

Square Layer



Square Layer: Step-by-Step Guide

A one-length technique is used to create the baseline. This can be blunt cut or serrated depending on the texture.

The hair is combed down to the natural fall and elevated to one finger-width and the line is cut square.

Make a centre parting from the top of the crown down to the centre point at the nape.

This section must be in central or you will end up with an unbalanced haircut.

Take out a diagonal section from the centre to just behind the back of the ear, remembering that clean, even sections produce clean cutting lines.

Using even tension, comb the hair straight down with the small teeth of your cutting comb.

With this technique, the order you progress through the cut is a matter of personal preference. You could choose to work your sections from side to side.

The advantage of working from side to side - cutting one section then cutting a matching section on the other side - is that you can check your haircut as you go.

When you are learning this technique, it is probably better to work your sections from side to side. This allows you to see clearly how the balance and shape of your haircut are developing.

Keep your sections clean and the hair wet.

As you work up towards the crown, you will be able to see your cutting line and graduation more clearly if you tilt the head into an upright position.

Take your final section from the top of the crown to the back of the ear.

Square Layer: Step by Step 2: Side Section

At this stage of your haircut, you need to create a curved cutting line at the sides.

Take a curved section from the temple area into the side area. Comb the hair down and slightly forward. Hold the hair between your fingers as you cut.

Remember the rule: clean sections give you clean cutting lines.

Our stylist has chosen to create a curved cutting line to give the haircut more length at the sides.

Balance your haircut by creating an identical curved section on the other side of the head. Use the same angle for your section and your cutting line.

Before you cut, check that your client's head is still in an upright position. If the client's changes position much, you will not be able to achieve a balanced haircut.

Remember that you can work this stage of your haircut side to side.

Tip:

Your sections should correspond to your cutting line. If you want a curved cutting line, you must create a curved section. If you want a horizontal cutting line, you must create a horizontal section.





Square Layer: Step by Step 3: Profile Line

A profile line is taken from the front hairline to the top of the crown.

The hair is combed at 90-degrees from the head and point cut.

The length of this section will vary from head to head depending on the overall length of your finished result.

Remember this is an important section as it will determine your overall length.

Square Layer: Step by Step 4



You will now start to layer the hair using square layering.

This technique allows you to maintain length and weight at the sides of a haircut.

Create a sectioning pattern across the head from ear to ear, dividing the front from the back. This stage of the cut focuses on the front part of the hair.

Take your guideline from one side area. Lift the hair straight up from the head. You are creating square layers so your fingers should be kept square to the head shape. As you lift the hair up, some of the side area hair will drop down. This will give you your guideline.

Working with your guideline, continue across to the other side of the head.

Square Layer: Step by Step 5: Side Section



You will now start to blend in the crown area to the finished back area.

Take your guideline from the top of the crown and create a fan-like pattern of sections.

Always create fine sections. This will make it easier for you to follow your guidelines.

This haircut is achieved in stages. If you ever lose your guideline, you can simply go back to the beginning of the stage you are working on.

As you work through this stage of the haircut, hold your sections square to the head shape

Work outwards from the centre point of the crown area towards the back of the ear.

Our stylist is holding the hair up and square to the head shape. Use this technique as you blend in the crown area to the back area.

Repeat the same procedure on the opposite side of the head, working outwards towards the back of the ear.

Square layering is a way of building length and weight into your haircuts. Work with a fan-like pattern of sections and do not over-direct the hair or your haircut will be heavier on one side than the other.

Square Layer: Step by Step 6: Cross Checking



When you have finished layering, you must cross-check all the areas of your haircut.

You should not have to remove much hair when you are cross-checking. If you find you are cutting off a lot of hair from one area, go back and check that area against your original guideline.

Remember to cross-check the hair in the opposite direction to your cutting angle:

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

Whatever haircut you are creating, you should always keep a mental note of the techniques and cutting angles you are using. This will get easier with practice.



Square Layer: Step by Step 7: Fringe Section

Take a triangle section from the centre parting out to the corner of the eye. This will become your fringe section. Comb the rest of the hair away.

Depending on the front hairline shape, the length and shape will vary from head to head.

Square Layer step 8

Cutting the fringe section.



Square layer step 9

The Final result.



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