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8 Hour-Mastering Hair Coloring

Performance Objective and Introduction

This class is a presentation of the theory and practice of hair color and chemistry. The topics that will be discussed and demonstrated includes terminology, application and workplace knowledge related to hair color and chemistry also Color theory which teaches the basic principles and foundations for hair color. The focus of this class is to allow the student to discover how to design with color, create depth, and add texture and excitement to a hair design. The class will also demonstrate Hair coloring simulation and appropriate use and application of hair coloring products.

Hair coloring is one of the most rewarding services offered at a salon. Many stylist shy away from color because of the chemistry, possible problems, and mistakes that could happen. This course will highlight basics of the coloring process, and discuss the products and techniques to help you elevate your confidence level as you increase your knowledge. For those with more advanced hair-coloring experience, this course will refresh your training and introduce some new concepts.

Why Many Stylists Often Fear Haircoloring

The biggest reason anyone is ever afraid is lack of knowledge. Timid about attempting haircoloring, stylists often discourage people from trying a tint or color effect. Yes, this strange phenomenon occurs more times than you would think! Stylists have actually talked customers out of trying color, resulting in the loss of larger service revenues, retail sales, and eventually the loss of the client, who is dis-appointed by not receiving the service requested.

Other reasons stylists are afraid to try color or suggest it to clients are: a previous experience that was a disaster, lack of confidence arising from lack of experience, and fear of client rejection with the finished look. Either they don't know what to do with colors or they are afraid to try! Fear keeps the potentially successful stylist from becoming a true technician.

Although most students understand that practice makes perfect, it is perhaps more difficult to understand that in cosmetology, perfect might be a rut. You might learn something to perfection and never go past that point. Hopefully this course will broaden your understanding, first and foremost. Beyond that, it will challenge you to experiment, to think past the immediate moment, and to go

forward with confidence, even if you tried something and it failed. One of the best ways to become successful is to know failure.

BASIC CHEMISTRY

There are some very specific rules that come into play with hair coloring. This page outlines the basic chemistry involved and highlights some of the most critical rules to keep in mind. Knowing where you're starting, where you're going and what to expect along the way is the best way to ensure good results from your color.

Here's the formula... nice 'n simple...

Hair Coloring Formula

Virgin Hair (no artificial color present) Underlying Pigment + Artificial Pigments _____ Final Result	Previously Colored Hair Underlying Pigment of Regrowth + Existing Artificial Pigments + Artificial Pigments in New Color _____ Final Result

Step One - Identify Natural Haircolor Level

An international system is used to identify the level of darkness of your hair, 1 being the darkest (black) and 10 being the lightest (blonde). Match your hair (just the regrowth if it's previously colored) to the hair color swatch below that most closely resembles the darkness of your haircolor...not necessarily the tone, which could be warm (red), cool (ash), or neutral, but the degree of lightness or darkness.

C.O.E.

Step Two - Identify Your Underlying Pigment

A hair coloring process that involves any amount of hydrogen peroxide (which can include some semi-permanent formulas) will bring out the natural underlying pigment of your hair.

The "natural looking" tone that's visible as your hair color is not the true tone when it comes to the chemistry of hair coloring.

Think of it as a surface layer that's stripped away, and laying in wait underneath are the bold and brassy tones of your underlying pigment.

The chart above clearly illustrates which color of underlying pigment corresponds with the natural level you identified in step one. So now you know what you're dealing with.

Step Three - Understand the Color Wheel

The color wheel is a universal chart which shows how all colors are created from just three basic (primary) colors. Here's how it goes...

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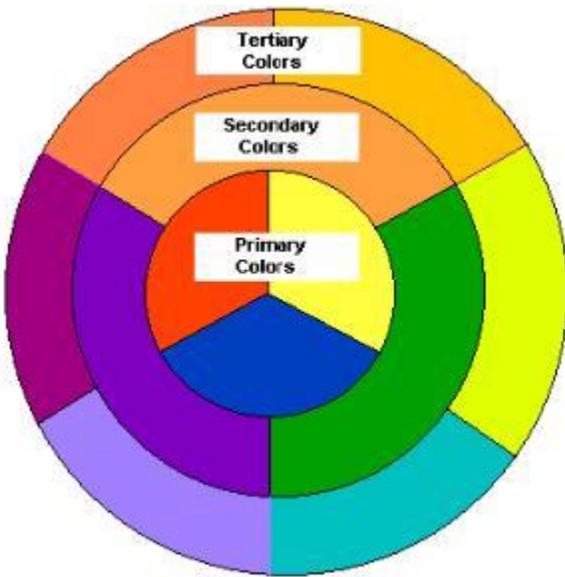
Primary Colors (inner circle) - Red, Yellow, and Blue

Secondary Colors (middle ring) - Orange, Green, and Purple
Secondary colors are made by mixing 2 primary colors together:

Red + Yellow = Orange

Red + Blue = Purple

Blue + Yellow = Green

Tertiary Colors (outer ring)
Created by mixing primary and secondary colors together:

Yellow + Orange = Orange/Yellow

Yellow + Green = Yellow/Green (lime green)

Blue + Green = Blue/Green

Blue + Purple = Blue/Violet

Red + Purple = Red/Violet

Red + Orange = Red/Orange

Why is the hair color wheel so important?

1) All hair color is comprised of different ratios of the primary colors (red, yellow, blue).

2) It clearly illustrates which colors neutralize which...find the *primary color* you want to tone away and look directly across the chart to the opposite *secondary color.*

Mixing all three primary colors equally creates BROWN

So creating a *neutral* tone is achieved by mudding out the underlying pigment using an *opposing* color.

Because underlying pigments are all reds, oranges, and yellows, you must consider that you are not beginning with a blank canvas...you're adding color to color, so the results will be a combination of all elements.

The Law of Color

You can enhance anyone's appearance with color! Understanding color theory is as easy as knowing the simple **Law of Color** and relating it to *addition and sub-traction.* Believe it or not, hairdressers did not invent any of the simple color laws, which trace back to Isaac Newton. Around the same time the apple fell on his head, he discovered that when white light passes through a prism, that light reflects six colors, which make up the colors of the rainbow and are the basis for the **color wheel.** These six colors are:

Primary colors: yellow, red, and blue

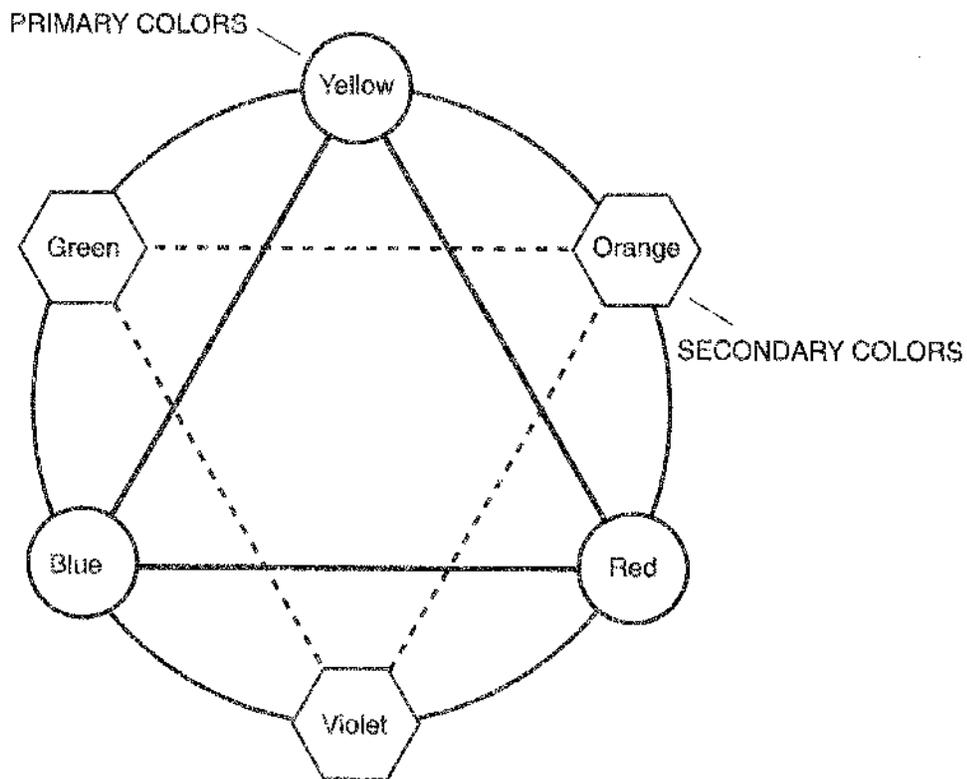Secondary colors: orange, violet, and green

Primary colors are colors in their purest form. They are the three strongest and most influential pigments! Any color on earth can be broken down to yellow, red, or blue. Yellow is the lightest primary and *is warm* in value. It is the color hair colorists use most, for it creates the most highlighted effect. Red is the medium-bright primary that reflects more light than the other colors; therefore, it catches the eye first. It is also the strongest of the *warm* primary colors. Blue is the darkest, strongest primary. Any time more blue than red or yellow is used in a formula, the color will not only be darker, but less bright. It is the only primary with a cool pigment.

Secondary colors are created when two primaries are mixed together. There are three secondary colors. Orange is the strongest *warm* secondary color and is made by mixing yellow and red. Violet is made when red and blue are mixed. It is a cool secondary because it is based on the cool, strongest primary. Green, the secondary color with the most coo/ tones, is made by mixing yellow and blue.

When each of the three primaries is placed at the point of a triangle, the three secondaries will fit on points of another triangle.
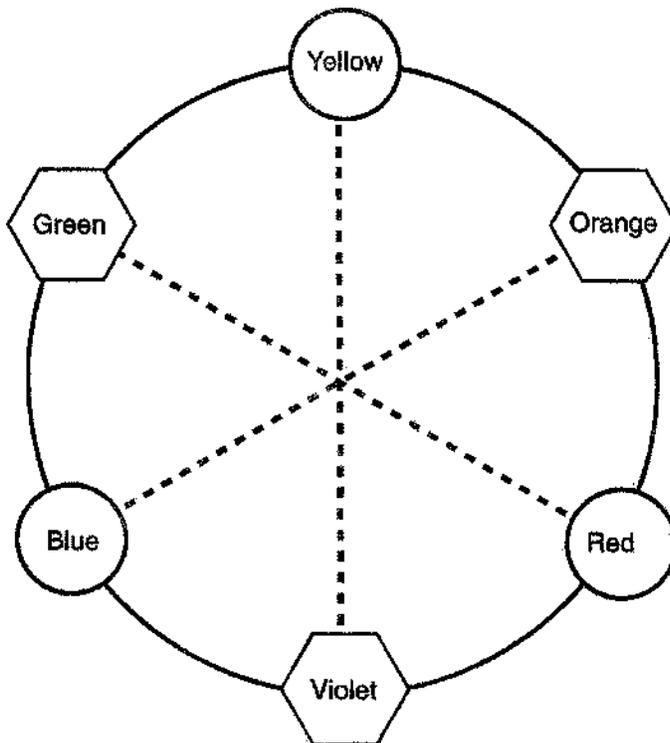
PRIMARY COLORS

Yellow

Green   Orange

SECONDARY COLORS

Blue   Red
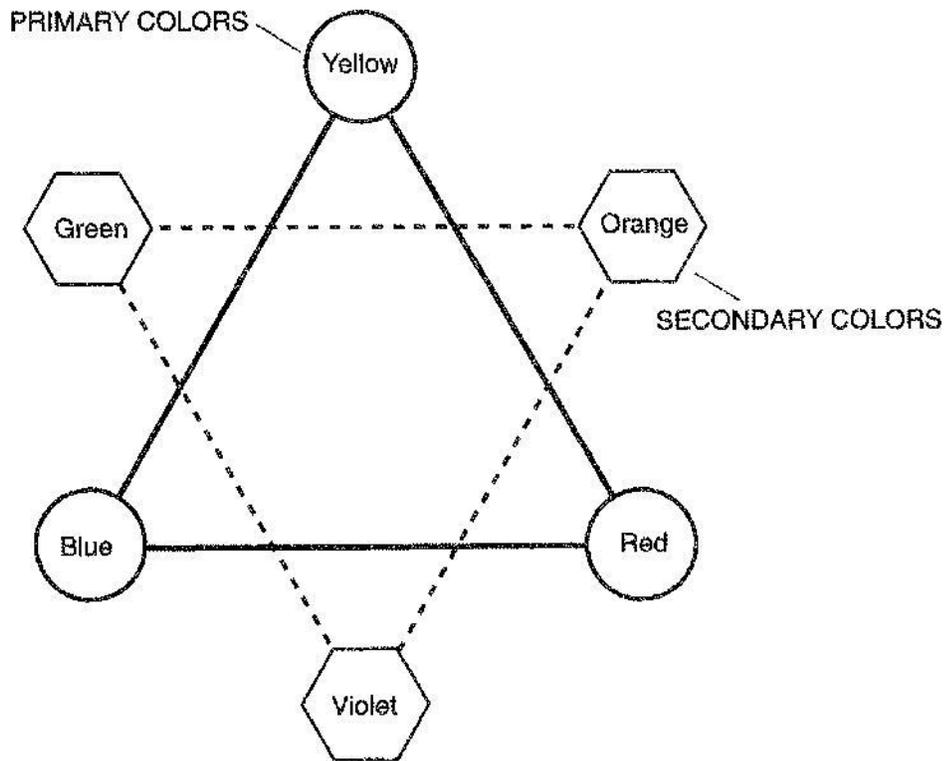
Violet

This configuration forms the outline of a circle or wheel, hence the term **color wheel**.

PRIMARY COLORS

Yellow

Green   Orange

SECONDARY COLORS

Blue   Red

Violet

The wheel divides into halves-a cool side and a warm side. Green, blue, and violet are cool: red, orange, and yellow are warm.
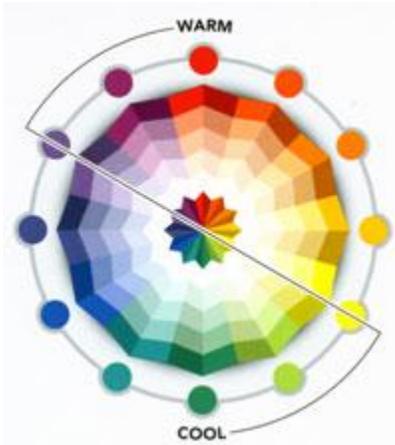

Note that each primary color on the wheel is opposite a secondary color. These **opposites** are the true key to success in hair coloration.

If colors are opposite each other on the color wheel, they are called **complementary colors.** So at does that mean? **Complementary** means that they complement one another. For example, when yellow is placed next to violet, both colors look their most vibrant and attractive. The same is true with orange

and blue or green and red. When two complementary colors are mixed, however, they neutralize or cancel each other, making brown (center of the wheel).
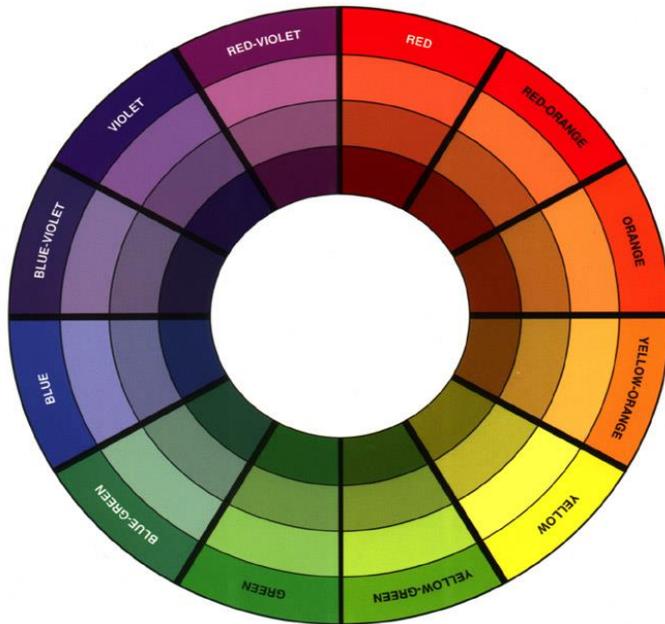
All other colors or combinations of colors are called **quaternary colors.** Although these colors are the most varied and widespread, they are not essential in understanding the color wheel because manufacturers describe their products' color bases in terms of primaries, secondaries, or tertiaries.

This theory is known as the **Law of Color,** and it is universally accepted. It is the key to predictable, successful color service.

The Law of Color never changes!

Here are some more important terms that will help to enhance your understanding of the laws of color.

Highlights: Probably one of the first innovations in hair coloring, highlights brightens and adds shine. Highlights work best in warm shades of gold, honey, amber, and reds and can be applied with permanent hair color or created with over-the-counter hair mascara, such as Christian Dior's Mascara Flash Highlights or Revlon Professional Luminates, both of which wash out after one shampoo.

Twilighting: When you want a lighter hair color to show a subtle change, twilighting is the answer. Twilighting tones down too-bright hair colors by adding a few darker tones. Twilights are closely related to lowlights.

Lowlights: A hair coloring technique that adds real depth to hair color. Like twilights, low lights add darker tones and soften the look of over-lightened hair or add dimension to hair color that looks flat. A

skilled stylist can weave up to three different colors into your hair by pulling a few strands here and there through a weave cap for a subtle look or foiling chunks of your hair for a dramatic, trendy look.

Veiling: Brightens and enhances old flat hair color by applying a semi-permanent glaze in a richer tone over a permanent shade.

Chunking: Takes large, random sections of hair and infuses them with new color. Chunking is a hair coloring technique that gives dramatic impact to your hairstyle, often by adding bright, trendy colors to natural hair color.

SHADE SYSTEM

The original hair coloring system used as a permanent, penetrating tint is called the **Shade System.** It was and still is very effective. The Shade System measures color by its tonal value, such as reds, naturals, golds, browns, and so forth. While many technicians still work with the Shade System, most manufacturers today pro-mote the Level System as easier, and as producing better results.

LEVEL SYSTEM

The Level System can totally eliminate the fear of haircoloring and remove all the guesswork from tinting hair. A simple, three-part formula is all you use to determine and achieve great end results.

The following information is devoted mainly to the exploration and explanation of the Level System of haircoloring. It includes advanced information usually only provided to the educators who are teaching other professionals. Hopefully this information is presented simply, so it becomes basic color knowledge. A good **philosophy** to follow is: *the more you know, the less you fear.*

The term "hair coloring", as used in this course refers to both the science and art of changing the hair color by using a variety of products and techniques.

Definition of the Level System

For those who are not clear on what the **Level System** is, the definition is simple--it is the numerical system of judging color in stages, or numbers, one level being a measure of light or dark in the hair. The system assigns a number for measuring dark to light without regard to tonal value. Level measures are usually repre-sented by the numbers I through 10, each indicating one equal measure (level). However, because there is no universal measurement of a level, one company's level chart may vary from another's. Most of them are similar because there is a limit to the differences between light and dark.

10. Lightest blond
9. Very light blond
8. Light blond
7. Medium blond
6. Dark blond
5. Light brown
4. Medium brown
3. Dark brown
2. Very dark brown
1. Black

Think of the Level System as being a ladder. The first or bottom step is # I (usually signifying black); with # I 0 the highest step on the ladder (usually representing very pale blonde). The lower the number the darker the color; and the higher the number, the lighter the color. If you are presently more familiar with the Shade System, three to four shades equal approximately one level in the Level System. The Level System colors always use numbers to indicate **levels** (the measure of light and dark) and letters to refer to **tonal value,** the major contributor of pigment in a particular series.

Example: I0N means level 10 natural, 9G means level 9 gold, 10S means level 10 silver Some use more than one letter, indicating contributions of more than one dominant tone.

Example: GB (gold, beige).

If you're a blonde (level 7), trying to go lighter, without the brassy tones...your underlying pigment is yellow. You must use a purple based (ash) color to neutralize the underlying pigment. Any darker than level 7 and the orange underlying pigment comes into play, for which you need blue based color, except blondes don't contain enough blue to tone out orange, so you'll need to pre-lighten to bring up the underlying pigment to a yellow (preferably pale yellow) tone, then apply a purple based (ash) hair toner (semi-permanent color).

Alternatively, if you're a dark brown (level 3) and you want to lighten up to a slightly golden brown (level 6). You'd need to consider that you're dealing with a very strong red-orange underlying pigment, so adding gold (orange based) color will amplify the orange and bring out the brass. Go for a neutral shade, or even slightly cool to mud out some, but not all of the orange.

So you see, each hair coloring process has its own set of variables. If your hair is previously colored, the formula becomes slightly more complicated as you must take into account the artificial pigment already on the hair. In this case it's imperative you know that color does not remove artificial pigment, so if you want to lighten already colored hair...you're going to need bleach...and it will lighten slower than the natural regrowth.

Another option would be to use a hair color removal product, which only removes the artificial pigment. Also tricky, and more expensive, but in the long run, it can save you both dollars and further damage to your hair.

Categories of Color

The Level System consists of four basic categories of color. These categories are:

The B category, dark brown and black: People born with black or dark brown hair Levels 1, 2, and sometimes 3 are in the black dark brown category. They may have some reddish highlights. Their hair darkens with age until it turns gray.

The W category, warm brown: People born with blonde hair that gradually darkens through adolescence. Even before the hair begins to gray the natural hair color loses its warmth and starts to

flatten. The hair colorist must keep in mind that the original undertones are still present although the hair has turned gray. These clients can generally wear red tones very well and often request them. They also wear highlights very well. The warm category can include levels from 5 to 10.

The L category, light brown: People born with blonde hair that remains blonde through adolescence. Their hair gradually darkens in their teens to a soft brown color. The soft brown category is usually level 5 or 6.

The category red: People born with red hair that remains red through-out adolescence. Their hair gradually darkens or loses warmth with age. The red category usually falls into the levels 5, 6, and 7.

Blonde has not been noted as a category. People with blonde hair levels 8, 9, and I0; do not usually color their hair until it darkens, although they often add even lighter or brighter highlights for fashion effects. At this point, they are often in the L category.

The Level System is the simplest and most easily performed system of color formulation, providing clear-cut steps to follow with no guesswork. In addition, many level systems contain lower **ammonia** levels than their shade system **counter-parts,** creating predictable, beautiful results.

PREPARE YOUR CLIENT'S HAIR
For best results (and to avoid common color mishaps), make sure your client's hair is ready for the color. People no *longer regard hair as merely a protective fiber*. In today's society, hair expresses **image,** a client's fashion and life-style preferences.

Whether your client requires monthly retouches or simply naturalized effects that last for months, color is a repeat business when properly done. To look its best, color must be maintained!

With proper consultation, you can customize your color service, catering to every whim and need your clients have. The public continues to spend more time and money to look good. Haircoloring is the most profitable service offered in salons today. Why? A retouch client averages 10 to 12 visits per year! If you hit on the right formula for the client, it equals loyalty! *Clients are very loyal when it comes to color.*

Hair Color Ideas

To come up with amazing hair color ideas, you need to explore the unlimited color palette you are working with. In addition, keep the latest hair coloring and styling trends in mind for proper guidance.

So, make use of the ideas given below to spruce up your innate sense of fashion. Apply your creativity and modify these basic ideas to suit your needs. Most importantly, identify your skin tone and select the shades accordingly.

C.O.E.

Your clients' lustrous locks will enhance their overall personality. Thus, it is essential to pick hair colors that you can comfortably pull off. If you are going for a drastic change such as going from brunette to blonde or vice versa, you will have to adjust your make-up too.


Those who do not want to commit to the care required for maintenance of all-over hair color can opt for strategically placed highlights and lowlights (done near roots).

C.O.E.

To get impressive results, it is best to use the balayage hair coloring technique. Another fantastic and easy hair color idea is to have peek-a-boo-highlights, particularly on front sections and lower layers.

Unless you are interested in a bold and funky hairdo, pick colors that look natural yet attractive. For instance, you can experiment with sun-kissed or bronde (brown + blonde) hair color. More often than not, incredible hair coloring ideas tend to add depth and dimension to your hair.

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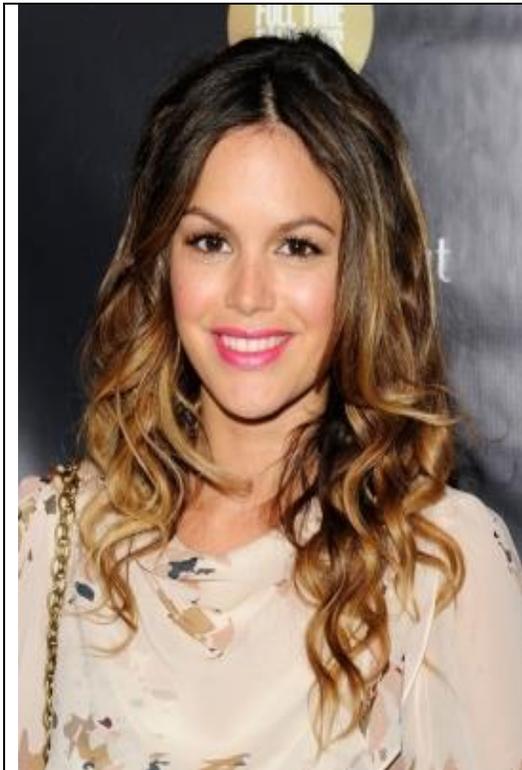
You can pump up your style with latest ombre hair color. It involves having a darker color at the roots and progressively lighter at the mid-section and ends.

In fact, ombre/color streaming is one of the hottest hair color trends for 2011. Brunettes can use this trend to lighten their boring dark tresses. Plus, it requires less frequent touch-ups as compared to traditional highlights.

While following this trend, however, do not neglect the golden rule of staying within 2-3 shades of your usual hair color.

Two tone hair color ideas are also gaining huge popularity nowadays. For this, choose contrasting shades to create a gorgeous two-tone or even multi-tone effect. Try to pick shades that bring out the beauty of your locks, depending on your hairstyle.

C.O.E.

Shades of red, especially the darker tones look awesome on black and brown hair. Moreover, it is a great option for those who have freckles.

As you age, it is better to stay close to soft and copper gold reds rather than playing with deep wine red tones.

However, if you have a ruddy skin tone with red undertones then avoid red hair color; instead, pick golden or honey brown tones.
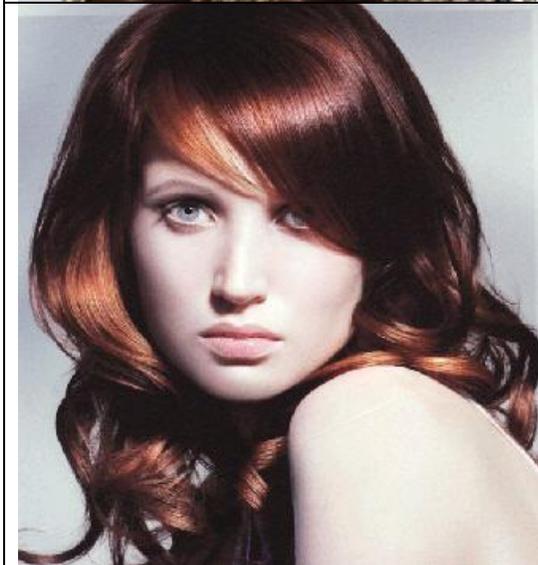
You may also consider rich chocolate brown hair color with light caramel highlights. Auburn is another amazing choice.

Those with a tanned complexion can experiment with coffee brown shade. Remember, brown is considered suitable for nearly all skin tones.

Shades of brown can be produced with the help of henna. It serves as an organic hair color and hence, does not damage your hair.

C.O.E.

Honey colored highlights look fabulous on blonde hair. Those with edgy hairstyles can try unconventional, vibrant colors like hot pink, blue, fuchsia, purple, white, and so on.

When using colors and hairstyle to express your individuality, you can opt for emo or scene hair colors as well. If you are not interested in all-over hair color, you may use the desired color on the bangs only.

Tips for Choosing Hair Colors

If you have a warm skin tone then warm hair colors are perfect for you, particularly in cases where eye color is also brown, hazel or green.

For example, you can go for chestnut, rich golden brown, auburn, honey, caramel blonde and other similar shades.

Cool skin tones, on the other hand, look best with cool colors like ash brown, ash blonde, platinum, etc.

Those who have a light complexion, and dark eye color can go with any hair color as per their preference. Similarly, those with dusky skin and light eye color need not be fussy when selecting shades for coloring their hair.

In case you have a neutral skin tone, you may consider getting beige-blonde or sandy-blonde highlights.

Strawberry or copper hair highlights would look flattering on olive skin tones.

Funky Hair Color Ideas

Funky hair color ideas work best on edgy haircuts for short, medium as well as long hair. In addition, you need to stay in sync with the latest trends in hairstyles and colors to help you make a brilliant choice. Hair color ideas for funky hairdos usually incorporate bold and contrasting shades. While picking such unconventional colors, though, make sure that they go well with your skin tone and eye color.

The most obvious options for funky hair colors include pink, blue, purple, orange, fluorescent yellow, green, blonde, turquoise, red, copper, burgundy, violet, and so on.

Gorgeous highlights and lowlights in various colors are usually considered better than monotonous all-over hair color. Plus, they are relatively easier to maintain and require less frequent touch ups.

Multi-tonal highlights, when strategically placed, create a stunning effect even with usual shades of brown and blonde.

Besides, you may consider going for rainbow hues on your hair to express your bold and open attitude.

Another idea is to try peek-a-boo-highlights in funky colors.

Those who love to be different can try punk type or emo/scene hair color ideas to add spunk to their style.

Brunettes, especially the ones with a darker complexion should select deep color tones like auburn, dark red, deep fuchsia red, black, rich, dark magenta, etc.

Apart from this, tints of golden blonde and light brown tend to accentuate bright-colored eyes.

C.O.E.

Blondes, on the other hand, can experiment with light and flirty candy tones. Nevertheless, if you want to create a funky and fashionable look but feel that the bold hues would look crazy on you, you may pick more sensible colors and use them creatively to add beauty to your hair.

To keep your style simple yet stunning, just color the end strands or the layers beneath the crown and use brighter colors on the bangs. Make sure you apply good-quality hair colors to avoid unnecessary hair damage.

Depending on your personality, another funky hair color idea is to opt for freakish neon highlights like electric blue, pink, orange, etc.

You could also come up with some creative ideas, for instance, tiger stripped highlights.

In case you are not interested in the maintenance and care required for color-treated tresses, you can opt for dyed hair extensions.

However, you will have to learn the details regarding proper use of such extensions before actually applying them.

If you are interested in funky hair color ideas but just want to sport an unusual look for a special occasion, consider using temporary dyes (sprays and gels)

instead of permanent hair colors. You may also use semi-permanent colors.

Scene Hair Color Ideas

Scene hair color ideas are quite similar to hair color ideas for emo hairstyles, but they tend to be more varied and colorful than the latter.

As scene hairstyles incorporate lots of layers, you can use several hair colors to express your individuality.

The overall influence of vibrant colors and choppy scene haircut with side bangs helps create a strategically messy appearance.
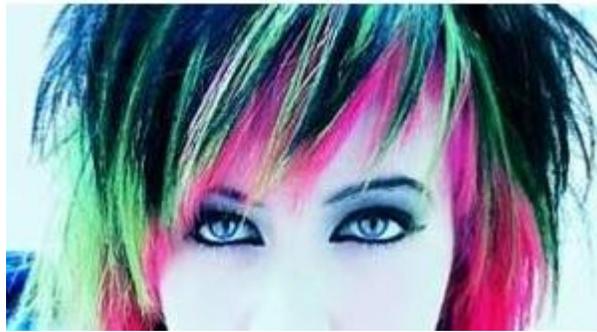
These colors indicate that scene boys and girls are inevitably more confident, cheerful and social.

The most popular scene hair color idea involves coloring your hair black and then adding neon highlights on them.

You may also add streaks of emo colors in brighter shades. Preferably, choose colors that complement your skin tone and suit your hair, whether short, medium or long.

If you are interested in a bold and unique look, you may use rainbow colors

on your locks.

Opting for chic highlights is a great way to add a number of colors at various sections of your mane. Plus, maintenance of hair highlights is easier than that of all-over hair color.

Horizontal stripes of colors on highlights are also gaining huge popularity. You can include multi-colors to create a fun yet gorgeous look.

Scene hair color ideas usually lay emphasis on candy tones.

Colored streaks on bangs around the face look stunning on such hairstyles. Hot pink, electric sky blue and purple are some of the most common colors used for this purpose.

Scene hair colors are mostly used on basic black or dark-colored tresses. Nevertheless, if you do not want to darken your hair, you may go for blonde instead.

Brunettes can go for bright red streaks, especially on the inner layers. Shades of auburn shall also look cool on dark hair.

Blondes can experiment with alluring lowlights combined with chunky highlights. Contrasting colors enhance the appearance of scene hairstyles.

Green looks great on under layers both in dark as well as light colored tresses.

Those with short, spiky hairstyles can choose to color the tips only.

Men's Hair Color Ideas

Unlike the popular misconception, men's hair color ideas are not merely limited to covering the grays. Like hair colors for women, men's hair colors also vary depending on seasons. That is, during winters, there is more emphasis on darker tones and vice versa for summers.

Flip through various hair coloring guides and magazines to determine colors that would be attractive yet appropriate on your hairstyle.

For example, using tone on tone color is an excellent men's hair color idea nowadays.

Nowadays, more and more men are taking interest in latest hair color trends to add zing to their style. Given below are a few tips and tricks to help you find suitable colors for your locks.

The most important suggestion for choosing the right hair color involves selecting a color that suits your complexion.

Therefore, those with darker skin color should opt for dark shades, whereas the fairer ones can consider light colors. In addition, pick a color that is within two shades of your usual hair color.

Shades of brown usually work well on most of the skin types and hair. In case you are interested in creating a sharp look, you can try shades of blonde, preferably on a hairstyle with sharp cuts.

If you have blonde hair, you may pick warm champagne tones.

While doing streaks, just use a few foiling highlights to stay subtle yet alluring.

When opting for highlights, pay attention towards the positioning as well as application. Besides, steer clear of extremely chunky hair highlights.
In fact, try to blend the highlights along with lowlights.

In case you have a cool, spiky hairstyle, try lightening the tips of your hair to accessorize your style.

Men's hair color ideas for covering grey hair focus on choosing a color that is not too dark as it tends to look unnatural. In addition, remember to pick more neutral tones.

For maintenance of the color, use shampoos and conditioners that are meant for color-treated hair, and do touch-ups every 4-6 weeks.

Besides, it is often suggested to color facial hair as well in order to look younger. Thus, you can use brush-in color gels for coloring your beard and mustache.

Unless you are a naturally redheaded guy, avoid going for red hair color. Instead, opt for color tones that suit your style and also seem natural.

As men have been known to be more prone to hair problems, it is better to use organic hair colors.

Men's hair color ideas for creating a more dramatic look involve the use contrasting color. Plus, you may go with funky, punk style and emo hair colors like blue, green,

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purple, etc.	

Auburn Hair Color

Auburn hair color lies between brown and dark red. Unlike other similar colors such as burgundy and chestnut, this reddish-brown color has more of a reddish tint in sunlight. However, it has more depth than red.

The lighter shade of this color is like strawberry blonde. Medium auburn is similar to darker side of ginger red, and dark auburn resembles cinnamon red.

The color is more common in people belonging to the northern and western European areas but rare in other parts of the world.

	Deep auburn colored tresses are more popular during winter months as compared to summers because of its richness and warmth. Moreover, this color tends to enhance the eye color. While choosing this color, though, pick a shade that suits your skin the best. The color perfectly suits dark-haired beauties. Plus, it can be combined with red highlights to make dark-auburn look more flattering.
	Blonde highlights look stunning on auburn colored locks. If you are not sure about getting all over hair color, then opting for lowlights or highlights is a great hair color idea.

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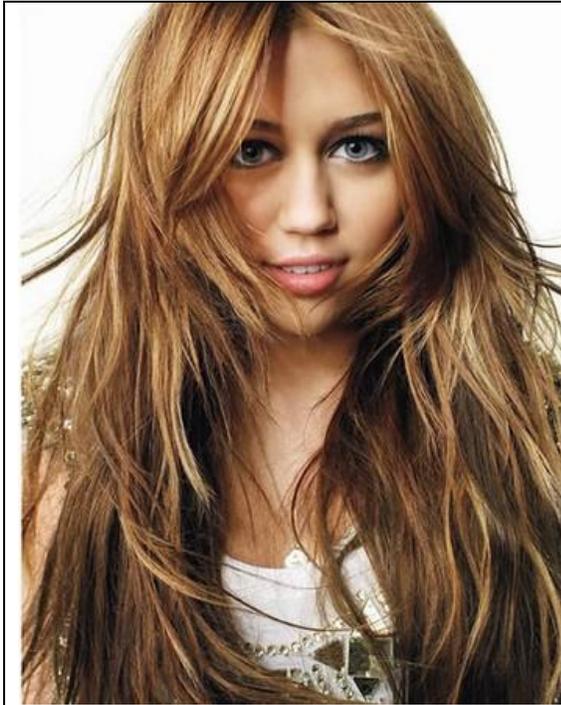
You can pick a single auburn shade or multi-tones to enhance your appearance. Moreover, remember that highlights along the bangs make your skin look lighter and brighter.

Dark auburn colored hair can have wine red highlights. This combination would look amazing on long wavy hair.

Caramel streaks can add to the beauty of medium auburn hair.

Black women with luxurious dark tresses can go for auburn red tinted hair.

In case you have dark or light brown hair, you can sport subtle beautiful auburn lowlights. Besides, chocolate brown locks look splendid with bright auburn highlights.

Deep auburn hair color tends to balance out the sallow tones of yellow skin. This color looks more reddish on lighter hair colors.

Those with medium skin tone should consider using medium shade of this reddish-brown color. If you have dark or olive skin tone and dark brown or red hair, stay away from bright auburn; instead try deep mahogany red.

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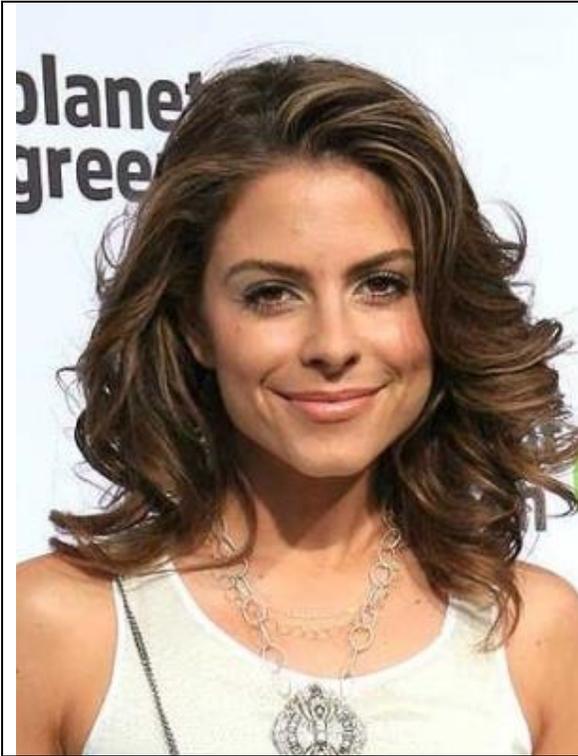
The color may turn into golden auburn when applied on light blonde hair. On dark-brown tresses, it may give rise to coppery brown hair color.

Hence, drastic change to auburn may not prove successful at all times. In addition, it requires a good amount of maintenance and upkeep, or else it can turn brassy due to fading.

Stripping out this hair color is a tricky task in case of blondes rather than brunettes.

Those who have natural auburn hair color can choose to lighten up their locks with blonde highlights and chocolate brown lowlights that complement their skin tone.

C.O.E.

The Level System

Hair color theory is a topic we can never cover too much, with all the experimenting going on by our readers . . . I figure one more trip down the road couldn't hurt. Besides, repetition is the basis of all great education. A great way to continue understanding hair color theory is to understand the difference between Levels and Tones. Levels and Tones are the 2 most important characteristics of color; every single hair color has these 2 attributes - remember that. To confuse things at the beginning some rare companies refer to "Tones" as "Shades"... the more current choice is Tones - so forget 'Shades'. Now, the 2 characteristics of color we will discuss are Levels and Tones and this post is one that should stick with you to make a lot of what you do and choose make sense.

LEVELS

For those who are not clear on what the Level System is - the definition is simple - it refers to the lightness or depth (darkness) of a hair color, be it natural or artificial. Words such as light, medium, dark, palest, darkest, and very light, tell you about a color's level. Level is, very simply, how light or how dark a hair color is. The exact definition is simple -- it is the numerical system of judging color in numbers - one level being a measure of light or dark in the hair. The system assigns a number for measuring dark to light without regard to tonal value.

Hair Color Level & Name	Contributing Pigment
10 - Lightest Blonde - Platinum	Pale Yellow
9 - Very Light Blonde	Yellow
8 - Light Blonde	Yellow-Gold
7 - Medium Blonde	Gold
6 - Dark Blonde	Orange-Gold
5 - Lightest Brown	Orange
4 - Light Brown	Red-Orange
3 - Medium Brown	Red
2 - Dark Brown	Red-Brown
1 - Black	Dark Red-Brown

The level system is used to determine the lightness or darkness of the color you have whether natural or processed. Basically, the level system determines how dark or light ANY hair color is (natural or unnatural).

The tonal value (or **tone**) is the hue of the natural or processed hair color. This determines whether the color is cool, neutral or warm. I'm showing examples of cool and warm hair colors below. A neutral hair color is an equal mixture of both cool and warm.

Here are some examples of cool hair tones:

Icy Blonde:	Cool Dark Brunette:	Cool Medium Red:

Warm tones include colors that have gold, orange and reds in them. These tones are richer and usually look great on most everyone. Cooler tones can be harsher on a lot of skin tones. Warmer tones (especially golden tones) generally bring more color into your complexion and give a more youthful appearance because of it. I've seen women come in with too blond highlights on a too ashy base color and the harshness draws attention to every line and wrinkle in their face. Just by changing the base color to a warmer color, it adds a softness and youthful glow to the skin, thereby decreasing attention to imperfections. Here are some examples of warmer-toned hair color:

Warm Chocolate Brunette:	Warm Medium Red: (note the warm copper undertones as compared to the violet-y pink undertones in the medium cool red pic above)	Light Golden Brown:

Light Copper Red:

Light Golden Blonde:

Some Rules of Hair Color

1. Color does not lift color: Meaning, if you have hair that has been colored dark and you put a light color over it, nothing will happen. You will have to use bleach. When you put color on top of color it will make your hair darker, this is how people often end up with black ends even though they have just been using brown color.
2. Gray coverage: When you have lots of gray you need a certain type of color to cover the gray because it can be resistant.

3. 10 volume = deposit, 20 volume = deposit (for gray hair to open the cuticle more) or up to one level of lift, 30 volume = 2 levels of lift, and 40 volume = 3 to 4 levels of lift.
4. Know your underlying pigment: which means if you are lifting hair, these tones will come up that you will need to control with certain pigments. You will usually need a blue or ash base depending on the level. Level 2 – 7 usually requires blue and 8 – 10 blue/violet.
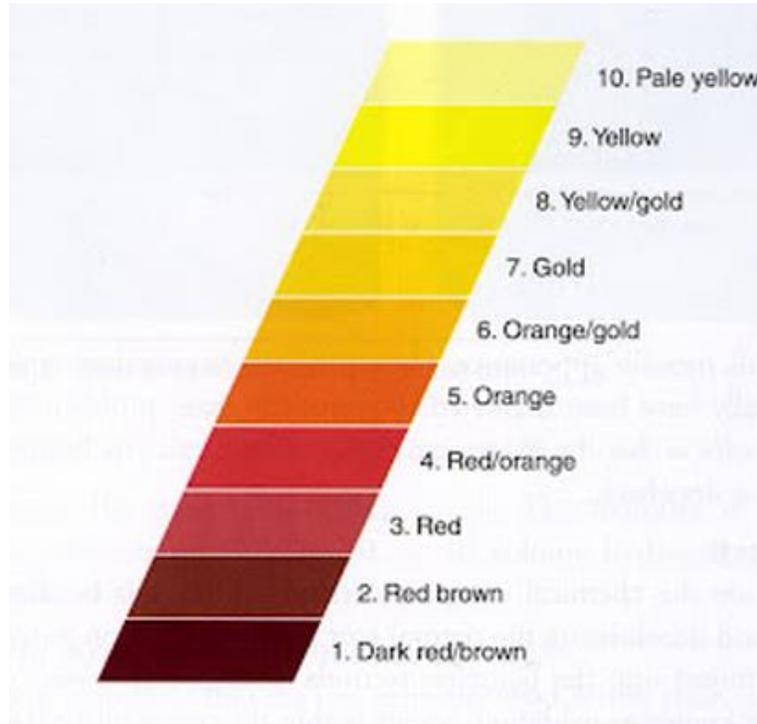
This is a chart of the underlying pigments for each level when you lighten hair. As you can see, it is very easy to end up with brassy hair if you don't know how color works.

THE LEVEL SYSTEM IS MANDATORY KNOWLEDGE in charting your plan for coloring your hair.

Whether the goal is:

Level 1 Black	**Level 12 – Platinum WHITE**

The factors that make the level System Differ from person to person:

- Porosity
- Density
- Resistance
- Length
- Growth Direction
- Scalp Abrasion
- Texture
- Condition
- Scalp Disorder
- Virgin Hair Color
- Strength
- Elasticity
- Previous Hair Color and or Treatments (remember hair CAN be repaired and re-moisturized)

Hair Color 101

Begin with a Consultation

To give your clients the beautiful results they want, you need to understand the differences in hair color types, as well as how they affect hair's structure.

Gorgeous hair color doesn't just happen. It takes a skilled colorist—one who understands hair's structure and the difference between hair color formulas.

As you consult with your client, be sure you ask what kind of results she's looking for, as well as how long she wants her color to last.

If she's looking to dramatically change her hair color (up to 4 Levels darker or lighter) or wants 100% gray coverage, choose a permanent formula. On the other hand, if she wants to refresh, enhance or darken her current color, or is looking for about 50% gray coverage, a demi-permanent formula will give her beautiful results with less commitment.

Once you've chosen either permanent or demi-permanent color, you need to decide whether you want to work with a liquid or crème formula. Many colorists prefer liquids for their speed of application, while others like the greater application control of a crème.

Sectioning and Saturation

Before You Color

- • Always do a preliminary patch test 24 hours before applying color.
- • Always do a color preview strand test.

Virgin Application: Going Darker

Use this method when color is close to or deeper than the natural Level of hair color.

1. Part hair in 4 equal sections.
2. Apply to dry hair. Take ¼ to ½ inch partings and begin application at root area, working color all the way down to the ends immediately. Apply generously with applicator bottle or brush, making sure hair is thoroughly saturated.
3. Note: If ends are porous or damaged, apply the mixture only to three-quarters of the strand first. Allow mixture to develop for about 15 minutes, and then work through to the ends. Strand test the ends to determine color development and timing.
4. Allow color to develop for a minimum of 15 minutes.
5. Do a strand test for color development. (Normal processing time is approximately 30 minutes, but for maximum lightening and gray coverage allow complete development time of 45 minutes.)
6. When desired color is achieved, spray hair with a little warm water and work into lather at the shampoo bowl. Rinse thoroughly.
7. Shampoo and rinse until water runs clear.

Virgin Application: Going Lighter

Use this method when the color is one or more Levels lighter than your client's natural hair color Level.

1. Part hair in 4 equal sections.

2. Apply to dry hair, beginning one inch away from scalp, down to and including the ends. Use the applicator bottle or brush. Application is made 1 inch away from scalp because the hair away from the root area receives less natural body heat and will take a little longer to decolorize.
3. Allow color to develop for a minimum of 15 minutes. Check strand for color development.
4. Continue checking until hair is decolorized half as much as desired.
5. Mix a fresh hair color formula and apply to root area, making certain that hair shafts and ends are thoroughly re-saturated.
6. After 15 minutes, check a strand for color development. (Normal processing time is approximately 30 minutes, but for maximum lightening and gray coverage allow complete development time of 45 minutes). Leave color on hair until color is uniform from roots to ends.
7. At shampoo bowl, spray hair with a little warm water and work into lather and rinse thoroughly.
8. Shampoo and rinse until water runs clear.

Note for experienced stylists:

If you are an experienced colorist, you may wish to use 30-or 40-volume developer in the formula for use on the shaft and ends.

When application to shaft and ends is complete, immediately mix a fresh formula using 10- or 20-volume developer and apply to root area.

For longer hair, use cotton strips to protect the root area while color is applied to shaft and ends.

Retouch Application

1. Refer to your records for the previously used formula and timing, and be sure to do a patch test 24 hours before retouching.
2. Part hair in 4 equal sections.
3. Apply to dry hair, using applicator bottle or brush. Outline each section separately with the color formula.
   - Using the tip of the applicator nozzle or brush handle, make - to -inch parts and generously apply the hair color mixture to new growth area only.
   - If lightening the hair, start application where hair is the darkest
4. If gray hair is present, begin application at the grayest portion of the hair
5. Check color development periodically, using your hair color record as a timing guide. Test strand and check color until desired shade is reached. Be sure to reapply hair color to strand after each test.

Formulating For Level and Tone

Level and Tone

Tone is generally described as being either WARM or COOL. To formulate properly, one must determine:

- Starting Tone
- Desired Tone
- How to utilize color wheel to either enhance or neutralize a tonality.

Neutral is best described as a Brown to Brown-Gray. Clairol Professional Neutral is a balanced brown. To create Neutral, you simply mix an equal ratio of all three primary colors (Blue, Red and Yellow).

For more information, please refer to our Color Theory section.

Natural Levels and Contributing Pigment

Levels refer to the degree of lightness or darkness, regardless of tone. Natural hair colors contribute their color to the final result when artificial hair color is added.

Contributing pigment is exposed warmth resulting from the lightening process. This can either be enhanced or neutralized.

For accurate results and to control contributing pigment, formulate shades that are within 2 Levels of Natural Level.

Developers

Developers are oxidizing agents. The hydrogen peroxide in the developer delivers the required oxygen gas to develop color molecules and to lighten natural melanin.

<u>10 Volume</u>

Use when little to no lift is desired on pigmented hair. This is the only volume suitable with powder lighteners on chemically relaxed hair and provides the slowest, most controlled lift.

<u>20 Volume</u>

The standard volume for covering gray and for lifting hair is 1-2 Levels. With powder lighteners, 20-volume is used often on hair that is non-porous and in good condition. Only 20-volume is used with 7th Stage Liquid Lightener.

<u>30 Volume</u>

Fast lightening, is for 2-3 clean Levels of lift. This volume can be used with Basic White powder lightener.

<u>40 Volume</u>

For use with high-lift (3-4 Levels) permanent hair color shades use the 40 volume. Used in 1:2 mix ratio with high-lift blonde shades. Not for use with powder lighteners.

Color Theory

NEUTRALIZING COLORS:

Red + Green
Red-Orange + Blue-Green
Orange + Blue
Yellow-Orange + Blue-Violet
Yellow + Violet
Yellow-Green + Red-Violet

PRIMARY
The three colors from which all colors are created:

BLUE   YELLOW   RED

SECONDARY
Created by mixing equal portions of two primary colors:

Yellow + Red =
ORANGE

Red + Blue =
VIOLET

Blue + Yellow =
GREEN

TERTIARY
Created by mixing equal portions of one primary and
one secondary color:

Yellow + Orange =
YELLOW-ORANGE

Red + Orange =
RED-ORANGE

Red + Violet =
RED-VIOLET

Putting Color Theory into Practice

Hair color results can be summed up in a simple equation:

Contributing Pigment + Artificial Color = Final Result

To determine these different statements, you need to understand a few basic hair color terms.

Base Color- The dominant color in any hair color mixture that gives a shade its overall characteristic.

Level- The degree of lightness or darkness, regardless of Tone.

Tone- The warmth or coolness of a color

- Warm Tones reflect light and appear lighter.
- Cool Tones absorb light and appear darker.

To formulate properly, you must determine:

- Starting tone
- Desired tone
- How to utilize the color wheel to either enhance or neutralize a tonality

Base Colors and Tonal Results

Base Color	Tonal Results
Blue, Blue-Violet, Ash	Coolest
Violet, Green	Cool
Neutral	Neutral
Red-Violet, Red-Plum	Cool Red
Red	True Red
Red-Orange, Red-Copper	Bright Warm Red
Gold	Golden
Gold-Beige	Soft-Golden-Beige

Natural Level	Contributing Pigment
There are 10 Natural Hair Color Levels. Levels 6-10 are Blonde; Levels 1-5 are Brown. These swatches approximate natural hair color shades. Natural hair colors contribute their color to the final result when artificial color is added.	Every Natural Level has Contributing Pigments, or underlying warmth. It is exposed during lightening and affects the final color result. It can be enhanced or neutralized, depending on your desired results.

10 Lightest Blonde	Pale Yellow
9 Very Light Blonde	Yellow
8 Light Blonde	Yellow-Gold
7 Medium Blonde	Gold
6 Dark Blonde	Orange-Gold
5 Lightest Brown	Orange
4 Light Brown	Red-Orange
3 Medium Brown	Red
2 Dark Brown	Red-Brown
1 Black	Dark Red-Brown
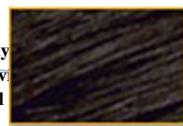
Maintaining Blonde Hair Color

Keep the brassy tones out of your blonde hair style by using a color depositing shampoo and conditioner.

The conditioners work the best because they don't contain cleansing agents and can be left on the hair for long periods. The longer they're left on and more often they're used, the more pigment is deposited onto your hair strand.

Blonde Hair Style Photos

	Platinum blonde hair style (Level 10 -- this could actually be considered level 11 or 12, but the traditional color level system only goes to 10, so we'll stick with that.) This shade can only be achieved by bleaching and toning the hair. It's best for shorter hair styles because of the damage bleaching hair to this degree causes. The ends of long hair have been around, exposed to the elements for at least a year or two. They'd look awful after being so severely bleached.
	Ash blonde hair style (level 10 with level 6-8 lowlights) A combination of light blonde highlights and ash toned lowlights create a nice multi-tonal blonde. This is the best way to use ash tones. An all-over ash color can look greyish, but breaking it up by only using the ash

	for lowlights looks great!
	Yellowish-blonde hair style (level 9) A light blonde with a slightly yellowish tone. You'll notice the yellow if you enlarge the image and compare it to the ash or platinum above. This is about as much yellow as a blonde should have before it starts looking brassy. If you look closely, you'll see that the yellow tones are broken up with platinum blonde highlights.
	Neutral slightly golden blonde (level 8) An all over medium dark, slightly golden toned blonde. This shade works very well with a warm skin tone. Gold tones are always better when they lean toward the neutral end of the spectrum. Too much gold can look brassy and artificial. When choosing a hair color (if you're doing it yourself) ALWAYS takes into account your underlying pigment. If you choose a golden blonde off the shelf and apply it to your hair with an orange-yellow underlying pigment, you'll end up with a VERY bright, brassy gold color.

**Golden blonde with light blonde highlights
(level 7)**

The highlights are nicely placed and the tone blends well with the golden shade of the darker color. Just a few foils in the top layer of your hair can add great impact and work well to break up a solid color.

**Sandy blonde hair style
(level 7)**

This dark blonde compliments cooler skin tones. It's very neutral, but without the gold in the photos above.

If you opt for a color like this, make sure the cut has some texture and personality. Otherwise your hair could look a bit drab.

A few skinny foils 1 or 2 shades lighter would be a nice addition to break up this color and add some dimension.

	Multi-tonal blonde (level 7) This color has a bit of everything. Foil highlights were added in every one of the above mentioned tones. It's a bit too much. If this were my client, I'd recommend we add a level 8 color gloss over top which would not affect the darker tones. It'd add a bit more darkness to the lightest pieces and create more harmony. She'd still have a multi-tonal blonde, but it wouldn't be so reminiscent of a calico cat. Stick with a maximum of three colors when foiling for a multi-tonal effect.

If you're coloring your hair blonde, consider having your eyebrows tinted.

TIPS FOR BLONDS

1. When lightening brown to blonde, remember there may be underlying unwanted warm tones.

2. When covering gray hair with a blonde color use a level 7 or darker.

3. Double-processing is best way to get light pale blonde.

4. If using high-lift blondes that lift only 5 levels, the results can be too warm or brassy.

5. If highlights become too blonde, lowlights can be foiled into hair for a more natural color.

Brunette Hair Style Photos and Advice

Tips for Choosing, Achieving and Maintaining Your Color

Shades of brunette range from a light ash tone to a deep chestnut and everything in between.

Browns are classic, rich, mysterious, and the easiest of all haircolor to maintain.

Browns sometimes need to be deepened to add impact, which can easily be done with a semi or demi permanent color.

Many times, all that's needed to boost a brunette shade is a bit of shine. Apply a color gloss, in either a tinted shade or clear.

If you feel the need to lighten things up a bit, opt for a few foiled highlights, rather than an all-over blonde hair color. That way, you'll get a more natural look, without the heavy maintenance that's inevitable when lightening brown hair to blonde.

Take the time to learn about hair color chemistry. The more you understand, the better your hair color results will be.

Maintaining Brown Hair Color

Keep the rich brown tones present in your hair color by using a color depositing shampoo and conditioner.

The conditioners work the best because they don't contain cleansing agents and can be left on the hair for long periods.

The longer they're left on and more often they're used, the more pigment is deposited onto your hair strand.

Brunette Hair Style Photos

**Ash Brown
(Level 6 with level 7 & 8 natural highlights)**

This shade of ash brown is difficult to achieve with artificial hair color. There is just enough highlighting from the sun to bump this color out of the "mousy" category.

Adding a few medium ash or beige blonde foil highlights throughout the top of the hair would give a similar effect.

**Light Auburn Brunette
(level 6-7)**

This shade is just on the verge of belonging in the Red Hair Color section. It's a *very* warm shade of brunette, which brightens a medium to fair, warm skin tone.

Avoid this shade if you have a cool (pinkish) skin tone.

**Medium Brunette With Flair!
(levels 6 & 9)**

Jazz up a solid brown hair color with panels of gold. Slice out a few strips of hair near the front. Get creative with the positioning. Consider how the hair will lay. Not just the highlighted piece, but the hair around it too. Use foil highlights to color just the section you want lightened.

The effect is made more dramatic the lighter (or brighter) you go. This technique can be done using *any* (complimentary) combination of colors.

C.O.E.

Medium "True" Brunette (level 5)

Thoughts of "brunette hair color" often bring to mind a picture of precisely this shade. It is a beautiful, rich shade -- not too light, not too dark. This is another one that's difficult to capture with artificial *permanent* haircolor.

If this is the shade you're trying to achieve, opt for a semi-permanent, which doesn't lift the underlying pigment. The underlying pigment *always* brings gold and warmth into the picture because of the way it's formulated. To avoid the gold, go with a *"deposit only"* hair color.

Dark Brunette Hair Color (level 3-4)

This deep rich, shade of brunette has a warm hue, great for a dramatic effect on warm skin tones.

A sprinkle of very thin highlights, just a shade or two lighter, adds some dimension to the color.

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Deepest Brunette (level 2)

This shade is slightly darker than the one above, and has cool undertones, rather than warm. Can you see the difference? If you can, great! You're developing the eye of a colorist!

The cool hue makes this color suitable for (you guessed it), cool skin tones. A clear color gloss, applied every few months, will maintain the shine that is so important with such a deeply saturated color.

If you're coloring your hair to a brown shade that is darker than your natural color, consider having your eyebrows tinted.

TIPS FOR BRUNETTES

1. Avoid orange or brassy tones when lifting brown hair with permanent color, by using a cool blue base.

2. Avoid brassy tones by not lightening more than two levels above the natural color.

3. Add 1 oz. of a natural color to cover gray in brunette.

4. Natural highlights in brunette should be deep or caramel colored.

Understanding Red Hair Color

Getting the Right Red

Shades of red hair color vary from light strawberry to fiery copper to rich auburn.

Once your hair is colored, *keeping* the red in your hair becomes the challenge. Red hair color contains the smallest of hair color molecules.

Small molecules enter the hair shaft easily, so your hair soaks up the color.

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They also escape from the hair shaft easily, which means you wash many of them down the drain each time you shampoo.

To prevent those sneaky red hair color molecules from leaching out, use a pigmented shampoo and conditioner. These products deposit color molecules back onto your hair every time you use them.

Red Hair Color Pictures

	Light Strawberry Blonde (level 9) This color has bleached blonde foil highlights, which lighten the overall color. Best neutral, fair skin tones. If your hair is already quite light, this is a good option. Really dark hair will require A LOT of maintenance to deal with the regrowth.
	Bright Copper Red (level 8) This is a great, rich copper/strawberry. It's a very bright color, so beware! Many women feel sure they want a bright shade like this... until they're looking at it on their own hair.

Dark Copper Red
(level 7)

Same advice as above with this color. It's *very* bright. Not for the faint of heart.

Reds like this are difficult to tone down once the molecules are in your hair. It can be done, but it'll end up being a darker color than you probably wanted.

Neutral copper Red
(level 7)

This shade is more reminiscent of a "natural redhead." Could be described as a ginger spice color.

It's very rich and not overly bright... a good choice if you want a more subdued red hair color.

Light Auburn Red
(level 6)

The tone of this auburn hair color is deeper than the coppers above. Very rich without being too dark.

A great color for fair skinned women who find the coppers too bright.

Auburn Red
(level 5)

Also a rich auburn, just slightly darker than the one above.

These reds have enough brown pigment to keep them from being overly bright.

	Dark Auburn Red (level 4) A very rich, deep auburn red hair color. This is a beautiful shade. It's just one level darker than the photo above. The differences in color levels are subtle. If you spend a lot of time in the sun, it's wise to opt for a shade darker than you want to compensate for the inevitable fading.

If you're coloring a client's hair red, consider having their eyebrows tinted. Many women have ash toned eyebrows, which contrast with the warm, spicy red tones.

TIPS FOR REDS

1. Create warm coppery reds by using a red-orange base color.

2. Create hot fiery reds by using a red-violet or true red color.

3. After permanent color, use a no-lift deposit-only color to refresh.

4. If gray is present, add ½ to 1 oz. of a natural color.

Refresh reds with a soap cap to brighten haircolor. A soap cap is equal parts of shampoo and the remaining color formula.

The Fundamentals of Foil Highlighting

There are many different ways to foil, but they all begin with these essential steps. This section will detail the technical aspects of highlighting hair using foils (or another material).

Formulate a plan before you start. Once you've decided which methods you'll employ, here are the technical details.

C.O.E.

Before You Begin

1. Pre-cut and pre-fold aluminum foil. Use 4x5 pieces, or larger, depending on the length of the hair.
2. Study your client's cut and style and discuss the dimensional effects desired.
3. The client's hair must be brushed out and completely tangle-free.
4. Take a Color Preview Strand Test.
5. Do not apply mixture if skin is red or irritated or if Preview Strand Test shows any sign of breakage or damage.
6. Map out where your foil wraps will be placed and comb the hair into working sections.
7. Clip loose hair to allow for control during the foiling process.
8. Mix the highlighting formula in a non-metallic bowl.
9. Follow the weaving or slicing method of foil wrapping within the design you have mapped out.

Doing the Wrap
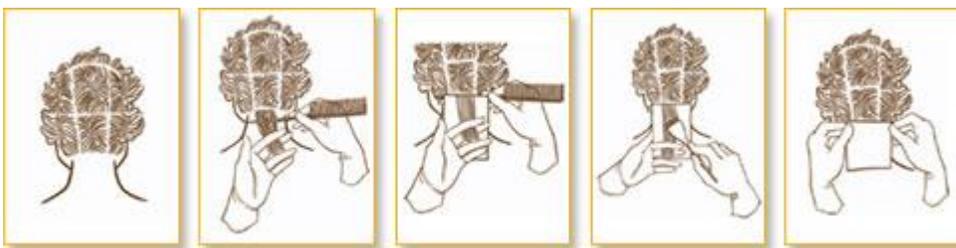
1. Part dry hair according to desired effect and begin foil application in the back nape section. (This gives you easy rinsing access if these strands lighten before total application is complete.)
2. Using the handle of a tail comb, weave through each section, selecting fine strands of hair. Remember, every foil wrap becomes a highlight...the more you weave and the more strands you wrap, the more highlights you'll get.

3. Hold woven strands out at a 90-degree angle from the head. Slip comb through the fold in the foil. Holding firmly, center edge of foil under woven strands, as close to the base of strands as possible.
4. Lay selected strands in the center of the foil, holding the ends of the hair taut so they lay flat against the foil. Remove comb.
5. Start application away from the scalp, working the formula down the strand. Be sure each strand is thoroughly and evenly saturated with mixture. Keep product 1/8- inch away from the edge of the foil.
6. Fold bottom edge of foil to top edge. Do not press foil down where mixture is on hair.
7. Gently fold both sides of foil inward about inch.

Check Development

1. Check strand for development 20 minutes after the first foil placement. Select a foil from the first wrapped section.
2. Hold a towel under the selected foil. Unwrap the foil and, with a spray bottle, spray strand with water. Check results. Dry strand thoroughly. If additional time is needed, reapply mixture and rewrap as before.
3. When hair has lightened as desired, remove foil wraps (in the same order as applied) at the shampoo bowl and thoroughly rinse mixture from hair. Shampoo.

Additional Advice:

1. If it takes a long time to complete the entire foiling application, and the first section foiled is sufficiently decolorized, remove each of the processed foils by holding a towel under the foil, wetting the strand, and wiping the formula off the strand.
2. If you prefer to increase the volume of developer as you proceed through your foiling, make note of the time you began. This will help to determine the entire processing time for the foils.

Highlight and Lowlight Process

This section features hair coloring pictures of a foiling process for your reference. The process demonstrated in this section was done with foils from the temples up, and solid dark brown hair color from the temples down. The foils were used to highlight the hair blonde while adding color back with permanent brown hair color in the alternating foils.

Overview

This hair color was done at the end of summer. The client's hair is very-porous and over-highlighted to the point where it's become an all-over blonde with little color dimension.

The tone, as is common with blonde hair color, is slightly brassy and her regrowth is an ash tone. She wanted a multi-tonal color, highlighted and lowlighted on top, and a solid very dark brown underneath.

Step 1.

Multiple sections were weaved and foiled above the temples. Blonde and medium brown colors were alternated to add dimension and bring back some depth to the color. All foils were then clipped up out of the way, and the dark brown color was applied from the temples/occipital bone down. It's important to ensure that those blonde pieces don't dangle down into any of the dark color that is applied in the bottom section. Use duckbill clips (or even small metal clips) to position those strands in a safe spot.

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Step 2.

This photo shows a good view of the solid dark brown color applied to all underneath sections. The hair must be parted in about half inch sections and color applied right from the root through to the ends. This is especially important when covering over blonde, porous hair. If you miss a spot, it'll be obvious in the finished hair color...and not in a good way.

Step 3.

Once the colors have processed to the appropriate stage, the foils are removed and the hair color and bleach are rinsed well. A semi-permanent ash based color is applied as a toner, only to the roots, as the ends being over-porous will absorb the purple/grey tone from the toner. The objective of the toner is to match the newly bleached pieces to the blonde that is left on the ends. Adding the medium brown foils throughout the top sections brings some dimension back to the over-blonde ends.

Step 4.

The hair was then shaped into a nice layered style, which updates the look and showcases the color. Unfortunately, because of the black T-shirt, it's difficult to see the dark sections underneath, but they're there. And they add a lot of dimension and personality to this hair color. As these hair coloring pictures show, this highlight/lowlight process gives the client a much more mature and refined look. Because of the dark sections, this hair color should last for up to 3 months as the re-growth will be nicely disguised because there isn't such a contrast between the all-over blonde and the ashy re-growth.

Advanced Highlighting Methods

Colorists may use alternative methods of foil placement patterns, techniques (slicing vs. weaving) and foil wrapping. Methods are generally determined by the client's style and desired color effect. Colorists may choose one type or may combine various patterns, techniques and wrapping methods to achieve results.

Foil Placement Patterns

There are 3 basic patterns of foil placement: block pattern (see The Fundamentals of Foil Highlighting), bricklayering and angling.

Bricklayering

Hair is sectioned into 4 – 5 sections depending on the density, texture and head shape. Foil placement alternates from 3 foils in a row to 2 foils in the next row. This pattern is repeated throughout application.

Angling

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Hair is sectioned in the basic block wrap pattern and the hair is sliced or woven at a slight angle starting at the hairline. Place each foil at an angle, working towards the tip of the ear. Continue wrapping in a semicircular movement, placing each foil at a slight angle to achieve a curved effect.

Techniques

There are two basic techniques for picking up the hair during the foil process: weaving and slicing. One technique could be used alone for highlighting or the techniques could be alternated, depending on the desired highlighting effects.

Weaving

Weaving is the classic method for foil wrapping. Weaving can be used in combination with the slicing method.

1.   To weave, always part very fine sections—no more than 3 inches wide and 1/8-inch thick.
2.   Move the end of a tail comb through the surface of the entire section in an in-and-out pattern until you have separated the row.
3.   Place the foil under the strands you have weaved. Brush formula onto the strands, then wrap the foil and secure.

WEAVE AND FOIL PROCEDURES

Because **weave** and **foil** techniques are so predominant in today's salons, every colorist needs to have skill in the application of these techniques. Frosts are being replaced with more accurate and professional foils with weaving and foiling techniques. These techniques not only intrigue the client and look as though they are more artistic and difficult, they are nearly impossible to duplicate at home. Here are some suggestions for great streaks or weavings.

Weave Procedure

After consultation, plan color(s) to be used and your pattern. *Example:* Use two colors, a blonde and a medium red, to add highlights. Alternate two blonde weavings with one red to have a golden blonde highlight, two red with one blond for a more strawberry blonde effect, or one medium lift light blonde, one darker golden blonde, and one thin slice one or two levels darker than the client's own color This gives movement and dimension to the hair.

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Use 3 formulas for a dimensional effect that creates movement:

1. **medium lift light blond**

2. **one darker golden blonde**

3. **one darker than client's color**

Remember the Rules of Haircoloring, especially #4. Include enough of the darker tint formula to "ground" the hair color and give it a balanced effect. The beauty of planning your pattern is that it allows you creativity and helps customize your techniques.

1. Prepare foils (should be done before your scheduled appointment time).

2. Prepare your client for a tint, remembering to use tint apron or smock and gloves for yourself.

3. *Divide* the hair into the desired sections. Your vertical panels should be no wider than three inches.

4. Two choices:

    a. When making your **subsections,** begin parting at the bottom of each panel and work up to avoid slippage of the woven strands.

b. If beginning at the top, lay your foil against the top of the head and push each strand up against it to avoid slippage.

5. When performing a weave procedure, *mix* very small amounts of product, enabling continuity in lift and timing. If bleach is used for the procedure, *stagger* volumes to control the lift. *Example:* first panel, use 10 volume, second use 20, etc.

6. Beginning in the area that requires the most lift or deposit effect, *part* a I /4-inch subsection horizontally and *hold* at a 90° angle from the base with tension.

7. Holding a wiretail comb **parallel** to the section, beginning on the right side of the section, *insert* the wiretail comb with an up and down motion, weaving across subsection hair to the opposite side of the section.

8. With the woven hair grasped in your thumb and forefinger, push the lower part of the subsection downward with the wiretail, separating the strands.

9. If using choice (a), take one piece of precut foil; fold the top 1/4 inch over the edge of the wiretail comb, making a clean, straight fold.
It's a toss up. Some people prefer the folded edge on the under side of the foil, some prefer the folded edge on the upper side.

10. Lift the separated subsection and place the wiretail with foil attached directly under the parting against the scalp.

11. *Hold* the edges of foil from above, just past the edges of the subsectioned strands. *Slide* the wiretail comb out without disturbing the hair.

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12. Still holding the thumb and finger against the foil, *load* the tint brush with your premixed formula. Starting 1 / I 6 inch from the edge of foil, apply to all strands on foil with a downward motion, allowing for complete coverage and keeping the hair in place on the foil.

13. With your thumb and finger against the foil, *fold* the foil toward the scalp in half; *fold* left side over to the center, then the right side *or* use the wiretail to crease the foil and bend it where desired.

14. For a heavy foiled effect, weave from each subsection. For more subtle results, apply to every other section.

15. More than one color may be used. Remember to frequently mix small batches of color, ensuring the proper processing.

16. When checking the processing, make sure to keep foils close to the scalp. If the first sections need removing before the last sections are complete, use a towel and water spray to stop processing action. Or use an **antioxidant** (product that halts oxidation).

17. Foils need not be removed individually when rinsing. Place the client's head in the shampoo bowl, *apply* medium temperature and water pressure, and foils will "rinse" from the hair.

18. Shampoo with the appropriate shampoo and conditioner.

19. Style to desired finish.

If you use choice (b), just place the straight edge of the foil against the section line at scalp and bend hair strand over it to hold the foil in place as you apply the product. Then simply fold the edge back to the part so the foil bends in half to the scalp.

Foil Procedure

The foil procedure would follow the same steps as the weave procedure, except for the following:

1. Rather than weaving pieces from each section, the horizontal subsection taken is much smaller, up to 1/16 inch depending on hair density. Color is then applied to the entire subsection, eliminating the weave process.

2. Color is applied to small sections mentioned in # 1, but the uncolored sub-sections will be taken in 1/8- to I/2-inch partings.

3. You may use one, two, three, or four colors and may also use bleach or a blonding creme mixture.

4. Processing, checking, and removal are identical to the weave procedure.

5. Due to the elimination of the weaving process, the foil technique enables the service to be completed more quickly. However, to ensure correct results extreme care must be taken to maintain very small subsections while applying.

As with any other technical service, practice builds speed. So practice, practice, practice!

Weave caps: Used most often in highlighting, twilighting, and lowlighting, your stylist pulls small strands through holes in the weave cap. The effect is usually a subtle change that enhances your basic hair color. Highlighting with a weave cap also helps to camouflage gray or roots growing back after a permanent hair color application.

Foiling: Your stylist places sections of hair onto rectangular sheets of foil and applies color or lightener, folding the foil to keep the color in place and away from other sections. Of all highlighting techniques, foiling can be applied closest to the root.

Baliage: A great application for textured, natural curls, or wavy hair. Your stylist selects specific areas and hand paints them with color. This dramatic implementation of a hair coloring technique leaves you with a very "personal" appearance! It's important to note that although kits are available for most all hair coloring techniques; professional stylists have the skill that comes with experience. Especially for hard to color shades like gray, platinum, and black hair, it's wisest to consult a professional before you try a new hair color technique at home!

Caramel-Flaging Technique: Caramel-flaging produces brilliant highlights, lowlights, and shine on gray hair with a diffused regrowth line and low maintenance.

1. Divide hair in three sections. Then divide sections ear to ear.

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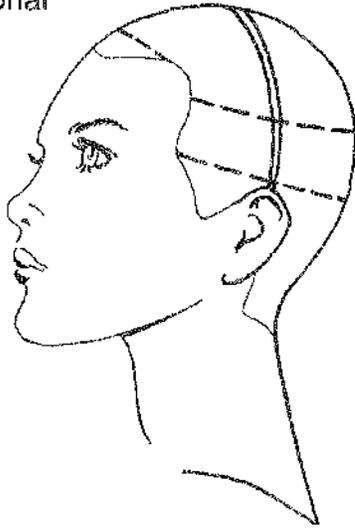
2. On 30% to 75% gray hair use three formulas:

    a. Formula # 1 is two to four levels lighter than natural base color with 30 or 40 volume developer May use high lift color or lightening formula such as Blazing Hair.

    b. Formula #2 is at the same level or one level lighter as the base color in golden or red-brown tone with 20 volume developer.

    c. Formula #3 is at the same level as the base color or one level darker in a natural tone with I 0 or 20 volume developer.

3. Using tiny slices (1/6 inch) and the foiling technique, apply color to all the hair.

4. On the top third of the head, apply Formula # I alternating with Formula #2 and #3, Example: # I , #2, # I , #3, # I , #2, # I , #3 so there are more of # I.

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optional
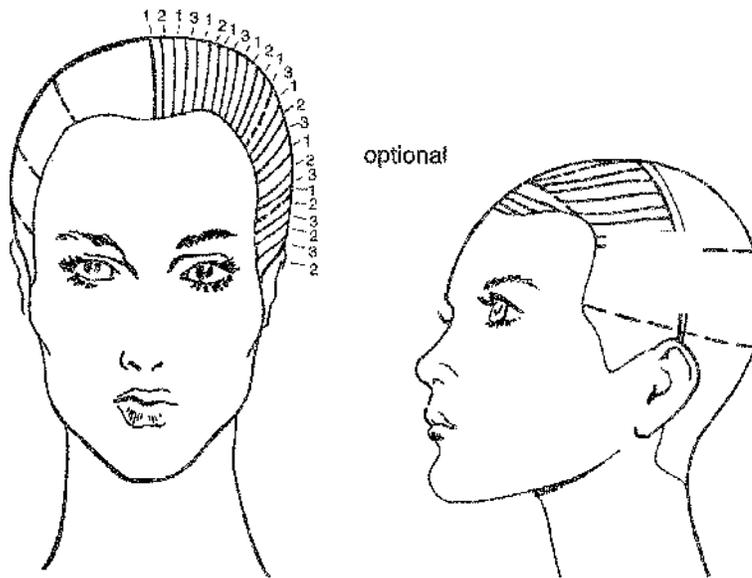
5. On the middle third of the head, apply even amounts of all three colors.

6. On the lower third of the head, apply Formula #3 alternating with #2. Use # I with the first alternation only Use #2 (base color) at all hairline areas and scalp to ensure 100% coverage.

7. Process 10 to 20 minutes until desired tones are achieved.

8. Remove foils; shampoo and condition.

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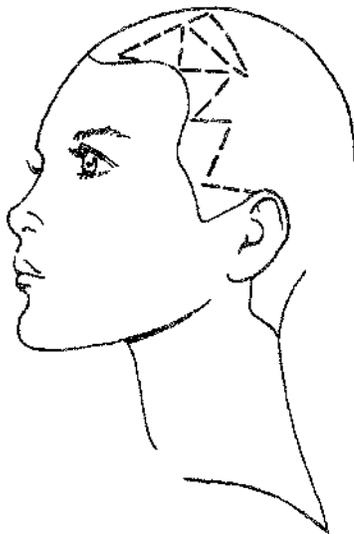
<u>Slicing</u>

For many expert colorists, slicing has become an alternative method of picking up hair, because it is fast.

1. To slice, part sections up to 3 inches wide and from 1/6- to 1/8-inch thick. KEEP SLICES THIN.
2. Place the foil underneath the strands. Brush formula onto the strands, fold the foil and secure.

Whichever technique you choose, remember to keep the sections thin. Do not take large sections of hair as this will result in spotting on the scalp, and a striped effect. If the client desires many highlights, place more foils in the hair.

<u>Foil Wrapping</u>

The alternate methods of folding the foils are double foils (or foil-on-foil) and the two-fold method.

<u>Double Foils (Foil-on-Foil)</u>

This is ideal for retouching, or when portions of the shaft and ends need protection while highlighting.

- Weave or slice the hair and secure the first foil in place. After application of the formula, take a second foil of the same size and place on top of the first foil. Fold sides inward.

<u>Two-Fold Wrap</u>

An alternative method for use when applying formula only to selected portions of the hair strands.

- Place foil underneath strands. Apply formula only to those areas to be highlighted or colored. (Conditioner may be applied to protect rest of strand.) Fold bottom third of the foil over the ends of the hair (or wherever hair needs protection).
- Fold foil up to the edge and fold sides inward.

Basic Hair Coloring Technique
The following is a normal tint application using a brush procedure found to be effective:

1. Begin applying at the top of the head.

2. Slant your sections up toward the front to accommodate the round shape of the head.

3. Use very small section lines (1/8 inch for retouches and 1/4 inch for shaft applications).

4. *Start* 1/2 inch out from scalp for virgin lightening or reds.

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5. Apply from roots to ends with virgin hair going same tone or darker.

6. *Rest* the handle of the brush on the tips of the forefinger and middle finger; hold the brush in place with your thumb.

7. *Rotate* the brush between thumb and finger to use the tip of the handle to make diagonal **partings.**

8. *Draw* a line to your thumb.

9. *Grasp* the sectioned hair between thumb and forefinger.

10. Push excess hair downward with the brush handle still flat to separate the strands.

11. Then lift the strand away and out with tension, then upward.

12. Dip brush in color formula.

13. *Scrape* the product from the back side of the brush.

14. *Rotate* the brush in your fingers and apply to the regrowth from the top of the regrowth in one continuous motion.

15. If regrowth is less than 1/4 inch use the edge of the brush, drawing tips of brush along the subparting, working the color into the scalp.

16. *Repeat* until finished.

Helpful reminders:

Some reminders may be helpful:

- Be careful! Don't **overlap!**

- Dip your brush in the color formula for each section application.

- Remove any excess color from the skin around the hairline as soon as your application is completed. The more care you take during and immediately after application, the easier the color removal will be!

- Lift the hair out from the scalp to assist the oxidation process.

- If you are applying to the shaft or ends, coat the brush more liberally. (These areas are more porous and require more products.)

You should still use only one side of the brush for neatness; hold the hair on your outstretched palm and work the color into the hair on your palm. After coating all the hair comb the product from scalp to ends, or as indicated by the process you require.

Your color is complete when the desired color is reached (usually when the regrowth matches the shaft and ends).

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