

Parallel Layers (Female)

Step by step guide

Parallel layer: Step 1



Take a profile line from the front hairline to the back of the crown. This should be taken from either side of the central parting and should be about the width of your finger.

Make sure that this section is central. This will be the guideline you use for the rest of your haircut.

Your profile line determines the length of your cut. More importantly, it also determines the balance.

Parallel layer Step 2: Cutting line



The profile section is taken from the crown to the front hairline. The hair is combed up at a 90-degree angle to the head shape and a blunt line is cut in.

It is important to keep the hair wet at all times as this will allow you to keep the tension even and achieve a clean cutting line.

Cutting against your profile line and holding the hair at a 90 degree angle to the head, work backwards towards the crown.

When you are layering hair it is best to stand on the opposite side to the side you are cutting. This gives you more control and allows you to see your guideline more clearly.



Parallel layer Step 3: Top Box Section

Split the top area into three box sections.

Your first box is the top box section. Take a horizontal guideline from the centre of the top box section.

Blend in your guideline, starting at the back of the crown. Hold the hair up at a 90 degree angle from the head and work in horizontal lines across the head.

Work from the crown area towards the front hairline.

As you progress towards the front hairline, pull back the final front section to meet your previous section. This will maintain length at the front.

It is very important to work cleanly. If your guidelines are clear, you can follow them more easily and you will create cleaner cutting lines.



Parallel layer Step 4: Top Box 2

Use the guideline from the top box section, holding the hair out at 90 degrees to the head and blend.

To create your second and third boxes you divide the hair into two further sections.

First, split the top box area in half. This will give you your guideline for box 2.

When you have cut box 2, divide that section in half down towards the ear. This will give you your guideline for the side hairlines.

To create parallel layers, always hold the hair at a 90 degree angle away from the head.

Tip:

Creating three box sections at the front area gives you more control and allows you to see your guideline at all stages of your haircut.



Parallel layer Step 5: Top Box 3

Using your guideline from box 2, blend the hair into box 3. Pull the hair parallel and work downwards towards the ear section. Remember:

- keep the hair wet at all times;
- follow your guideline;
- make clean, even sections; and
- ensure the client's head is in an upright position.

Parallel layer Step 6: Back Area



A finger width profile line is taken from the top of the crown through to the nape. This section is very important as this will be your guide line for the back area.

Parallel layer Step 7: Crown Section



Take your guideline from the profile line you created at the top of the crown.

Blend into the crown, working out from the centre of your section to the back of the crown.

Hold the hair at 90 degrees to the head and make parallel cuts.

Repeat the same procedure on the other side of the head, paying particular attention to:

- your guidelines;
- your sectioning pattern;
- the balance of the cut;
- your standing position; and
- keeping the hair wet.

Tip:

Check the crown area at the consultation stage. Some clients will have double crowns. If you cut double crowns short, the hair will stick up. (You can compensate for this by leaving more length at the crown).



Parallel layer Step 8: Middle Section

Holding the hair out at 90-degrees from the head, blend from the bottom of the crown into the middle of the head. It is important to keep the hair wet at all times.

Using the small tooth of the cutting comb will help maintain even tension and a clean section.

Work outwards from the profile line at the bottom of the crown towards the back of the ear.

Hold the hair parallel to the head and blend in the hair from the back area, cutting it to the same length as your profile line.



Parallel layer Step 9: Nape Section

Our stylist is working down towards the nape area, holding the hair parallel to the headshape.

Pivot your sections down towards the nape area.

As you work down, the client's head should be in a slightly downward position. This will make it much easier for you to create your angle.

Our stylist started at the centre point and is working outwards towards the back of the ear.

As you do this, the fan-like sections you are creating will become more apparent.

Repeat the same procedure on the other side.



Parallel layer Step 10: Back Area

Pivoting radial sections are used throughout the back area, working from the crown section, through the middle section and into the nape.

It is important that you work on one side at a time. Always stand parallel to your section and hold the hair out at 90-degrees to the head.

Remember to check your balance and always cross-check your sections.

As you cut the second side, check to make sure your cut is balanced and even.

You should be checking the balance of your haircut regularly as you work. And remember:

- if you cut the hair horizontally, you must cross-check vertically; but
- if you cut the hair vertically, you must cross-check horizontally.



Parallel layer Step 11

Depending on hairline shapes this section will vary. Because we have used parallel layering, we have reduced maximum length and weight. Therefore we are left with a very soft outline shape, so we are just point cutting the line to maintain a softer shape. This is about personalising your look.



Parallel layer 12

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Parallel layer Step 13

Depending on hairline shapes this section will vary. Because we have used parallel layering, we have reduced maximum length and weight. Therefore we are left with a very soft outline shape, so we are just point cutting the line to maintain a softer shape. This is about personalising your look.

Parallel Layer: Finished result

The finished result.



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