USE THINNING SHEARS

Overview

This tutorial guides you through the use of thinning shears on a variety of shapes and textures.

Skill Level

Beginning

Technical Skills

Angles - Basic Principles Of Design - Beveled - Blades - Blunt Cutting - Clippers - Density - Design Construction - Diffuse - Elevation - Ergonomics - Finger Rest - Graduation - Hair Quality - Internal Shape - Lighten - Movement - Offset - Perimeter Outline - Razors - Rubber Inserts - Screw - Soften - Taper - Technique - Tension - Texture - Thinning Shears

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USE THINNING SHEARS

Thinning shears come in various forms.
Some are offset. This is dependent on the size of your hand
and fingers, ergonomics and technique. Offset means the line
of the thumb which operates the moving blade is not in line with the top.
Some may have rubber inserts within the finger holes for added comfort.

There is usually a tension screw, which is used to adjust tension between
the blades.

There is often a finger rest.

The gap amounts vary. There are 15, 30 and 38 gap thinning shears
available.

The size of the gap varies.

The thumb is placed in the cutting blade hole.

Stability is created by locking the blade into place using the ring finger.

The thumb operates the cutting blade.

Blades with many teeth give a softer result.

Thinning shears need to be controlled as part of your technique and should
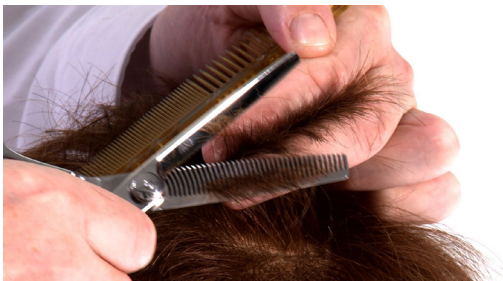not be used randomly.

Step 1

Thinning shears can be used in many ways. For example, on a short-
layered haircut they can be used to break up bulky texture and are used
over a comb.

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Step 1 - continued

Step 2 - continued

They can be used over the fingers to break up an existing shape to lighten, diffuse and soften an edge. This technique maintains the over-all shape but tapers and frays the edge. Thinning shears can also be used behind the fingers to get deeper into the root area.

Step 2 - continued

Step 2 - continued

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Step 3

Thinning shears can be used to break up perimeter outlines. In this instance, 15 gap shears are used.

Step 4

Thinning shears can be used to create a shape. In this instance, a soft angled fringe is created within a long layered shape. If you have a comprehensive understanding of the design and construction of shape then you can experiment with tools such as razors, clippers and thinning shears.

Step 5

The elevation and angles of the fingers, combined with the soft approach using thinning shears creates a curved fringe perimeter with soft graduation.

Step 6

Like razor techniques, you need to be aware of the depth or the length of the fragmented edge. In this instance the scissors are worked down the hair shaft for an extreme soft edge.

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Step 7

Understanding blunt cutting, angles, elevation and the basic principles of design using scissors you can then progress to include other tools. Choosing different tools is dependent on the hair quality and the desired outcome.

Step 8

Thinning shears can also be applied to the internal shape. In this instance they are used to refine corner placement of the internal longer layers.

Step 9

The corners are gradually rounded by the placement of a curled finger and a soft application of thinning shears.

Step 10

In graduation, thinning shears can be applied depending on density and texture. Generally they would be used with bulky, thick textured hair. This process is similar to pointing.

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Step 11

Thinning can be used to create texture. In this instance, a whole haircut has been created using classic vertical sections and thinning shears. Essentially this is a shape within a shape.

Step 12

This process facilitates longer, tendril-type lengths.

Step 13

On one length haircuts, thinning shears can be used to diffuse a solid line for a more bevelled result.

Step 13 - continued

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Finish 1

MHD advocates the importance of established techniques. Thinning scissors are used to enhance the natural texture and movement of the hair. This is dependent on accurate assessment and understanding of hair quality and movement patterns.

Finish 2

Finish 3

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