

Curved Graduation Step by step guide



Curved Graduation: Step-by-Step Guide (including re-growth colour)

Our model has fine textured hair. She has a round face shape, all her hairlines are flat and her hair has an even growth pattern. All these elements make her an ideal client for the curved graduation haircut.

The cut is divided into four areas:

- back
- side, including fringe
- front
- internal layering

Following the four areas will make it easier for you to achieve a good, balanced cut.

Tip:

This cut is divided into four areas: back; side; front; and internal layers.



Curved Graduation:

Step By Step 2:

Back Area

Start your haircut at the back.

Section off the hair in the centre. Take a horizontal section to give you a straight baseline.

Cut the baseline between your fingers, using maximum tension to give minimum graduation.

Once you have created your base guideline, work up one side at a time. As you work up the second side, it is a good idea to keep checking the balance of your cut.

Your sectioning pattern should follow the shape of your cutting line. Use the large teeth of your comb to section the hair. Use the fine teeth to achieve maximum tension.

Make sure you keep the hair wet at all times. This will give you even tension and graduation.

Comb all the hair down onto the guideline from the top of the crown and from the back of the ear.

Tip:

It is important to complete the back area first, as this determines your length of haircut.



Curved Graduation: Step By Step 3: Side Area and Fringe

The next stage of the cut uses the front hairlines.

Your first section is taken diagonally from the temple area to in front of the ear. To achieve the minimum graduation, follow the direction of the hair and the cutting angle shown here.

In a curved graduation cut, the direction of the combed hair is very important because it dictates the volume and definition of the haircut.

The comb direction and the angle of your fingers determine the amount of graduation in your cut and allow you to control the softness of the outline.

In the cut shown here, the hair is combed downwards to achieve minimum graduation.

Tip:

Note the angle of the stylist's fingers and scissors. The sections are combed forward and down.



Curved Graduation: Step By Step 4: Working Up

Start to bring in the front length of the hair, from the middle parting to behind the ear.

Take a curved section and split it into three segments - front, ear and back.

To create a curve in a haircut, you use a series of straight lines. The straight lines you make when you cut these three segments will give you a curve in your haircut.

Note the downward angle and position of the stylist's fingers.

Tip:

Always stand parallel to your cutting section to maintain the angle and, most important, the length.



Curved Graduation: Step By Step 5: Maintaining Weight

Here you can see the stylist's fingers and the angle and comb direction of the haircut.

Keep your sections small. The stylist here has just enough hair between their fingers to give an acute angle to the shape.

Remember to keep the hair wet at all times and use the comb in a downward direction to achieve minimum graduation.

Look at the lesson on hair travel for more on graduation.



Curved Graduation: Step By Step 6: Creating the Curve

Bringing in the back area is one of the most difficult parts of this cut.

See how the stylist has brought the hair behind the ears slightly forward to make it part of the front graduation.

The curve of your cutting should follow the curve of your sectioning pattern. The pattern starts at the front hairline and finishes at the centre back of the head or when you run out of hair.

Note that the stylist's comb direction and finger angle are still in the same, downward position. Make sure you keep the same tension and wetness in the hair.

Tip:

The head is in an upright position to maintain even graduation and balance.



Curved Graduation: Step By Step 7: Layering

To achieve balance in your cut, take out the same sections on the second side of the head and follow the same sectioning pattern.

As you work, pull down the hair on both sides of the head with your fingers and use the mirror to check the balance of your cut.

Here, the stylist is using the cutting comb to illustrating the curve in the hair.

To check for balance in the curve of your cut, repeat the same procedure on the opposite side of the head.

Take a look at How to Balance. And remember to use all your tips.



Curved Graduation: Step By Step 8: Layering

Once you have created your perimeter shape and you are sure the cut is balanced, you can start layering.

Layering is not always an essential part of the haircut. It can be used simply to enhance a look.

The layering used on this haircut is square layering. This is used to maintain weight and length on the perimeter.

Take a centre section along the top box section. This should be the width of your finger.

Cut a guideline, using the perimeter to set the length.

To maintain an even tension and balance: keep the hair at the same degree of wetness throughout the cut; and use the comb in the same way on both sides to achieve maximum or minimum tension.



Curved Graduation: Step By Step 9: Top Section

Create a guide for your square layers by sectioning the hair into a top box section. Use the profile line as your guide.

Take the sections across the head and pull the hair up parallel to the head shape.

Continue to work through into the sides, lifting the hair up to match the square layer.

For more information, see the page on square layers.



Curved Graduation: Step By Step 10: Crown Area

Use the guideline from your top box section to bring the crown area in. The shape should still be square.

Make sections around the crown in a fan-like pattern. This will make sure that the back area of the cut is well balanced.

Work outwards from the centre point of each section.

Take a guideline from the top box section. Hold it out on both sides and bring the hair up parallel to the guideline until no more reaches.

As you work around the back of your client's head, move your body so that you are always cutting from the same position. This will help you to keep the cut even and balanced. You can compare the shape of your layers by pulling the hair up in a horizontal line and checking the balance.

Tip:

If your model's hair is longer than our haircut, continue to work the fan sections (back area layering) down the head shape, lifting hair up to the crown until no more reaches.



Curved Graduation: Step By Step 11: Re-growth Application

Re-growth application to the curved graduation cut.

Apply the colour to the root area, starting from the crown and working forwards to the front.

On our model, we used:

- Wella Koleston perfect Redvolutions 77/43
- Intense Celtic Copper with 6% welloxon perfect C
- Koleston rinse
- See also the Wella colouring notes.



Curved Graduation: Step By Step 12: Crown Area

Work from the crown area to the nape.



Curved Graduation: Step By Step 13: Colour Application

We applied a Koleston rinse to the mid-lengths and ends to refresh the existing colour, using:

- 30ml of 77/43
- 15ml of 9% welloxon perfect
- 60ml of warm water

This was developed for 30 minutes without heat. If you use heat, develop for 15 minutes.



Curved Graduation: Step By Step 14: Tint Removal

We removed the tint by adding a little warm water to emulsify it and shampooing using Wella system professional colour vitalising cleanser.

We rinsed and towel-dried the hair before applying system professional colour intensifier treatment, leaving it for 5 minutes before rinsing.

You could also use Wella ultra care herbal antioxy.



Curved Graduation: Step By Step 15: Final Result

As you can see, the finished haircut is modern and feminine. And the colour is vibrant and glossy.

To dry the hair, we used the 'long straight hair to wavy' blow-drying technique. (See blow-drying techniques.)

We applied High Hair gel to the root area to create more lift and finished off with a High Hair creme to give a softer texture at the ends. For more, see the section on styling products.



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