

Bangs

Consider supermodel Heidi Klum's blunt banded look. While the thick, straight fringe offsets her dainty features, it might not play as well on a woman with coarse, curly hair and broad features. The bang concept, however, could be adapted for another attractive look.

Lisa Smith, owner of Serendipity Salon in Funkstown, says there are ways to make the cut fit the person. If someone likes the trendy chunky bang look but has curly hair and broad features, you might try soft, side-swept bangs and soften the edges to make it work better.

"You take the principle and apply it in a way that looks best on that person," Lisa says.

Another option for the coarse or curly-haired is to shield hair from damage with a thermal protectant, then to flat-iron locks, creating a severe sweep of bangs across the forehead. Renee cautions women who wear their hair curly but straighten it on occasion to expect significant variation in bang length depending upon styling.

"Your bangs can look long and sweeping when you wear your hair curly, but when you straighten it, it may be in your eyes," she says.

For hanging bangs, consider shaping with pomade, pinning, clipping or tucking.

"A soft, workable spray will hold the style but not make it feel stiff," Lisa says.

Bobs

One of the most popular cuts of the moment is the inverted or stacked bob, a la Victoria Beckham.

"That is the style I am getting so many people asking for. It's shorter in the back and longer toward the face. I think it will carry on at least through fall," Lisa says.

The stacked bob allows for some variation in length. "A shorter length can help accentuate bone structure for some people. You can use the way hair falls when it's finished to accentuate the cheekbones and the jaw," Lisa says.

The coif also suits a variety of hair types and textures.

"It will work with most straight or curly, fine, medium or thick hair," Renee says. "You start cutting at a pivot point and work toward the crown area in a v-shape. It allows someone with thinner hair to look like they have more hair."

While the cut shines with well-managed curls, wash-n-go women with extremely thick, coiled tendrils might want to steer clear.

"If the hair is extremely thick with curl, we can alter the cut. But I wouldn't recommend it for someone who doesn't know how to control her hair with a flat iron," Renee says. "If there is an extreme amount of hair with a lot of curl, and depending on face shape and build, you don't want to look like a big head of hair coming at somebody."

A daring spin on the stacked bob is the asymmetrical bob similar to those seen in the '80s, only with gentler lines. "Some people hear asymmetrical and remember the strong over-the-ear on one side, down-to-the-neck on the other side lines. Now the asymmetrical look is more soft, not as threatening," Renee says.

Like the stacked bob, people with most hair types and textures can pull off the asymmetrical look, given a reasonable degree of commitment.

"These styles and shapes can work on any texture for the most part, but clients' styling habits do play a part in choosing a look," Renee says. "I see people come in the

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Tammy Shindle gives an asymmetrical style to Karen Nave at Bella Salon.

Photograph by RIC DUGAN