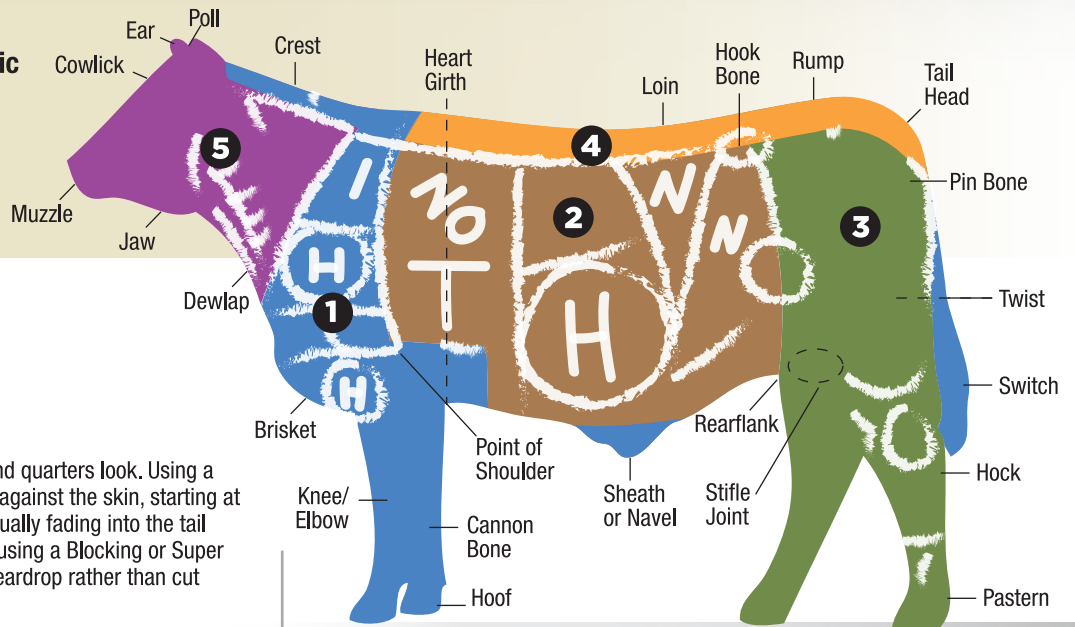


# CATTLE FITTING GUIDE

Use this guide to get familiar with basic anatomy and cattle fitting processes from our Andis Education Team.

For more information visit [andisgroomingcollege.com](http://andisgroomingcollege.com)



## CLIPPING PHASES

### 1 Tail

The smaller the tail appears, the larger the hind quarters look. Using a Medium Blending blade, hold the tail and clip against the skin, starting at the top of the twist and working upward, gradually fading into the tail head. Clip the tail switch just below the hock using a Blocking or Super Blocking blade. Remember to round it like a teardrop rather than cut straight across.

**POINTS TO LOCATE:** Top of twist, pin bones and tail switch

### Chest Floor/Brisket & Navel/Sheath

Using a #31-15 or Medium Blending blade, shorten and smooth the chest floor so it is even with the tail. Clip the chest floor and sheath as tight as possible. On heifers, only clip the navel hair if it hangs below the belly hairline.

**POINTS TO LOCATE:** Chest floor/brisket and navel/sheath

### Top of Neck

A straight, longer-looking neck makes an impression in the show ring. Clip the high points at the top of shoulders, crest and poll using a Medium Blending blade, then switch to a Blocking or Super Blocking blade to blend the points together. Remember to alternate combing and clipping.

**POINTS TO LOCATE:** Top of shoulders, crest and poll

### Forearm/Shoulder

Start clipping on the offside (left side) of your calf. Use a Blocking or Super Blocking blade on the high points at the ball of the forearm and ball of shoulder, clipping up and across at a 45° angle toward the ear. Clip stray hairs on the front and back of the front legs. Still using a Blocking or Super Blocking blade, tip and blend from the knee/elbow to each high point and then from each high point to the point of shoulder. Use a 5/8HT blade if the hair is shorter or stiffer to tip the area above the ball of the shoulder and round the withers into the shoulder area. If the hair is long and soft in this area, block it with a Blocking or Super Blocking blade.

**POINTS TO LOCATE:** Ball of forearm, ball of shoulder and point of shoulder

### 2 Belly/Side Wall

Clipping and cleaning up the belly line will naturally make the whole calf look smoother. Using a Blocking or Super Blocking blade, even up the long hairs, yet keep some length for a nice rounded underline that blends into the side wall and flank. Clip the high area of the side wall at a 45° angle toward the ears. Tip the area marked with a "T" at an angle as well. Leave the area marked with a "2" longer for a softer feel, but be sure to tip it if you have a fuller calf. Blend hair into the two areas marked with an "N" and "NO."

**POINTS TO LOCATE:** Hook bone, stifle, flank, point of flank and middle/round portion of side wall

### 3 Back Legs

Judges like to see a straight leg with a slight bend to it. Using a Blocking or Super Blocking blade, clean up hairs on the front of the leg. Next, flatten the hock cap with the same blade – the more you take off, the straighter the leg becomes. Move to the high point at the side of the hock; alternate combing and clipping upward at an angle but leave enough hair for depth. Mark the natural muscle line and clip between it and the side of the hock. Clean up all the joints and blend hair together.

**POINTS TO LOCATE:** Pastern, hock cap, side of hock joint and leg flex point

### Hind Quarters & Upper Hip

The hind quarters are important for creating width on your calf. Use a Medium Blending blade at a 45° angle to back drag the area between the pin bones and top of twist. Blend the area into the hind quarters and tail head. Using a Blocking or Super Blocking blade, smooth the hair between the jump muscle and grow bone and blend the hair on the upper hip into the tail head to give the illusion of a wider, flatter hip.

**POINTS TO LOCATE:** Pastern, hock cap, side of hock joint and leg flex point

### 4 Topline & Tail Head

The topline is what the judge will see in the profile lineup, so clip the calf to create a wide, flat back. Use a Blocking or Super Blocking blade to clip the high points between the shoulders and the middle of the back and the jump muscle and the middle of the back in the direction of the hair growth. Finish by blending from hip to shoulder. Getting the tail head too high or too low can hinder the look of your calf. Mark and clip the tail head.

**POINTS TO LOCATE:** Pastern, hock cap, side of hock joint and leg flex point

### 5 Head & Neck

There should be a smooth transition from the head and jaw to the neck and shoulders. Use a Medium Blending blade to back drag down the front of the neck and blend the point of shoulder into the cowlick. Clean up any lines with a T-84 blade. Use a Blocking or Super Blocking blade to blend the top and side of the neck into the shoulder. On the head, use a flat head clipper with #31-15 blade to clip upward between the eyes, fade the poll to the ears and then clip the nose whiskers and around the jaw.

**POINTS TO LOCATE:** Cowlick, point of shoulder, poll, jaw and side of face

## RECOMMENDED CLIPPING PRODUCTS



Xplorer™ Clipper  
#68080



31-15  
General Purpose  
#70325  
For finishing after medium  
blending & for back dragging



Excel™ 5-Speed+ Clipper  
#63250



T-84  
#21641  
For finishing after  
medium blending and  
for back dragging



5/8HT  
#63920  
For hair that has  
a little bit of length  
with little or no undercoat



Medium Blending  
#64330  
For back dragging, raking,  
fading and blending



Super Blocking  
#64340  
For shaping, tipping or topping  
and clipping paint and glue.  
Ideal for beginners



andis®



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Check out these tips and other expert educational material at [andisgroomingcollege.com](http://andisgroomingcollege.com)

## EXPERT TIPS

- Always start with a clean, dry animal.
- Clip in a well-lit area and proper chute.
- Start clipping with the tail, then chest. This will give points to start blending.
- Always clip with the hair growth except when using attachment combs or a 5/8HT blade.
- You can always take more off, but you can't put it back on.
- Take breaks often – step back and look at the animal to adjust the cut where needed.
- Do all your primary clipping at home one week prior to the show.
- Never clip with the head tied down – make sure the head is at proper show height for best results.
- Clipping is about locating certain points on the animal and then blending them together – learn these body points well for better results.
- Clip the shoulder tighter and leave a longer topline on heifers for a more feminine look.
- Never keep the clipper where it could get stepped on by your animal.
- Keep the blade drive cap on the clipper to protect the clipper motor.
- Always ensure your animal has fresh water, food, clean bedding and keep your area clean.
- Clean and lubricate your blade every 30 minutes.



Always do the head LAST – this typically upsets the animal and doing it last will be safer for both you and the animal.



If your animal has a lower chest floor, leave the tail switch longer to balance out the look.



When using a corded clipper, place the cord around your neck to keep it from dropping or getting tangled.

## MAINTAIN YOUR EQUIPMENT

Use Andis® Cool Care Plus® Spray to clean & disinfect. Oil your blades regularly with Andis® Clipper Oil.



Cool Care Plus®  
#12750



Blade Care Plus®  
#12570

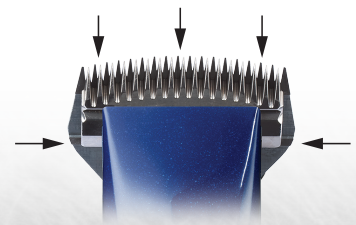


Andis® Clipper Oil  
#12501



Blade Brush  
#12415

**Use the 5-Point Oiling System:**  
Three drops of oil across the teeth of the blade and 1 drop at each back rail.



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