  <p>Cowlick</p>  <p>Widow's peak</p>	<p>Hair growth patterns can affect the choice of style and cutting technique.</p> <p>For cowlicks avoid fringes; instead suggest a side half fringe that works with the cowlick.</p> <p>For widow's peaks avoid fringes completely and suggest styles that are constructed with the top area going over to one side or straight back.</p>



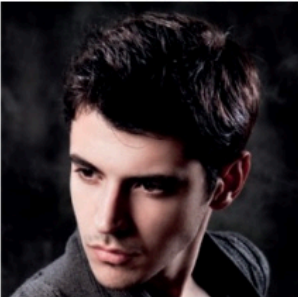



Characteristic	Impact on service
 <p data-bbox="92 647 229 674">Double crown</p>  <p data-bbox="411 647 549 674">Nape whorls</p>	<p data-bbox="724 338 1374 517">For double crowns suggest maintaining a little length around the crown area and ideally work with the natural fall into the style. Alternatively, very short haircuts around the crown area will prevent the hair from sticking up.</p> <p data-bbox="724 524 1374 766">For nape whorls suggest maintaining the length at the nape area, or at least a little weight, and avoid cutting into the hairline unless you are using the clippers or cutting the nape area very short. This growth pattern can affect many men's hairstyles, as they generally like to wear their hair shorter than women.</p>







Hair classifications

Hair classifications can affect the choice of style and cutting techniques.

You will need to consider whether you should cut the hair wet or dry, when looking at the hair classifications.

Classification	How it can affect the service
<p data-bbox="76 1164 261 1191">Straight hair</p>  <p data-bbox="92 1514 181 1541">Fine hair</p>  <p data-bbox="411 1514 549 1541">Medium hair</p>  <p data-bbox="92 1850 213 1877">Coarse hair</p>	<p data-bbox="724 1164 1374 1308">When cutting fine and medium straight hair every 'scissor cut' can show in the hair. Accuracy is very important and subtle texturised cuts can help to prevent the cutting line's from being so apparent.</p> <p data-bbox="724 1314 1374 1458">Fine/thin straight hair might not achieve the desired result. Avoid using texturising techniques that will make the hair thinner; instead use club-cutting techniques and choose styles to suit the hair type.</p> <p data-bbox="724 1464 1374 1538">Medium straight hair can have lots of volume and body and suits most techniques.</p> <p data-bbox="724 1545 1374 1688">Coarse straight hair can be difficult to curl or add movement. It may benefit from texturising and thinning out techniques to remove some bulk and improve the end result and style.</p>

Classification	How it can affect the service
<p>Wavy hair</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Fine hair</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Medium hair</p> </div> </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;">  <p>Coarse hair</p> </div>	<p>Wavy hair can be great to work with. It is easy to mould straighter or to create enhanced body. Most techniques work well with this hair type.</p> <p>Fine/thin wavy hair – you may need to leave some length to aid body and use club-cutting techniques to give the appearance of thicker hair.</p> <p>Medium and coarse wavy hair can be frizzy so avoid texturising techniques that will enhance a fluffy appearance – such as razor cutting. Club cutting can help by keeping all hair lengths the same.</p> <p>Coarse wavy hair can be resistant to styling, so may benefit from being texturised or thinned out but avoid using a razor on the hair.</p>
<p>Curly hair</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Curly hair</p> </div>	<p>Soft curly hair can have a combination of textures to consider. It may be frizzy in appearance and have lots of body.</p> <p>Tight curly hair can also have combined textures and will spring up after the hair has been cut when it is dried – particularly fine curly hair.</p> <p>When cutting curly hair consider the amount of tension you place on the hair during the cutting service, use a wide-toothed comb and use freehand cutting techniques.</p>
<p>Very curly hair</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Very curly hair</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Wiry curly hair</p> </div> </div>	<p>Soft very curly hair is often fragile, so be careful if using razors or clippers. Comb the hair gently using a wide-toothed comb and use a conditioning spray to prevent client discomfort. If the client does not want to encourage the curls, then clipper cuts would be the most effective recommendation</p> <p>Wiry curly hair is also very fragile but can have less of a defined curly pattern. Avoid techniques that texturise the hair and use mostly club-cutting and freehand techniques. Take care with tools on the fragile hair.</p>

Classification	How it can affect the service
<p>Head and face shape</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Round</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Oblong</p> </div> </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;">  <p>Square</p> </div>	<p>The head and face shape can affect the choice of style.</p> <p>For round face shapes, avoid styles that add more roundness, such as too much width or height.</p> <p>For oblong face shapes, avoid height but add width if you can, and suggest a fringe to give the illusion of shortening a long face. The shorter the haircut, the more prominent the oblong shape will appear.</p> <p>For square face shapes, avoid square styles, such as flat tops, that will accentuate this feature.</p> <p>The head shape should be considered within the overall shape of the style. The ideal head shape is rounded from the crown to the occipital bone and then dips in slightly towards the nape.</p> <p>Some crowns are flatter than others and very short styles could make the back of the head look too flat. Others have very pronounced crown areas and need the cut to make the shape look flatter.</p>
<p>Prominent features</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Protruding ears</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Prominent nose and high forehead</p> </div> </div>	<p>Facial features can affect the choice of style.</p> <p>For clients with protruding ears, you can suggest styles that cover the entire ear or are not cut too short around the ear.</p> <p>For strong nose features or jawlines, avoid centre partings that encourage the eye to follow down from the parting to the nose and chin.</p> <p>For high foreheads, suggest the haircut has a fringe or some hair styled forward over part of the forehead.</p>
<p>Neck shape</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Thick neck</p> </div>	<p>When considering the length of the haircut at the neck area, you should look at the shape of the neck. Thicker necks might suit a slightly longer cut.</p>

Prominent





Sticking out.

Occipital bone

The bone between the crown and the nape area that normally sticks out a little bit.


Protruding

Sticking out.

Classification	How it can affect the service
<p>Hairline shape</p> 	<p>If the hair is being cut short at the nape area, you need to consider the natural hairline shape. Along with a nape whorl, you can have hairlines that grow in different directions each side, or grow into the middle from both sides. This might affect the length you want to cut to or the shape of the end result.</p>
<p>Facial hair</p> 	<p>When you are cutting the hair, you will need to consider where the head hair stops and any facial hair starts. Some clients will choose their style to look like two separate features while others may want their head and facial hair to blend together.</p>
<p>Male pattern baldness</p> 	<p>If your client wants to cover the hair-loss area, then suggest leaving the overall style slightly longer, particularly on the top. Some clients prefer to have the hair cut short around the thinning area, to make the rest of the hair look a little thicker.</p>
<p>Piercings</p> 	<p>Check the skin, eyebrows and ears for piercings that could cause an injury if you accidentally catch them with the comb.</p>

HANDY HINT

Male pattern baldness is known as the 'Hamilton pattern' due to the progressive patterns it follows that were identified by Dr JB Hamilton.


Classification	How it can affect the service
<p>Adverse skin conditions</p> 	<p>Some scalp disorders might require consideration in the style recommended, as your client might want them covered up. Always ask about scalp disorders during your consultation and check for infections and infestations which would prevent the service from being carried out. Refer to chapter 402 for more information.</p>

HANDY HINT

If during the consultation you identify an infectious condition, you must not continue with the service. Instead give your client some advice about how to deal with the problem or suggest he visits his GP. Try to keep these conversations discreet so the client is put at ease, and explain that you will welcome him back when the infectious condition has cleared. Remember that it is not your responsibility to diagnose a skin condition and there could be legal implications for the salon if you were to misdiagnose.

Activity

Look into a mirror and using a dry wipe pen, draw around your face shape. This will help you to understand face shapes. Ask a colleague to do the same and compare the shapes.



Activity

Draw the different face shapes and add sketches of hairstyles that will enhance each facial shape. Or cut out images from magazines/research on the internet and create a stylebook for different face shapes.

HANDY HINT

Using barbering tools on hair that has product on it can blunt scissors and cause clipper blades to 'clog up' with hair and become ineffective at cutting the hair; they may snag hair and cause client discomfort.

Tools, equipment and products

The tools and equipment you are likely to use during these services are:

- combs
- scissors and thinning scissors
- razors
- clippers
- clippers with grade attachments.



Wetting hair before cutting

Prepare the client's hair before the service

You should always work on clean hair. If the service requires a dry hair cutting technique and the hair is oily or has products on it, then you'll need to shampoo it to cleanse and remove products and then dry the hair for the cut.

You'll need to consider whether you are going to use a wet or dry hair cutting technique before you start the service and prepare the hair accordingly.

Scissors

Scissors are held with your thumb and your ring finger – not your middle finger. Your little finger supports the scissors, often on the finger rest attached to the scissors; your first and middle fingers support the shanks. You move only your thumb when you cut the hair, as this gives you the greatest control when cutting.

Your scissors are likely to be the most expensive item in your tool collection. Dropping them with the blades open or pointing downwards can affect the position of the blades and be very costly. Care of scissors should include the following:

- use them only for their intended purpose – cutting hair
- do not carry them in the pockets of your clothes
- carry them in a safe manner and store them after use
- ensure they are fit for purpose
- use the correct type of scissors for specific styles
- clean and sterilise them after each client
- remove all hair cuttings and oil them regularly
- have them professionally sharpened when required.

For most basic cutting techniques, you will use scissors with an average blade length of 12.5–15cm (or 5–6in), depending on the size of your hands. However, barbers' scissors tend to be longer than those used by stylists. Choosing the right scissors for you to work with comfortably is important. As you become more experienced you are likely to want a selection of scissors for a variety of techniques, and you will probably buy more expensive scissors as your skill level increases.

HANDY HINT

When checking dry hair before the service, you are looking at a styled head of hair which might have products on it, or may have been styled to change the natural fall and make the hair feel thicker. Always recheck the hair type, natural movement and fall of the hair when it has been shampooed.

HANDY HINT

Refer back to chapter 302 for more information on the types of scissors, clippers, trimmers and razors available.

HEALTH & SAFETY



Control your tools and use them safely to minimise damage to your client's hair and scalp to avoid accidents and maintain client comfort.

HANDY HINT

Scissors are available for left- and right-handed people. You must buy scissors to suit your cutting needs.

HANDY HINT

The thumb and finger holes in scissors vary in size; try them for size before buying and ensure they are comfortable but not so loose that you could lose control over the cut.

HANDY HINT

Shorter-length scissors are good for chipping into the hair; longer-length scissors are ideal for scissor-over-comb techniques and are used by many barbers.

WHY DON'T YOU...

Practise holding your scissors correctly, moving only your thumb. Rest the non-moving blade on your other hand.






Correct use of tools and equipment


When cutting men's hair, you can use scissors, clippers and/or razors, so it is important that you use them correctly, know how to clean and maintain them and store them safely.

HEALTH & SAFETY



Refer to the health and safety chapter for more in-depth information on sterilising and disinfecting.

Tool	Correct use	Maintenance	Correct storage
Scissors (and thinning scissors)  Thinning scissors	Always carry them with the blades closed. Do not drop them as you might damage the blades.	Clean the hairs from the blades with warm soapy water. Sterilise scissors in an autoclave, sanitise in a UV light cabinet or disinfect in a Barbicide solution. Oil the blades after cleaning and sterilising.	Keep them away from young children and store them in a barber's cutting pouch or scissor case.
Clippers  Mains electricity clippers Rechargeable clippers	Keep the blades well oiled throughout use. Ensure the blades are properly aligned and adjust the blades to achieve the correct cutting length. Use on dry hair.	Remove the cut hairs from between the blades after every haircut (using a small clipper brush). Spray the blades with a chemical disinfectant and wipe the body of the clippers with chemical disinfectant wipes. Oil the blades after cleaning.	Unplug mains electricity clippers from the mains and look for any knots in the wires. Hang on a designated hook or place somewhere safe, where they cannot fall to the floor and get damaged. Place rechargeable clippers back on the battery charger base to ensure they are charged and ready for the next client.
Razors 	Always hold the razor carefully to ensure that you and your client are not accidentally cut with the razor blade. If you accidentally drop the razor – let it go – do NOT try to catch it! Wear gloves when using a razor.	Remove the razor blade carefully and dispose of it in the sharps bin. Clean the body of the razor with warm soapy water and chemical disinfectant wipes.	Ideally, store your razors without the blade attached. Attach a new blade as you need it. Store the razor in a suitable scissor pouch/case. Store securely in a dry place as moisture will corrode the blade.

Tool	Correct use	Maintenance	Correct storage
Cut-throat razors	Hold the blade at the correct angle, average 30°. Pull the skin taut to ensure smooth removal of neck hair or hairlines.	Wash in warm soapy water after use and dry with paper towel. You can use wax or oil as a protective coating. Razors will need to be sharpened or stropped periodically, using a specialist leather strop. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for stropping.	Store securely in a dry place as moisture will corrode the blade.
Combs and attachments (grades) 	Cutting combs are used to section the hair. Clipper grades are attached over the clipper blades and designed to create a variation of longer cutting lengths when clipper cutting.	Remove all loose hairs from the comb and grades, wash them in warm soapy water and sanitise them in the UV light cabinet.	Keep all grades together and store them according to your salon policy.

Techniques

During this part of the chapter we will look at the techniques used, such as:

- club cutting
- scissor over comb
- clipper over comb
- freehand
- thinning
- fading
- razor cutting
- graduation
- texturising
- tapering
- disconnection.

HANDY HINT

Always follow your workplace, suppliers' and manufacturers' instructions to ensure the safe use of electrical equipment.

HANDY HINT

Clipper blades should be correctly aligned and checked before each service to ensure the blades are level and they cut evenly and without pulling on the hair.





Check the neckline suits your client's requirements



Holding the hair for club cutting



Scissor-over-comb technique

HANDY HINT

When cutting with scissor over comb, select a comb that is the correct thickness to blend. For example, a thick comb will not remove the weight line from a short grade such as a number 1.



Various clipper grades

You will look at how to cut men's hair using these techniques, while following a guideline to achieve a range of different looks.

You will learn how to use these techniques to achieve uniform and square layers, graduated looks, flat tops, and how to fade into the neckline and how to cut the hair around the ear area.

Club cutting

Club cutting is also known as blunt cutting, and is the most popular cutting technique. It involves cutting the hair straight across, while holding the hair with tension between your fingers. This technique will reduce the length of the hair and layers but will retain the thickness of the hair. Club cutting can be carried out on wet and dry hair.

Scissor over comb

When you are using the scissor-over-comb technique, run the comb up the hair and use it to lift and support the hair to be cut. The hair is cut with the scissors over the comb. This technique gives a graduated effect to the cut and blends short hair into the neck. This technique is most effective on dry hair.

Use clippers

Clippers can be used with or without a clipper grade attached. If using clippers with a grade, you will need to decide the size of the grade required and this will depend on your client's requirements. Clipper grades vary in size from grade 1 to grade 8, gradually getting about 3mm bigger (as a guide) with each grade:

- grade 8 – 24mm (approximately 1 inch)
- grade 6 – 18mm (approximately ¾ inch)
- grade 4 – 12mm (approximately ½ inch)
- grade 3 – 9mm
- grade 2 – 6mm (approximately ¼ inch)
- grade 1 – 3mm.

Activity



Using the measurements given in the list, work out the size of the following grades:

- grade 5
- grade 7.

A common grade for the 'short back and sides' is a grade 2; grade 1 can be used for the back and sides but it is often used to blend a grade 2 down into the hairline, keeping the hairline very short and

maximising how long the cut will last before it needs cutting again. Grades 3 and 4 can also be used around the back and sides of a cut, but are also used to blend in the grade 2 up into the occipital area of a scissor cut.

Grades 5 to 8 are mostly used on the top and crown areas for short, layered effects. Some men have a clipper cut all over the head and any grade can be used for this depending on the overall length required, or a variation of grades can be used so the hair gradually gets shorter towards the back and sides and hairline.

Activity

Using the measurements in the grade's list and in the Handy Hint, work out the size of the following grades:

- grade 4.5
- grade 6.5
- grade 8.5.



Clipper with a grade at side

HANDY HINT

Some clippers have a lever on the side that moves the teeth of the clippers wider and creates a half grade. If you used a grade 1 attachment and widened the teeth, you could create a 1.5 grade which will be about 4.5mm. If you used a grade 2 attachment and widened the teeth, you could create a 2.5 grade which will be about 7.5mm.

If using the clippers all over the head, start with the largest grade and blend down to the smallest grade. If you are using just one grade size all over the head, make sure the clippers are moved across the head in different directions – front to back, side to side, etc. This is because the hair will grow in many different directions and if you follow one direction only, the hair might be cut at varying lengths.

If you are using clippers with a grade at the back and sides and a scissor cut on the top and crown, you can start with the clipper grade cut first and then blend with your layer cut. It is very likely that you will need to use a clipper-over-comb or scissor-over-comb technique to fully blend these two techniques. Clippers are used on dry hair only.

Clipper over comb

Clipper over comb can be used to blend in scissor or clipper cuts. This technique helps to remove any bulk or definition lines from the varying clipper grades, or where the scissor cut meets a clipper cut. It is a popular technique used on dry hair to blend and fade into the hairline.

To use this technique, follow the comb with the clippers through the back and sides, angling the comb at +45° or -45° to create longer or shorter effects.



Clipper with a grade at back



Shaping the neckline

HANDY HINT

When using clipper over comb, make sure that you select a comb that is big enough to support your clipper. With a small comb it is easy to slip off and create a bald spot.



Using freehand for cutting around the ears



Thinning out the hair



Skin fade



Shaping the neckline after fading

HANDY HINT

With any cutting technique you must always work with the natural fall of the hair, taking into account the weight distribution to ensure the expected shape can be achieved.

HANDY HINT

When using a cut-throat razor, always be mindful of end of the blade that is not in use, as this could potentially cut the client.

Freehand technique

When using the freehand technique, you must not hold the hair with any tension but instead comb the hair into position and cut. This technique can be used when you do not need any tension, such as when cutting fringes, or allowing for the natural fall of the hair and cutting around the ears. Freehand cutting can be used on wet or dry hair but is particularly good on dry hair.

Thin the hair

You can use thinning scissors to remove unwanted bulk from the hair but maintain the length. When using thinning scissors, you must cut into the section of hair towards the mid-lengths and ends – avoiding the root area. Thinning out the root area can cause hair to stick up and show signs that it has been thinned out. Hair should be dry while this technique is carried out, otherwise you might remove too much 'bulk'.

Fading

Fading is used to blend short haircuts into the nape of the neck. If hair has been clipper cut or if scissor over comb has been used, blend the hair from the occipital bone down to blend in with the nape area and fade out to the hairline. This technique can enable the hairline shape to appear more natural-looking. Fading techniques are carried out on dry hair.

Guidelines

The guideline is the most important part of the haircut. If you are cutting the hair and you lose your guideline – STOP! The guideline determines the finished length of the cut and the overall shape and balance. Without a guideline you cannot work methodically through the haircut or maintain accuracy. Even the most experienced barbers will follow a guideline and use accurate sectioning.



Internal guideline crown to back



Barber following the guideline when cutting

When you have cut your guideline, every section you cut afterwards will follow this guideline to the same length, so you must hold the

hair at the same angle on both sides of the head. Always ensure that your cutting sections are clean and that you take manageably sized sections. Make sure you maintain your balance, otherwise the haircut might be uneven.

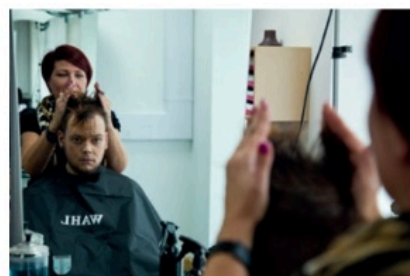
HANDY HINT

If you cannot see your guideline, stop cutting, go back a few sections and find it. Or you can section the hair the opposite way to work out where you have cut up to.

Activity

Research haircuts – then write down the techniques you would use to achieve the following:

- French crop
- asymmetric cut
- flat top
- choppy haircut
- skin fade
- short back and sides
- mod cut
- rock ‘n’ roll quiff.



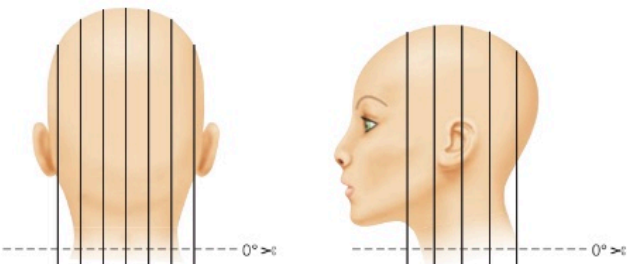


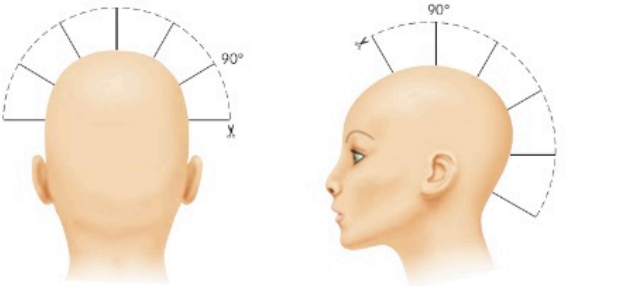


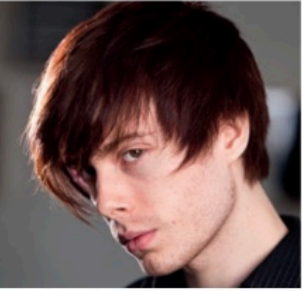

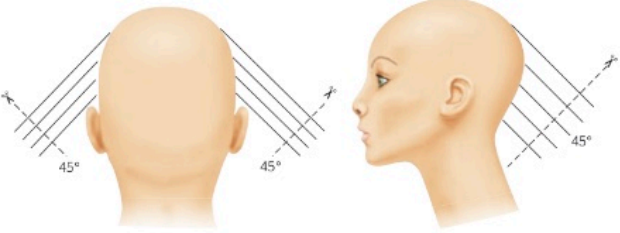


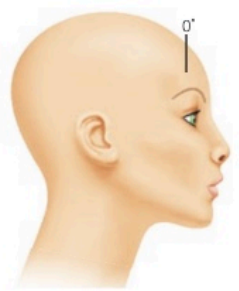
Checking the balance of the cut

Angles

The cutting angles that the hair is held at will vary for every haircut and style.

WHY DON'T YOU...
Refer to chapter 302 for more information on cutting angles.

Look	Cutting angle	Cutting angles and techniques
<p>One length</p> 	<p>The hair is pulled directly down at a 0° angle.</p> 	<p>Club cutting Freehand</p> 
<p>Uniform layers</p> 	<p>Use 0° for the baseline. For the layers the hair is pulled out at a 90° angle throughout the entire haircut.</p> 	<p>Club cutting Freehand</p> 

Look	Cutting angle	Cutting angles and techniques
<p>Graduation</p> 	<p>The inner layers of the hair lengths are longer than the outline shape and generally pulled out at 45°.</p> 	<p>Club cutting Freehand Texturising Tapering Scissor over comb</p> 
<p>Fringes</p> 	<p>Often cut freehand to allow for the natural movement and fall of the hair growth patterns, but fringes can be cut under tension and pulled down to 0°.</p> 	<p>Freehand Club cutting</p> 

Activity

Research images of men's hairstyles and label the cutting angles used, using style magazines or the internet.



Activity

Practise sectioning and pulling the hair out at the angles described in the diagrams.



Cut hair with tension

When you are cutting hair with tension, you must remember that wet hair stretches more than dry hair, so make sure that the end result is not shorter than you expected. You must always keep the same tension to ensure an even result. This includes keeping an even moisture balance during the cutting service, so that the hair is not of mixed porosity or elasticity. This could cause tangles, damage to the hair or uneven cutting results.

Cut hair wet or dry

Whether you cut the hair wet or dry will affect the technique you use and the end result. Hair should be checked while it is dry to identify the fall of the hair and rechecked after shampooing.



Wet cut



Dry cut

WHY DON'T YOU ...

Refer to chapter 302 for more information on cutting hair wet or dry.

HANDY HINT

Keep hair damp when cutting to ensure the elasticity is even throughout.

HANDY HINT

Curly hair will spring up when dry – use less tension when cutting curly hair. This can be achieved by using the wider tooth end of your comb.

The importance of cross-checking the cut

It is important that your client's body position is balanced and upright throughout the haircut. If your client has his legs or ankles crossed, then the balance of the baseline cut could be uneven. Equally you must ensure that you have an even distribution of body weight.

Cross-checking the haircut during the service and at the end ensures an accurate finish. You can cross-check the haircut at any point during the service to check for balance and even cutting lengths. Using the mirror will help you to check for balance.

HANDY HINT

Cross-checking the cut ensures it is accurate, evenly balanced and has an even weight distribution throughout.

HANDY HINT

As hair only grows about 1.25cm (½inch) each month, it is important that you do not cut the hair too short.



Cross-checking in the mirror



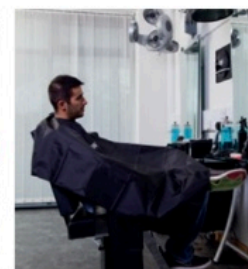
Cross-checking horizontally



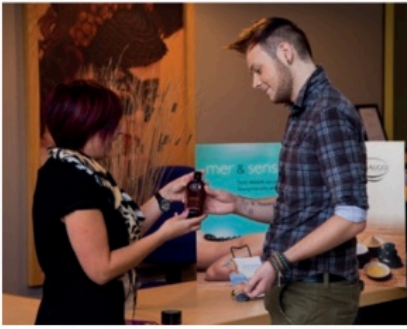
Cross-checking sideburns in the mirror



Ensure that your client is sitting straight



Poor sitting position could result in an uneven haircut



Ask your client if he would like to buy any products or equipment

Use products

At the end of the cutting service, style the hair using styling products and add finishing products at the end. It is important to use products cost-effectively so that the salon does not waste money. Advise your client on how much to use, if he buys products from you to style his hair – you don't want him wasting his money either or using too much product and overloading the hair.

Provide advice and recommendations



It is essential that you provide suitable aftercare advice to your client on maintaining the look you have created. You should advise on products and how to use them, what equipment would best enable him to recreate the look, when to return for his next haircut, and even suggest colouring services that might enhance the style.





Styling and finishing products to maintain the look

If your client has had a full cut-and-blow-dry service, you should have talked about the products that you used during the styling service and explained why and how you used them. If the service was a wet cut, discuss how your client should finish the look himself.

Advise your client on which styling and finishing products would enhance and support his finished look. Explain how particular styling products will aid the drying and styling process, help control the hair and provide longevity to the finished result. You should advise him on how much product to use and how to apply it. If the product could cause a build-up on the hair, advise him on how to remove the product effectively.

You could suggest the following products to help your client style his hair in between salon visits.

Product	Use
Wax 	Use on dry hair to finish; adds pliable hold.
Grooming cream 	Use on wet or dry hair; gives a firm hold with a matt finish.

Product	Use
Clay 	Use on wet or dry hair to support the shape and offer a medium shine.
Pomade 	Use on dry hair; this is a wax-free substance offering a flexible hold and creating a wet look.
Fibre 	Use on dry hair for a firm hold that leaves hair pliable.
Gel 	Use on wet or dry hair to create a textured 'gloss' look.

Tools and equipment to maintain the look

Throughout the styling service you should advise your client on which tools to use at home to recreate his look, and during the blow-dry service demonstrate what you are doing and why. This gives your client a thorough understanding of what he will need to do when he is styling his hair at home. Talk to him about how to create body or movement if required, or how to prevent it. Remember to discuss the health and safety side of styling and the use of electrically heated styling equipment, such as straightening irons, and how this could cause damage to the hair.

Time intervals between services

You should advise your client on when to book his next cutting service. To help guide him, explain that it depends on how quickly his hair grows. You should suggest that he returns to the salon when the style grows out of shape and when he has trouble maintaining the style, as this might indicate it is ready for a cut.



Show your client how to add texture to the style

Recommend further services

Having discussed the cutting service with your client, you may wish to recommend colouring services; this will enhance the image created. Adding colour and highlights to a haircut helps to add texture and definition to the shape. Without doubt, colour enhances and complements every style you create.

Provide cutting services using basic barbering techniques – review

Prepare for cutting services

To prepare for the cutting service:

- protect your client throughout the service – follow your salon requirements
- prepare your work area and tools in advance
- prepare the client's hair in readiness for the service
- make effective use of your time throughout.

Work safely and hygienically

Throughout the hair cutting service remember to:

- maintain your responsibilities for health and safety
- keep your work area clean and tidy
- keep your client free of hair cuttings
- sweep the floor during and after the service
- check the positioning of your client throughout
- maintain a good body posture
- remove loose hair cuttings from your client to maintain their comfort
- work to commercially viable times.

Consult with clients

Carry out a consultation, identifying the client's wishes and confirming the look required. At this stage you will be deciding on the tools you will need and the techniques you will be using to create the look required. Check the hair and skin for any factors that may affect the service and clarify whether the chosen look is achievable. Once you have agreed the service requirements, prepare the hair for the service.

Select products, tools and equipment

After consultation and preparation of your client's hair, complete the preparation of your work area and set up all the tools and equipment you will need for the service – make sure they are clean and sterile before use. If using clippers, oil the blades and check they are balanced.

Carry out cutting services

To carry out cutting services:

- consult with your client
- create and follow your guideline
- use cutting techniques to achieve the desired result
- adapt techniques depending on the factors identified
- establish an accurate distribution of weight, balance and shape of the hair
- outline neckline shape using a razor/cut-throat razor
- remove any unwanted hair outside the desired outline shape
- balance and shape sideburns (if required)
- make final visual checks on the haircut and cross-check the result
- minimise risk of damage to tools and equipment.

You'll need to know your salon's commercially viable times to ensure you carry out the service within these time frames.

HANDY HINT

Use the correct tools throughout the service and maintain them correctly. Also follow suppliers', manufacturers' and salon instructions.

HANDY HINT

At the end of the service always advise your client on what products and tools to use, and advise him on how to recreate the look himself and when to return for his next service.

Cut hair using barbering techniques – step by steps

Combine and personalise cutting techniques

This part of the chapter looks at how you can create a graduated haircut, a textured haircut and a disconnected haircut.

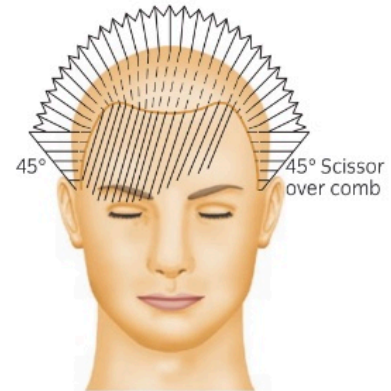
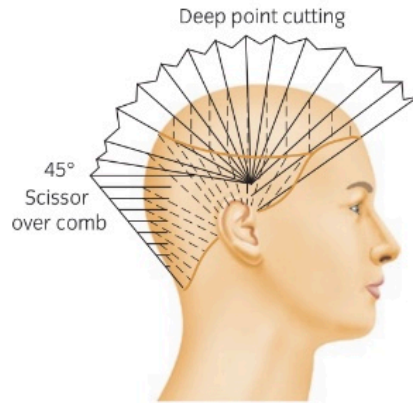
Create a graduated look

To create a short, graduated haircut, starting at the nape line, sections of hair must gradually get longer the further they go up the head. The top of this haircut may be cut in a similar way and held out at 90°, whereas the sides and back must be cut at 45°.

Over-direction

Directing the hair away from the position of natural fall – usually, directing back from the line of recession to leave length and weight on the fringe.

Graduation can be achieved by scissor over comb, clipper over comb or razor cut. You can also use **over-direction**.



STEP 1 Section hair using the recession and upper occipital bone as guidelines, to create a horseshoe section.



STEP 2 Take a vertical section from the centre of the occipital bone at a 90° angle to create your first guideline. You begin at the centre of the occipital bone as this leaves less room for error.



STEP 3 Use the vertical guideline to create radial sections. Follow this method through the left-hand side to the temple area. Avoid over-directing the vertical sections, as this will cause unwanted graduation.



STEP 4 Using your preferred and most comfortable finger placement, follow the 45° angle through to the nape of the neck.



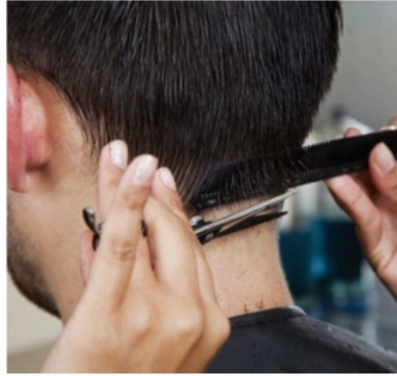
STEP 5 Using radial sections, continue to work at a 45° angle to the nape.



STEP 6 Cross-check the cut area using horizontal sections.



STEP 7 Use the mirror and your hands to ensure both sides are balanced and even.



STEP 8 Use the scissor-over-comb technique to help taper areas that cannot be reached with the fingers.



STEP 9 Take a dome section around the crown area. Using your initial guideline, follow the cutting technique at a 90° angle through the dome.



STEP 10 Using your profile guideline and starting from the crown area, create square layers using the club cutting technique.



STEP 11 Connect the top area with the sides by taking hair at a 90° angle and using top and side guidelines to cut away corners.



STEP 12 Over-direct the fringe to create an angle that is shorter towards the crown and longer at the recession area.



STEP 13 Using original sectioning techniques, texturise hair to remove weight lines.



STEP 14 Refine your scissor-over-comb technique.



Finished look

HANDY HINT

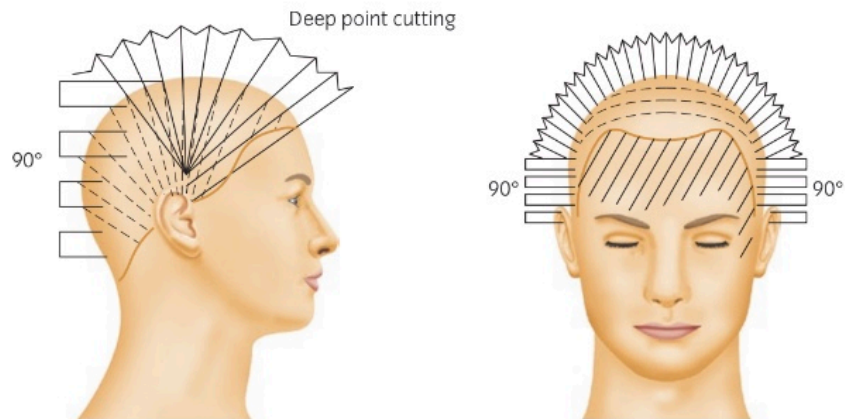
Cross-check continually to achieve balance and even weight distribution.

Fulcrum point

The point at which the blades meet on the scissors.

Create a textured look

A textured haircut may be achieved by using either a razor, scissors or clippers with a specialised attachment. Most men's haircuts will involve some texturing – techniques such as slicing, using the points of scissors, or the **fulcrum point**, or smoothly sliding along wet hair; also, by using a razor on wet hair, slicing mid lengths to ends of hair. You can also use these techniques with clipper attachments.



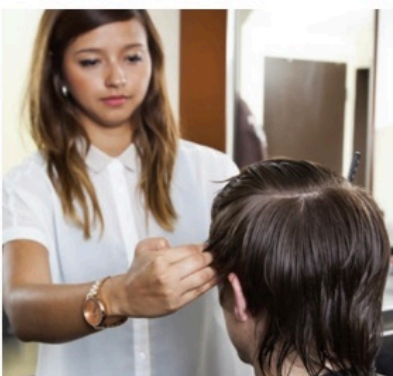
STEP 1 Section hair using the recession and upper occipital bone as guidelines, to create horseshoe sections.



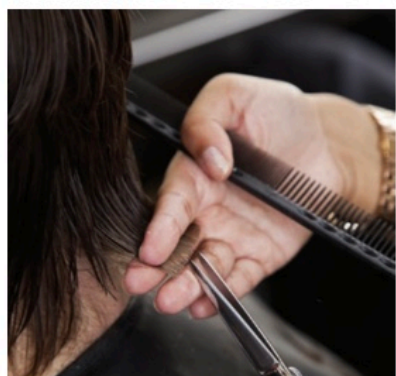
STEP 2 Take a vertical section from the centre of the occipital bone at a 90° angle to create the first guideline.



STEP 3 Using the initial guideline, take radial sections throughout the back of the head.



STEP 4 Cross-check your cut and check the weight and balance of the hair.



STEP 5 Cross-check, taking horizontal sections.



STEP 6 Using your initial guideline section, cut a guideline for the crown.



STEP 7 Follow the crown guideline and cut your profile line through the top of the head.



STEP 8 Use the profile guideline to cut square layers through the top sections.



STEP 9 Connect the top to the sides, removing the corners, connecting both guidelines.



STEP 10 Dry hair, then texturise following your initial cutting pattern, using a deep point cutting technique.



STEP 11 Refine the perimeter using a freehand technique.



STEP 12 Use a channelling technique to remove weight and create texture.



STEP 13 Connect the fringe to the rest of the hair, removing any corners.



Finished look

HANDY HINT

Texturising is not recommended on fine hair.

HANDY HINT

Try to stay true to your technique. Make sure the haircut follows a structure to enable future recreation.

Asymmetric

Without symmetry, with sides of different lengths.

Create a disconnected look

A disconnected haircut works well in men's styling. If the hair is left longer through the top section, and undercut through the sides and back, this will remove the weight and roundness of the haircut, creating a squarer, more masculine look.

Disconnection also works well on **asymmetric** haircuts. You may achieve this look using clippers, scissor over comb and freehand techniques.



STEP 1 Start from the sideburn to the line of recession, using a grade 1 clipper on dry hair.



STEP 2 Follow the same technique as before on the right-hand side.



STEP 3 Use the comb to hold any long hair out of the way when clipping close to the horseshoe perimeter.



STEP 4 Adjust the mini clipper lever to 0 to create a skin fade.



STEP 5 Use the corner of the mini clipper to line around the nape area and ear.



STEP 6 Using the comb to hold any unwanted hairs out of the way, use the mini clippers to trim in a parting line.



STEP 7 The finished look of the parting line.



STEP 8 Use mini clippers to line around the front hairline.



STEP 9 Spray the remaining hair on top with water, then, leaving the fringe area out, club cut through the top starting from the crown.



STEP 10 Connect hair through the right-hand side section leaving the parting side and fringe disconnected.



STEP 11 Slightly over-direct the disconnected front section towards the crown to create subtle graduation.



STEP 12 Using the scissor-over-comb technique, connect the blend around the crown working around the right-hand side, leaving the left side disconnected.



STEP 13 Use the thinning scissors to refine, remove weight and blend around the crown and the right-hand side only.



STEP 14 Slide scissors from left to right over wet hair, with the blade half open, and gently move the scissors in one motion to remove only a small amount of hair. Then repeat the technique from right to left to texturise the hair.



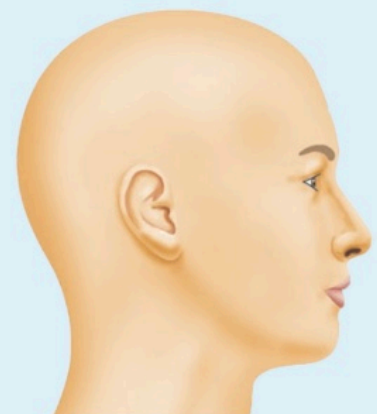
STEP 15 Using a feathering razor, gently scoop the hair from the middle to the ends removing weight and texturising. Never go too close to the root as you will want to recreate this technique on the next cut.



Finished look

Activity

Draw the correct cutting angles used to create this look.



Activity

Practise the following looks below on a training head:

- uniform layered cut
- square layers
- graduation
- flat top.

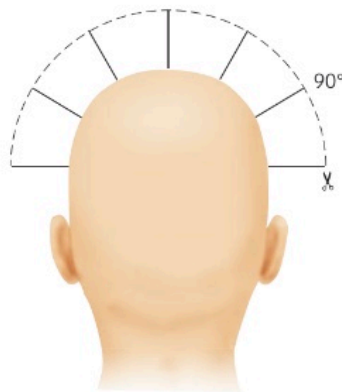
Remember to include the following in your designs:

- an around the ear outline
- cutting over the ear
- fading into the hairline.

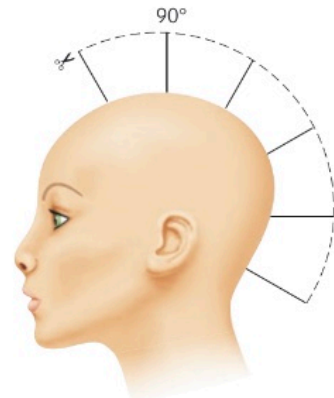


Create a uniform layer look

When cutting the hair to create a uniform layer look, you will need to make a guideline section for the length of the hair and one for the internal layers of the hair. The hair is cut at 90° all over.



Uniform layer angles



STEP 1 Start with a vertical section on the top of the head from the front hairline to the crown.



STEP 2 Elevate the hair straight out from the head and cut a square line.



STEP 3 Next, create a rectangular area in the top, using the initial section as a guide and work a horizontal section cutting a square line straight out from the head.



STEP 4 Create a vertical section over the crown and, using the top section as a guide, elevate the hair straight up and cut a square line.



STEP 5 Work with the mid-side areas following the round of the head.



STEP 6 Using the previous section as a guide and working with parallel sections, continue with this process to the round of the head at the back, ensuring a flat edge.



STEP 7 Next, work on the internal layering of the perimeter using the existing internal shape as a guide.



STEP 8 Take a vertical section in the front hairline which incorporates the mid-section. Continue the existing line into the hairline.



STEP 9 Work the round of the head using over-direction to maintain the square shape.



STEP 10 Work with the back section hairline. Begin from an initial vertical section which incorporates the mid-section and continue with the existing line into the hairline using elevation to maintain the square line.



STEP 11 Use freehand techniques to enhance the natural texture and movement of the hair.



Finished look

Activity

Create a mood board of varying uniform layer looks and write up how to achieve one of the images.

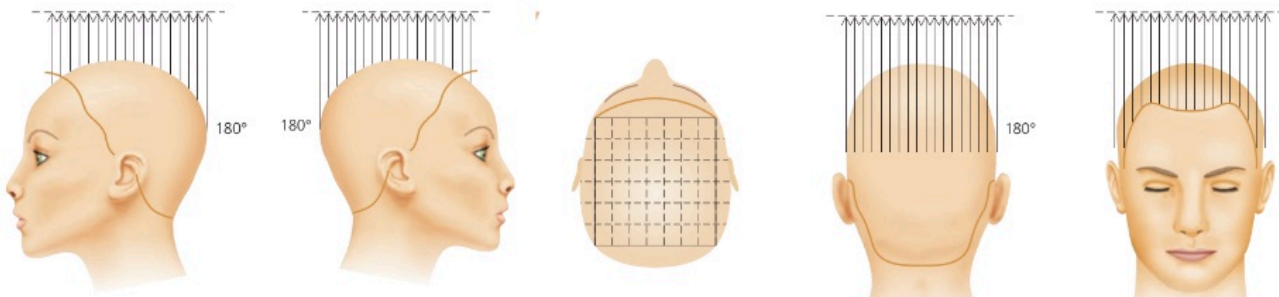


Activity

Research on the internet (or in style magazines) styles with fringes.



Create a long square layer look



STEP 1 Create a section in the top along the parietal ridge on both sides and then across the back where the head rounds to create an oblong. This sectioning will help define the back and sides from the corner of the round of the head.



STEP 2 Take a vertical section in the centre-back from crown to nape. Pull the hair to 90° to the head and cut a square line flat to the head and parallel to the section. Cut this guide in sections starting at the top with manageable finger-width panels. Ensure that your fingers are at the same angle all the way down, despite the head shape.



STEP 3 Take a parallel section, elevate to 90° using the previous section as a guide and cut a square line with slight over-direction to the previous section. This will produce a square both vertically and horizontally. As each section is taken, ensure that the head is in the correct position for an accurate angle.



Finished look

Activity

Create a mood board of varying square layer looks and write up how to achieve one of the images.



Activity

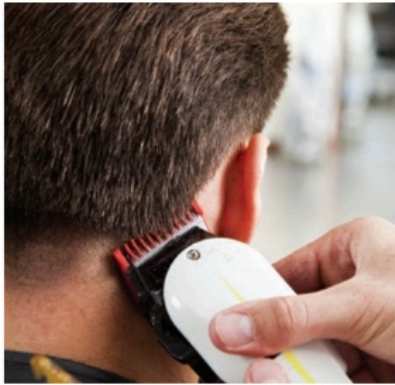
Practise this hair cut on a training head



Create a graduated layer look

When you create a short graduated haircut, the hair must gradually get shorter towards the nape and neck area. The top can be cut in a similar way to the uniform layers and held out at 90°, but the sides and back of this style must be cut at 45°.

Graduated look with clippers techniques



STEP 1 Starting at the nape area using a clipper grade 1, pull away to create graduation from the nape.



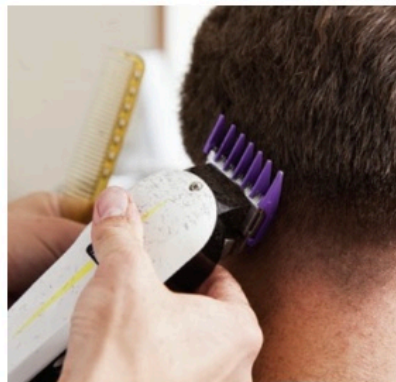
STEP 2 Follow the previous technique around the sides, not going higher than the temples.



STEP 3 This is the shape created.



STEP 4 Switch from a grade 1 to a grade 2.



STEP 5 Using the grade 2, remove the weight line around nape and temple area.



STEP 6 Check the balance of the shape created in the mirror.



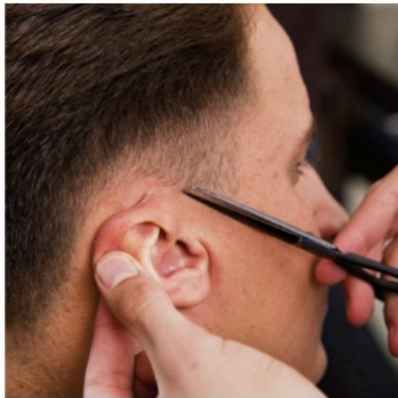
STEP 7 Starting from the crown working forward, club cut through the top.



STEP 8 When you get to the front, slightly angle towards the crown to create graduation and more length around the front.



STEP 9 Working from the side panel to the lower occipital bone, blend using the scissor-over-comb technique, removing the weight line.



STEP 10 Point cut to create shape around the ear.



STEP 11 Taper the neckline angling the comb to create graduation.



STEP 12 Adjust the clipper level to grade 0 to create skin fade around the edges.



Finished look

Activity

Draw the correct cutting angles used to create this look.

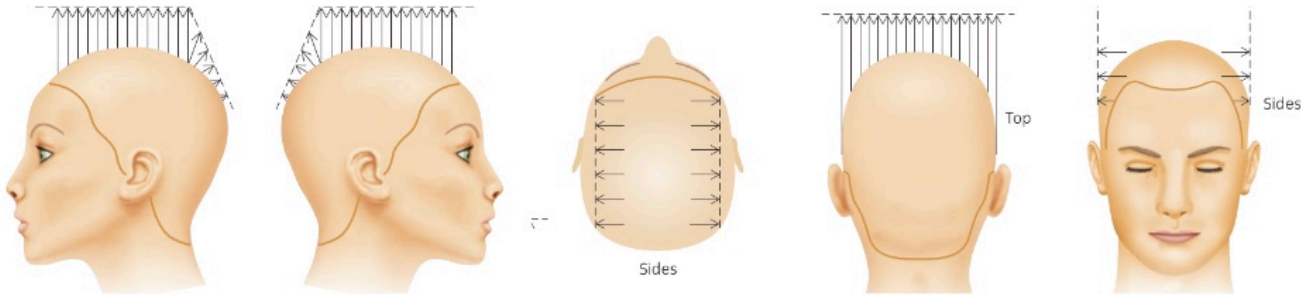


Activity

Create a mood board of varying graduated layer looks and write up how to achieve one of the images.



Create a flat top look



Flat top angles

Activity

Create a mood board of varying flat top looks and write up how to achieve one of the images.



STEP 1 Begin in the top front with medium clippers creating the guide for the shape. This is a visual and technical guide for the entire process.



STEP 2 Work across the comb with the clippers in the central panel first. The teeth of the comb run at 90° to the clippers in order to create a consistent, equal length.



STEP 3 Work with the same process back towards the crown using the previous section as a guide and include the temple areas.



STEP 4 Work in the sides on the parietal ridge, down the top and comb away the corners. Then create a guide just below the sectioned-away hair with clippers.



STEP 5 The hair is pulled square to the side of the head at approximately 45°. Continue to create the guide to just past the round of the head.



STEP 6 Clipper-over-comb from the top down horizontally using the initial guide.



STEP 7 Adjust the clipper blades to the longest setting without a guard. Work from the perimeter up, blending the sides to the initial guide and following the horizontal panels to the round of the head in the back.



STEP 8 Further refine using a flexible barbing comb to ensure good colourisation of fade. Refine the corner placement at the round of the head and the perimeter.

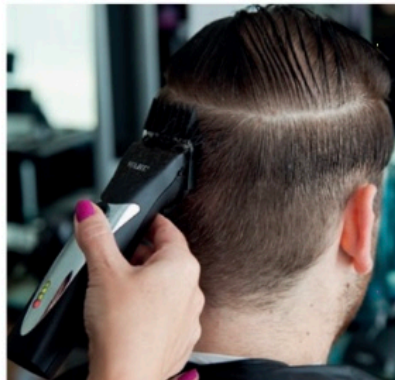


Finished look

Cut graduations



STEP 1 Section the hair above the crown out of the way.



STEP 2 Using clippers with a grade 2 attachment, clipper the back and sides.



STEP 3 Angle the clippers outwards to create graduation.



STEP 4 Blend the back-clipped hair with scissor over comb.



STEP 5 Repeat with the side sections.



STEP 6 Pull the layers out at 90° for the crown.



STEP 7 Follow the 90° angle through the top and sides.



STEP 8 Fade out the clipper cut into the sideburns/facial hair.

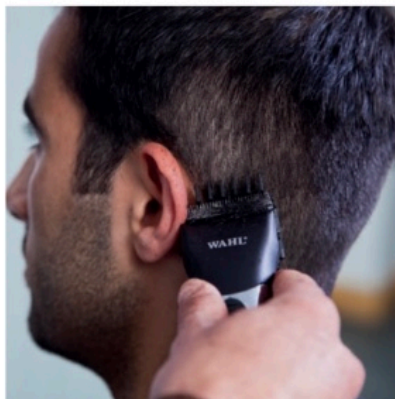


STEP 9 Tidy the hairline around the ears and neckline.

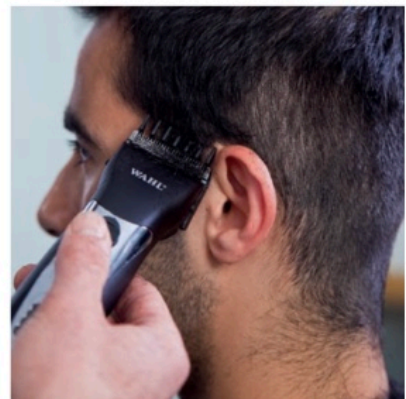
Work around the ear outline

When you are cutting a style above the ear, you need to cut the hair cleanly around the ear area. If the hair is left too long around the ear, then it might appear as if it needs cutting again just a week or two later. To help achieve a clean cut around the ears, hold/gently fold your client's ear forward towards the face (or ask your client to hold their ear if you prefer). While the ear is held gently forward you can freehand cut around the shape of the ear. Sometimes clippers are used without a grade, to carefully follow the hairline around the ear area and create a neat finish.

Clip around the ear



STEP 1 Follow the hairline around the ears with the clippers.



STEP 2 In front of the ear, angle the clippers upwards but pull outwards to create graduation.

Cut over the ear



STEP 1 In the front hairline, brush the hair forwards and cut in the comb to establish a natural-looking perimeter and avoid a hard line.



STEP 2 In the side areas fold the ear and point a natural perimeter.



STEP 3 Use the scissors-over-comb technique to blend the underneath with the mid-side areas and front.



STEP 4 Refine the outline in the front and over the left ear with the same process as the right-hand side.

Graduation with clippering and fading techniques

WHY DON'T YOU...

Practise cutting over the ear on a training head.



STEP 1 Clipper the back and sides to just above the occipital bone.



STEP 2 Use the clipper-over-comb technique to blend clipped hair.



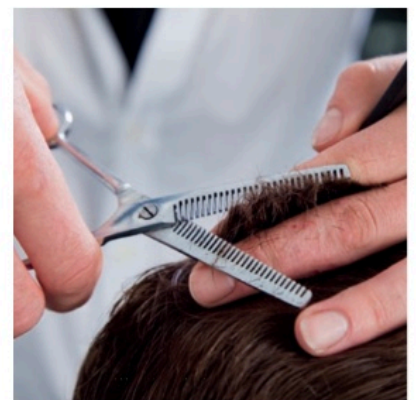
STEP 3 Continue this through the side into layers.



STEP 4 Club cut the top.



STEP 5 Continue layering the top section.



STEP 6 Use thinning scissors to remove bulk.



STEP 7 Discuss the neckline shape with your client and shape it to suit your client's requirement.



STEP 8 Check that your client is happy with the end result.

Cut the neckline

When you have clipper cut or cut the hair into the neck with a scissor-over-comb technique, you will need to decide with your client how to fade into the neckline.

Necklines

Tapered neckline

One of the more popular necklines is to blend the main haircut into the natural hairline. To create this effect, the hair is gradually cut shorter and blended into the natural shape of the hairline. You will need to consider the natural movement of the hairline, checking for any nape whorls or inward/outward nape growth patterns.

Faded neckline

To create this effect, the hair is clipper cut with a grade and gradually blended into a clipper cut without a grade, into the hairline.

Square neckline

To create a square neckline, the end result will be a blunt, clean finish. Use scissors or clippers to literally square off the edges of the hairline around the neck.

Skin fade

Also known as a bald fade, this is similar to a taper cut. The cut is achieved by using clippers, adjusting the settings and going from a skin fade and then lightening into the rest of the haircut.

Full neckline

Collar-length hair.



Tapering and blending into the natural hairline



Clipper cutting the hairline with a grade 1 attachment



Cutting a skin fade



Full neckline

Case study: Asa Nunn

Asa began his career in hairdressing at the age of 16 at The Big Yin Salon. He is a passionate and creative stylist, and has now been in the industry for seven years. He has attained Levels 1 and 2 in Hairdressing, and an NVQ in Barbering. He also teaches regularly at The Big Yin Academy as well as working in a busy salon.

Asa's achievements include taking part in many stage demonstrations hosted by Joshua Galvin, and twice becoming a regional finalist in the L'Oréal Colour Trophy Men's Image Award. He was part of The Big Yin team invited to teach at Harringtons, Sean Hanna and KH Salon Group. Having trained extensively in ladies and gents hairdressing, Asa specialises in colour techniques.

Here Asa shares his love of hairdressing:

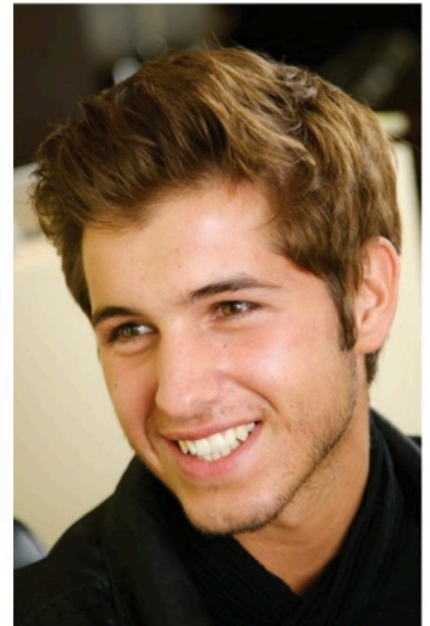
My inspiration over the last seven years has been my boss Adam Sloan. He has helped me to achieve my goals, giving me many opportunities and supporting me along the way.

The Big Yin Salon is very strong on their gents work, which has helped me to gain many skills throughout my time with it. I am always keen to learn new techniques, and feel that in this industry we should always keep up with the latest trends in men's hair as they are constantly changing.

At the Academy where I teach we encourage our students to become proficient in all aspects of barbering. It is good to learn all techniques, from clippers, to razors, to scissor over comb, to enable you to carry out any look requested by your client.

The current trend for men's grooming requires us to be able not only to give a great haircut, but also provide colour services, and offer advice on facial hair or carry out a cut-throat shave. It is our job to send our clients out of the salon looking their best, so don't be afraid to offer services that your client may not usually have.

Asa's top tip is to find a dedicated barbering course in your area to really perfect your men's grooming skills. This is a fast-growing area within the industry and the extra knowledge can only benefit both you and your salon.



Answers in the back of the book.

- 1** Which one of the following is the best way for a barber to avoid cross-infection?
 - a** Using clean towels and gowns
 - b** Wearing an apron whilst working
 - c** Cleaning surfaces before each client
 - d** Supplying wet wipes to clients
- 2** Which one of the following is the best way of consulting with clients?
 - a** Smiling and checking the progress of the cut in the mirror
 - b** Maintaining eye contact and asking questions throughout the service
 - c** Using open questions to obtain information and closed questions to confirm requirements
 - d** Using closed questions to obtain information and closed questions to confirm requirements
- 3** Which one of the following is the best way to position the client to achieve a balanced style during a haircut?
 - a** With the neck supported by a head rest
 - b** With the legs supported by a foot stool
 - c** With legs crossed and back firmly supported by the chair
 - d** With legs uncrossed and back firmly supported by the chair
- 4** Which one of the following factors can affect the length of the finished style when cutting wet hair?
 - a** Elasticity
 - b** Porosity
 - c** Density
 - d** Texture
- 5** Which one of the following should be avoided when a client has a widow's peak or a cowlick?
 - a** Short napes
 - b** Clipper cuts
 - c** Fringes
 - d** Razoring
- 6** Which one of the following is the best way to sterilise scissors?
 - a** UV cabinet
 - b** Autoclave
 - c** Barbicide
 - d** Chemical wipes
- 7** A common clipper grade used for short back and sides is number 2; which one of the following hair lengths is achieved by using a number 2?
 - a** 24mm
 - b** 18mm
 - c** 12mm
 - d** 6mm
- 8** Which one of the following techniques is best used when working with the natural fall of the hair?
 - a** Club cutting
 - b** Clipper over comb
 - c** Scissor over comb
 - d** Freehand
- 9** Which one of the following best describes the technique of fading?
 - a** Cutting outline shapes in the hairline
 - b** Blending short layers in the nape area
 - c** Blending long layers at the crown with short layers at the nape
 - d** Using freehand around the ears and around hair growth patterns
- 10** Which one of the following is the best product to use for creating a wet look, textured gloss?
 - a** Pomade
 - b** Fiber
 - c** Gel
 - d** Clay