

Short Rounded Layers

Step by step guide



Short, Rounded Layers: Step-by-Step

Hairlines

Client consultation is the most important part of your work and checking hairlines is an essential element of your hair analysis. The areas to look at are:

- Nape
- Side
- Front
- Crown

You should always look at these areas when the hair is dry and again when it is wet after shampooing. Your client could have used a mousse or gel product on their hair that will give you a false impression of their hairline growth.

Not everyone has a perfect hairline so make sure you check for uneven growth and awkward, moving shapes. You will need to take account of these when you are cutting.

Hair-growth patterns

You need to take your client's hair growth pattern into consideration when you are cutting their hair because some patterns influence how a cut is carried out. The most common ones are:

- Double crown
- Nape whorls

- Calf licks
- Widow's peak

If your client has any of these growth patterns, you should cut without using pressure to allow for the natural movement of the hair.

You may need to cut the sections of hair within the growth patterns longer than the rest of the hair. This allows for the movement of the hair as it springs back to how it falls naturally. The hair looks level even though it has not been cut level.

Quality of hair

The quality of hair means the condition. Good quality hair is easy to style. Hair that is thin and brittle is more difficult so you will need to use styling agents such as mousse or gel.

Quantity

Quantity refers to the density of hair- how much hair is on the head and how thick or fine the hair shape is.

These factors are important when you are thinking about the balance and control of a hair style. For example, it is easy to show volume on thick hair. On thin hair it is more difficult so you need to use styling gels and mousses.

When you are applying chemical treatments, the thickness of your client's hair will dictate how much product and what techniques you use. For example, fine hair can be more resistant to colour and perm treatments.

Texture

There are three types of hair texture:

- Fine
- Medium/normal
- Thick/coarse

The texture of your client's hair affects the size of the sections you take. For thicker hair, you need finer sections to make sure the guideline is visible. You need to see the guideline to know exactly where to cut each section of hair.

In this case, our model's face shape is square.

Her hair type is naturally curly and it's density is above average.

Divide the hair cut into segments: back; side; front; and internal layers.

Facial features and face shape

The shape of your client's face and head are unique. Use your observation skills to identify their individual features.

Your haircut should enhance their good features, eg their eyes and cheek bones, and disguise their less attractive features, eg a heavy jaw or big nose.

The different face shapes are:

Oval, round and heart-shaped - these faces have curved contours ranging from gentle to extreme. A softer hairstyle is more compatible with these face shapes.

Square, rectangle and triangle - these face shapes are angular and solid and have a chiselled look. Sharp, blunt cuts suit these faces much better than soft styles.



Short, Rounded Layers: Step by Step: 2 - Top Box Section

You will create short, rounded layers for this haircut.

Take your first section from the top box area.

Take a section back from either side of the central eye area towards the top of the crown.

Tip:

Keep the hair wet at all times. This will help you work cleanly and create a more precise haircut.



Short, Rounded Layers: Step by Step: 3 - Profile Line

Starting at the crown area, take a section from the centre of the top box area. This will be your profile line.

Hold the hair at 90 degrees from the head and start to cut your line, working forwards.

You should determine the length you want to achieve at the client consultation stage. Our model's hair was already short on top so it was easy to determine the length we would achieve in the finished result.

Tip:

If you client has very long hair, it is particularly important to agree at the consultation stage what length you are aiming for in your finished result.



Short, Rounded Layers: Step by Step: 4 - Front Area

Continue your section towards the front hairline.

If you want to create length at the front hairline, pull the section back and away from the head.

Always pull the hair up at a 90 degree angle to the head.

Notice the angle of our stylist's fingers. They are slightly rounded to achieve a rounded layer.



Short, Rounded Layers: Step by Step: 5 - Blend profile line into back area

Work into the back area, using your central profile line.

To maintain control of your section and help you see your guidelines clearly, your profile line should be no more than the width of one finger.

Make sure the client's head is in a slightly downward position.

Tip:

To create balanced weight distribution and even layers, your profile line must be in the centre of the head at this stage of your haircut.



Short, Rounded Layers: Step by Step: 6 - Short Rounded Layers

Using your profile line from the crown as your guide, blend in the crown area.

Remember to hold the section of hair at a 90 degree angle from the head and keep your fingers curved to follow the shape of the head.

The client's head should be in an upright position to allow you to achieve this angle more easily.



Short, Rounded Layers: Step by Step: 7 - Blending in the occipital area

Work downwards from the crown into the occipital area, blending in your guideline.

Pulling the hair at 90 degrees to the head with maximum tension, cut all the hair to the same length.

Remember to keep the hair wet.



Short, Rounded Layers: Step by Step: 8 - Blending in the nape area

The headshape is rounded at the nape area and the head is flatter. This can make it difficult to achieve the correct angle.

Notice how our stylist is cutting inside the fingers. As you work down into the nape area, you may find it easier to cut do this. But remember to keep the hair at 90 degrees to the head and cut it all to the same length.

Your profile line determines the length of your overall haircut. If you want to cut the hair short at the nape, you will need to create a short profile line.

Tip:

When layering the nape area, you may find it easier to cut inside your fingers. The headshape is flatter here and it is difficult to achieve the necessary angle.

Short, Rounded Layers: Step by Step: 9 - Back Area Layering



The next step of your haircut is to create fan-like sections, coming out from the centre of the head.

Here, our stylist has separated out the sections before cutting. You may find this helpful. It will allow you to see clearly your sectioning pattern.

Remember:

- keep the hair wet at all times;
- pull the hair out at 90 degrees to the head; and
- hold your fingers in a rounded angle to create a rounded layer.

Tip:

Don't round your fingers too much, you will create a heavy haircut. Graduate the angle.

Short, Rounded Layers: Step by Step: 10 - Back Area Layering



Progress through the fan-like sections, working from the centre point at the crown. Using your guideline, work towards the back of the ear.

Notice how our stylist's fingers are slightly curved. This enables the stylist to achieve the correct angle for cutting the layers.



Short, Rounded Layers: Step by Step: 11 - Back Area Layering

Continue working through your sections into the occipital and nape areas. Cut all the hair to the same length.

Repeat the same procedure on the other side of the head, again taking fan-like sections from the central point.

Check the balance of your cut. To achieve balance, it is vital that your sections and cutting angles are the same on both sides.

Tip:

Stand on the opposite side of the head to the side that you are cutting. You will find it more comfortable to work and will be able to see your guidelines more clearly.



Short, Rounded Layers: Step by Step: 12 - Cross-Checking

It is vital that, as soon as you have finished cutting an area of layering in your haircut, you cross-check it against other areas.

When you are cross-checking, work in the opposite direction to your cutting angle:

- If you cut your layering vertically, cross-check horizontally.
- If you cut your layering horizontally, cross-check vertically.

Our stylist has cut vertically down the head shape so they are cross-checking the haircut horizontally.

Tip:

When you cross-check your layering, you should be taking off only a minimum amount of hair, if any at all. If you have to cut much hair off, check that you are not cross-checking at the wrong angle.



Short, Rounded Layers: Step by Step: 13 - Finished Back Area

It is best not to cut the nape hairline this stage of your haircut.

You should have established during your consultation whether your client wants you to create a soft look at the nape. If so, you can add this when you have completed the rest of your haircut.



Short, Rounded Layers: Step by Step: 14 - Blending in the front area

Create a centre parting from the crown to the front hairline.

You can now work the front area in two sections. This will allow you to check the balance of the haircut. It will also provide you with a blending point.



Short, Rounded Layers: Step by Step: 15 - Blending in the front area

Take a fan-shaped section from the top of the crown to behind the ear.

This section will provide you with a guideline. Use this guideline to work your other fan-like sections from the back into the front area.

Remember to hold each section at a 90 degree angle from the head as you work it into the front.

Tip:

Take care when creating your guideline at this stage of your haircut. Because you use it to blend in the front area, it can alter the whole look.



Short, Rounded Layers: Step by Step: 16 - Blending in the front area

Starting at the back of the crown behind the ear, work through the fan-like sections.

Pull the hair out at 90 degrees to the head. Curve your fingers to follow the curve of the head shape.

Continue working up towards your centre parting.



Short, Rounded Layers: Step by Step: 17 - Blending in the front area

As you blend in the front area, remember to:

- keep the hair wet at all times;
- use maximum tension; and
- pull the hair out 90 degrees to the headshape.



Short, Rounded Layers: Step by Step: 18 - Blending in the front area

As you start to work forwards towards the front hairline, take fan-like sections.

Work upwards towards the centre parting.



Short, Rounded Layers: Step by Step: 19 - Front Area

Here, our stylist is using a fan-like sectioning pattern to work around the front area.

At this stage of your haircut, your guideline is very clear. You have one guide at the base of the crown and another from your previous section.

Tip:

Always follow your guideline. To keep a strong, precise guideline, use fine sectioning patterns and keep the hair wet.



Short, Rounded Layers: Step by Step: 20 - Repeat on other side

Our stylist has worked up to the centre parting, reaching the last section on this side of the head.

When you have reached the last section on one side of the head, repeat the same procedure on the other side.

To make sure you achieve a balanced haircut, you should use the same:

- sectioning patterns
- cutting angle
- guidelines

Cross-check as you work and keep the hair wet.



Short, Rounded Layers: Step by Step: 21 - Repeat on other side

As soon as you have finished cutting one area of layering in your haircut, you should cross-check it against other areas.

When you are cross-checking, work in the opposite direction to your cutting angle:

- If you cut your layering vertically, cross-check horizontally.
- If you cut your layering horizontally, cross-check vertically.

Short, Rounded Layers: Step by Step: 22 - Personalising your haircut

Now that you have completed the perimeter, you can personalise your haircut.

With this style, you could blunt cut or point cut into the hair at the nape, side and front areas. Point cutting will eliminate excess length and give you a soft-looking result.

How you personalise your haircut will depend on the finished look you agreed with your client during the consultation stage.



Tip:

No one can teach you how to personalise your haircuts. This is when you can stamp your own creativity on your work.

Step by Step: 23 - Personalising your haircut

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Final stages





Step by Step: 25 - Phew! Finished!

As you can see from our finished result the rounded shape can be seen.

The hair was Blow dried using a Vent brush to create a soft result.



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