Advanced cutting techniques: Step-by-Step Guide

This is a technique for cutting short hair. It is used mostly for men’s haircuts. Channeling creates movement and direction in a haircut by making channels which separate the hair. You will achieve best results with this technique if you use it on dry hair. Place two fingers on the client’s scalp, one finger-width apart. Using your other hand, put your scissors flat on the scalp, between your two fingers, and cut.

Advanced cutting techniques: Step 2 - Serrating

This technique is used to create layers and external shapes. It can be used on wet or dry hair. Hold your scissors at an angle and use the tips of your blades to cut into the hair. This will give the hair a serrated edge and help to soften the shape of the cut.

Advanced cutting techniques: Step 3 - Slicing

Slicing reduces the weight of the hair internally and externally to add movement and texture. The technique is used on a finished haircut, which can be either wet or dry.
Hold your scissors open (cutting freehand) and slide them down the shaft of the hair, slowly opening and closing the blades. (Be careful not to close your blades or you will cut off the whole section of hair) Slicing is a good way to take a lot of weight out of the hair the more often you open and close your blades, the more hair you will remove.

Advanced cutting techniques: Step 4 - Twist cutting

Twist cutting creates volume by removing weight from the hair. It also gives a lot of movement and is most effective when used on curly or wavy hair. Take a one inch section and twist the hair from the roots to the ends so that it stands straight up from the scalp. Hold the length of hair between your fingers and, with the blades open, move your scissors up the hair from the roots through to the ends. (Be careful not to close the blades or you will cut the section of hair off).