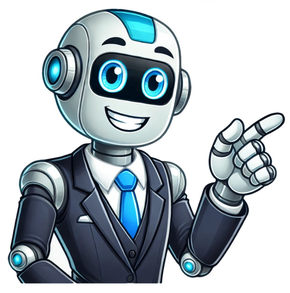
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In this guide, you'll learn how to fade hair for beginners at home. If this is you, you're in the right place.In this guide, we'll go through the lever, guard, and clipper and I'll explain how they all work together to make a fade.And… I'll also provide the visual process of how to fade from my channel.With that said, let's get into it. Right to put yourself in the best position to fade hair, you need a clipper that well.. fades well. In the guide below, I go through the best fading clippers article. There is a reason elite barbers own specific hair clippers for fading. It's not just another tool to add to …Or if you want clippers better built for home use, check out this article on the best hair clippers for home use.A clipper that provides plenty of flexibility is essential when considering the Best Hair Clippers For Home Use. …But, If you have a clipper right now, no problem, those will work too. This guide will go through how to fade with a lever-based clipper. Lever-based clippers have varying cutting lengths, and that all depends on whether they're fade-blade clippers or taper-blade clippers.Each has subtle differences that affect the cutting length of the clipper.You can read more into this in this guide:A lot has been said about how much length does a taper lever add. Truth be told, it's a simple answer and one you …But regardless of what blade you have as long as you have an idea of the cutting length of the guard, you can always figure out the overall cutting length.Take for example:Add up #1 guard + lever open is the same as 3mm + 1.5mm/1.2mm(is zero gapped).This gives you an overall cutting length of 4.5mm which, is basically a 1 ½ guard. That's an example we'll get to later.Detachable blade clippers work too, you just have to match the blade with the cutting length (I'll speak more about this later). Now let's get into level-based clipper mechanics.Don't worry, it's not that scary. As a beginner, there are 3 parts to a lever you need to know. That would be the: Lever closedLever openLever the lever being halfway between open and closed.For the rest of this guide, I'm going to assume you have a fade blade clipper, that cuts to around 0mm when closed and 1.5mm when open.That's the most common cutting length and blade, so this may very well relate to you.This is how your clipper looks when the lever is closed: When your lever is closed it leaves about 0.1 – 0.25mm of hair depending on the clipper. On the other hand, this is the lever open: When your clippers are in this position, they leave more hair, 1.5mm of hair to be exact. This is the same length as (half guard/0 guard) but we'll get to guards later. Extra: Now if you were to zero gap your clippers, you can make your clippers cut more hair while they're in an open/closed position. If your clipper were zero gapped your clipper blades could cut as close to 0.0 mm when the lever is closed (basically the length of the trimmer). Then when open, they would cut to about 1.2 mm.So overall it's a closer-cutting clipper. If a very close cut is what you want, it may be more beneficial to you, So to summarise:lever closed = 0-0.25 mm of hair left Lever closed but zero gapped = 0mm of hair leftLever open = 1.5mm of hair leftLever open but Clipper is zero-gapped = 1.2mm of hair leftFor beginners, I wouldn't recommend zero-galling your clippers. Clippers out of the box from a good brand will cut well. But if you want more insight into this, you can read my guide on how to zero gap clippers. Now that you understand the lever, it's best you understand how clipper guards work so you can use both to get a clean fade. Next up, understanding clipper guards. Now, if you need to know how the lever works. You now need to get the hang of the guards. These are the guards of the 3 major brands and the lengths they cut to. For beginners, I wouldn't recommend zero-galling your clippers. Clippers out of the box from a good brand will cut well. But if you want more insight into this, you can read my guide on how to zero gap clippers. Now that you understand the lever, it's best you understand how clipper guards work so you can use both to get a clean fade. Next up, understanding clipper guards. Now, if you need to know how the lever works. You now need to get the hang of the guards. WahlAndisBabylissIt's best to think of the length in mm/ inches as how much hair is left.So, you now know the lever moves to cut from virtually 0 when closed and 1.5mm when open. And now you know guards leave a certain length of hair, well You can now use the two together to merge and equal out lengths. Here's an example: Let's say you had a #1 guard with the lever closed As you open your clippers lever, it will become a 1 ½. Similarly, if you had a #1 ½ guard, lever open, as you close the lever the overall cutting length drops down to the actual 1½ guard cutting length.See how you can have two different guards but depending on how you move the lever, they can come to cancel each other out? Now I'll explain it in terms of length.With 1 ½ guard (4.5mm) and lever closed (0mm) = 4.5 mm of hair left.This is the same as: 1 guard (3mm) and lever open(1.5mm) = 4.5mm of hair left which is a 1½ gaurd.Alternatively With a 1 ½ guard (4.5mm) lever open (1.5mm) = 6mm Which is basically a 2 guard (6mm) lever closed (0mm) = 6mm So that's how you can manipulate the cutting level to reach the next guard up or down. Now blades… (If you own a detachable blade clipper).If you have a blade clipper, you won't have a guard, instead, you should have a set of blades that cut to their exact cutting length.Blades cut to their exact cutting length, to get a new length you have to swap out the blade for the length you want. Levers are more popular but as you can see, as you get down to the smaller lengths, you can seriously get some get detail with blades. Hence at barber school, blades are what most barbers begin to cut hair with. But if you have a lever clipper you can still get a very detailed cut Plus you don't have to keep swapping out a blade, just move the lever! Now go to the guide on how to fade hair at home If you're a beginner, you'll need to know about guidelines as you'll be using it to create lines that will blend into each other. These are guidelines. A guideline is an obvious and very harsh line created between different lengths of hair. They are created when the length you clipper currently cutting, leaves more hair than the previous length below.See how they steadily go up and each guideline gets thicker (has more hair)?With guidelines, they are about an inch long (but that depends on the style), but the more space you make, the easier it is to blend… so don't make them too cramped as you cut hair. Starting bigger overall and longer cutting length, as you close your lever, you will gradually cut more hair. While doing so, you should be taking out the guideline(fading it away), until you reach the bottom which will be the start of the new guideline. So with that said, let's get into how you can fade at home. If you're a visual leaner, here's some of my work to show you how to create a taper fade:My workNow to start off, you want to get a brush and brush your hair down so you work on a flat surface.You don't want any bumps. Now. We get to work. For these steps, we're going to do a mid-fade. We'll be blending from a 2 ½ guard Lever open, down to a zero. We will be using the same guidelines for this cut.If your doing your own hair, I would suggest you use a barber mirror, it gives all the angles you need to look at when trying to create a smooth blend, you can pick one up from below:Now as you go through each step, remember to keep brushing so you can better see each fade line as you create them.So, get your 2 guards and open up the lever. This should give leave around 8mm of hair. Take this and go over all the sides of your hair. This should give an even flatter surface to work with. Now, we can start the fading. But first, you must set your first low guideline with your trimmers/line-up clipper. The first step is to use the balders/trimmers/line-up clipper to set in the bald guidelines = 0 mm for the taperGet your trimmer and set a line at the bottom of your hair go as down as you can as this will virtually cut all your hair off and will be the bottom part of your blend. The next step is to use the clippers with the lever fully open to set in the next guideline slightly further up about 1 inch. You'll notice as you do this there's a slight difference between the guideline you set with your trimmer and the line you now created with your clippers 'open' You are leaving 1.5mm worth of hair, you'll fade the two together next.Now take your lever and set it to midway(that's halfway between 'open' and 'closed'). Take your clippers and cut from the line you set with your trimmer.Move your hand with delicate flicks and don't go up the line you set with your lever fully 'open'. If you do so, you'll be completely taking out the line as your clipper is currently set to cut more hairNow if you take your time and your blend well enough, you've blended the first part of your hair. When you reach the bottom of that guideline, you should now have your lever fully closed which as we said earlier, is about 0-0.25mm depending on the clipper. The length of hair left is enough for you to blend.The lever is open- no guard line you made, should now be completely gone.(Faded)And if you take your time and follow the process slowly, you should now have your first fade. Success!!(If you're feeling confident, you can move the lever to be more closed or open and you can blend further) – It may not even be needed if you like the current look.Now let's go up.Lever open + half guard is the same as 1.5mm + 1.5mm = 3mm which is basically a 1 guard now. Go up an inch once more to create the new guideline which you'll blend out. Now, move the lever to halfway open. Now you're going to take out the lever open, no guard line you created. This will now cut slightly more hair so slick at the line and it should start going away. Now as you move down, by the time you reach that lever open line, your clipper should now be on a half guard, lever closed – 1.5mm + 0 mm which is the same as a lever open. So when you reach that line you cutting the same length off your hair but you've now taken out a line of hair and done a fade. Neat how it works isn't it? You must only have the lever closed with a guard at the bottom of the line.If you have your lever closed with any guard and you're cutting the top side of your hair, you'll be cutting more hair than you like and that's how you botch a fade.So Yh.. keep that in mind. Now; this 0.5 cutting length is sometimes tricky and doesn't always want to blend clean so what you could do is an attack from the other side. You could remove the guard, take the corner of your clippers, open your level, and use the corner of the blade to attack the 0.5mm line.Remember, there is the same length.This should now take out the line completely. Yup, again this translates to 3mm + 1.5mm = 4mm of hair left. Which is yup, a 1 ½ guard equivalent. So now take this length, go up an inch (2mm), and create the next guard line which your blend out. Then you keep the same guard on, put your lever halfway and attach the middle to the top side of that line. Then close your blade with the 1 guard on which leaves purely 3mm of hair and you will now have a have blended that line with the lever open, half guard from the step above. They both equal 3mm of hair left. You should start to get the hang of this. Take this length and go up another inch to create the next guard line. Then put the lever halfway and then close to take the line completely.Note: – Now if you don't have a 1 ½ guard (andis guard your can instead use a 2 guard lever closed and meet the lines together with 1 guard lever open both the same length. If you did have a regular 1 ½ guard, you can now take your 2 guard – lever closed and blend that up into your 2 ½ guard of hair we set right at the very start where we took off all of the hair at the same length. If you don't have the 1½, instead, you can now instead use the 2-guard lever closed, then open it as you move up to the 2/ ½ guard length. And just like that, you've faded a 2 ½ with a 0. Now all that's left to do is line up a haircut and make it look tidy. This video gives you a full outline of the process. Now I don't have a liner, you can pick one up from our guide below:Why is it essential to have the Best Line Up Clippers? Well, there's a reason Elite barbers can create sharp lines …When using your line-up clippers to line up your hairline, all you want is to keep you steady. Press firmly and DON'T PUSH THAT HAIRLINE BACK.This video provided you with a walkthrough of the process. In this article, we went through how to fade hair for beginners at home. In order to do this you must learn how to manipulate a lever and work with a guard to create guidelines that you slowly take out to create a blend. If you found this article helpful. Check out other articles on Thai topics below. If you do your own hair, you'll need a mirror bit apart from that, you'll need a brush, hair clippers, guards, and trimmers.Start with a longer guard, and gradually work your way to a shorter one. Take your time, and don't rush the process.Yes, but it will take practice. Start with a longer guard, and watch tutorials as you fade. Taper and fade are two different styles of haircut that have been combined to give a man that contemporary classic hairstyle. The taper fade isn't a normal experiment for you to do by yourself unless you have valued skills in this field. You have to build a foundation of knowledge to get this perfectly on you and here we are to help you with a step-by-step guideline for it. Starting with a few tools here that you'll need for sure. You'll need to invest in the right cutting and styling tools to taper and fade your hair. It's a gentle reminder that you should never mess with tools. false tool and boom! Ruined haircut. So, make sure you have the right tools on hand for DIY (Do it Yourself). Choose The Right Clippers: Credit for fading your hair perfectly goes straight to the magic of the right clippers. You can either go with barber clippers that are often used for professional causes only or just the regular fade clippers. These clippers must include the finest blades, the most efficient motors, and a full suite of combs and extras for every cut. Scissors; Sharp Enough: Remember that a blunt scissor will never cut the edges neatly; instead, it will jumble up the entire style and cause you difficulties. Two Mirrors: Set one in front of you and the other behind you to have a 360-degree view while cutting so that you can't ever mess up the style. Regular Comb: To comb, separate, and catch each section and portion of hair evenly. Outlining Trimmer: For a precise outline and ear edge-ups, use an outlining trimmer. You should always dampen your hair before cutting. Spraying it down makes it a lot easier to make cuts. Hair should be washed and dried as usual. Use a comb and a hairdryer to straighten the curls. Straight hair is more manageable. Make sure your hair isn't knotted. Otherwise, clipping may create difficulties for you. For a perfect and even fade line, select the appropriate guard width first. There are a couple of guard sizes you need to get familiar with first. Start with the bigger guard size; the first guard, shorter guards, and lower guard. The first guard is to shave the sides and back of your hair. Switch to short guards as you move the downside of your head. You'll leave the top the same length as before by moving it halfway down the head. You need to decide the lines for fades before you begin to cut. This is a very important step that you can't miss. There is no limit to how many fade lines you can have. Start with one on your first-chop and work your way up to two as your confidence grows. It's a matter of personal preference where you place the fading line. It can be worn between the top of the ear and 2 or 3 inches above it. Now, it's time to start the cutting process. Remember to be as gentle and be patient throughout this whole process. If you snip one wrong portion, you can mess up your style and will regret it later. We can do it in several parts; following one by one. separate the top portion of your hair. Mark a rectangle using a comb above the round of your head. This will help you differentiate between the long hair on top and the smaller side ones. You can use a small clip to stop hairs coming in your way. As with cutting your face, the standard rule is to shave in the reverse way of hair growth. You have to move the clippers vertically from the start. Begin from the sideburns and work your way back to the head, moving the clipper upwards. Make upward sweeps with your clippers, arcing out with each stroke. Don't make any cut or trim the hair on top of the head that has been separated away. Gently press down on the scalp immediately below where you're cutting with your free hand. This will ensure that the cutting is straight and even. Shave in the same manner as before, starting at the bottom and working your way up. To ensure an accurate fade, don't be in a hurry. You must take it slow. Clean up the fade with a small comb. You will have a good clean fade with no apparent fading lines if everything is executed properly. Now it's time to do the top part of the hair. You can use either a scissor or just a higher guard. If you want to keep it longer, then scissors would be appropriate. Lift the hair with a comb or your fingertips and cut above it. As you cut, double-check the edges. To create a faded appearance with long hair, trim the hair at an angle as you proceed towards the back of the head. The length of your upper sectioned hair can be measured according to your preference. Proceed to do the same as much as you want until you get the desired length/look. Use a straight razor or a trimmer to trim up the ends of the cut and to remove any neckline hair or uneven areas. Apply moisturizing cream to the area you're about to shave with a razor blade, then dab with a warm wet cloth. For a finishing touch, brush out any stray hairs and shape the front with wax or gel. Make sure the equipment you use is neat and clean beforehand. Don't lose your patience. Once you get a hang of it, the process will be a lot faster. Never be afraid of new experiments! Last but not least, your measurements don't have to be exact figures as long as you keep the haircut consistent. Rabizo Anatolii – stock.adobe.com One of the most popular haircuts in barbershops is the taper fade haircut. The tapered haircut tapers around the head, gradually looking more shaved as it reaches the nape of the neck, creating a gradual fade effect. There are different degrees of a classic fade––from the distinctive-looking burst fade to intricate hairstyles, like the fades showcasing elaborate designs shaved in the hair. The timeless taper haircut is a personal preference and a fan favorite. Top Five Most Popular Types of Fades Ranked There are many styling choices and haircuts with taper fades and here are a few of our favorites. Taper Fade As a rule of thumb, the taper fade is cut from long to short, starting from top to bottom. It's a stylish look that works with curly hair or straight hair. Low Fade The low fade doesn't taper quite like the gradual taper fade, as the cut is subtler than the mid fade and high fade but less subtle than the taper. It's a stylish, versatile cut that allows room to play with the length of the top of the hair. Mid Fade The mid fade lives between the low and high fade and starts to fade in the middle of the head. This sleek style is an excellent choice and works for any age. Contemporary Pompadour Fade The classic pomp fade is an interesting combination of the pompadour with a timeless taper fade. The entire crown is covered in long hair, and just beneath the crown, the shaved hair tapers and fades. The dapper and daring appearance of this fade can take on many looks depending on the taper fade style. Different hair types and personal styles can influence the various types of taper hairstyles that look the most flattering. A gradual taper fade works with all types of hair textures. Why Is the Taper Fade Hairstyle So Popular With Men? The reason that men like fade haircuts are that they are clean-looking, fashionable, and low maintenance. Most people with this haircut only need a trim every few weeks. How To Give a Taper Fade Haircut Anyone who wants to give a fade haircut to other people would have more success if they went to barber school. Most amateurs make mistakes when they attempt this haircut. Going to cosmetology school will ensure that the barber gives his clients high-quality results quickly and safely. The first step in giving this haircut is choosing the right clippers. Low-end clippers are a poor choice as they tend to pull hair instead of cutting it properly. A good pair of clippers will have a high-speed motor and adjustable blades. You can choose to use detachable blades; however, they aren't recommended as the barber will have to perform multiple blade swaps. Those dealing with skin or giving bald fades should consider using dedicated balding clippers or zero-gap trimmers. Invest in clipper guards. Follow These Steps To Give a Proper Fade Haircut Start at the baseline where the blending will begin. Blowout fades begin where the hairline starts, while low to medium fades start above the ears. Set the desired blade length on the clippers. Cut up the back of the head and the sides. When the fade line has been established, the barber should adjust their clippers and cut upwards. The instructions described above are a simple "how-to" guide for the DIY taper fade haircut. However, barbers who want to learn good techniques will need extensive training to achieve a clean fade that is professional looking. By enrolling in a barbering program at a cosmetology school, you can expertly achieve different types of taper fades and other popular hairstyles. From amazing taper fade haircuts, including the curly fringe fade or drop taper fade haircut, to more complex and artistic fades with designs, a barbering program can prepare you for any cut or style. The Benefits of Attending Barber School Students who attend cosmetology school will be taught how to do common barbershop haircuts and more advanced styles making every client leave with shop with a dapper appearance. Graduates will leave the school knowing techniques that allow them to perform these haircuts quickly and easily. As barbering school gives students hands-on experience, barbers will feel comfortable working with new clients and learn how to retain loyal customers. Many barbers credit barber school for teaching them how to do a perfect taper fade haircut. Instructors will foster an atmosphere that is like a barbershop. You can increase the cost of barber visits as you gain more experience. Taking the Leap and Enrolling If you are interested in becoming a barber, schedule a tour. Our cosmetology school has a barbering course that will teach you about each type of popular cut including, but not limited to blowout taper fades, drop fades, fade maintenance, tapered necklines, and many more haircut types. After you graduate, you will be confident enough to work with experienced barbers at a barbershop. Our staff can also discuss finance options with you. Whether you are searching for "how to taper fade," what is taper fade," or "how to do a taper fade: "I know what you are looking for, and I can help." In fact, I have helped many millennials like you. And besides, I have this feeling (call it intuition if you like) that you are a classy and stylish kind of guy who doesn't mind going the extra mile to look the best. And it is for this reason I have penned this post: "to reveal a simple step-by-step guide to do a taper fade." Who is this guide for? Ideally, for anyone looking to sharpen their cutting skills, whether you're a professional or a beginner, there's something here for you. However, beginners will gather the most, if you are a beginner, this guide covers everything you need to know about the taper fade. From what is a taper fade, how to do it yourself, types, tips for taper fading, and many more. I mean, "everything is covered, period," and this is so simple; I call it "the foolproof way to do fade with taper." So, with that out of the way. I present to you the most comprehensive "how-to taper fade hair" guide you will find anywhere in the cybersphere. What is Taper Fade In a nutshell, the taper is a variation of the fade, yet not entirely. But being more specific, this type of cut is a gradual shortening of the hair from the top of the head, down to the sideburns and neckline. Or differently put, the taper fade only affects three areas of the head, the two sides, and the neckline. Difference Between TAPER and FADE Haircut The taper fade is a gradual shortening of the hair from the top, right down to the sideburns and neckline of the head. But on the other hand, the traditional fade is a detailed version of the taper, and it involves the shortening of hair much shorter than the taper, usually to blend in with the skin. Popular Types of Taper Fades Of all the types of fades, the taper is not only the most popular. But possibly the most stylish and elegant haircut you will find anywhere. And evidently, that has to do with its "not over the top." But a natural, clean kind of look that it brings. And that being the case, it's only fair that we dig a little deeper into the taper fade. Below, is a short but detailed listing of the three most popular taper fades. Low Taper Fade Great for professionals, the low taper; is a classy-looking haircut that starts above the ears and bends as you gradually work your way from the sideburns to the neckline. Also, compared with the other types of taper, the low taper leaves less contrast at the sides and back of the head. And of course, you can then try the hairstyle of choice to polish things off, for example, the faux hawk, side part, comb over, are all ideal to go with a low taper. High Taper Fade Unlike the low taper, the high taper is much shorter at the sides. In fact, the high taper fade is the shortest of the three fades. The high taper starts about 2 inches below the hair at the top, and then shortens/tappers, almost to skin level. Thus, creating a high contrast look. Mid Taper Fade The mid taper fade is both the low and mid taper combined. And it starts at the midpoint from the sides and back of the head as you gradually work your way upwards. And being what it is (versatile), the medium taper works with any hairstyle you can think of, whether curly, short, long, or thick at the top, no problem. What You'll Need: Clippers Sharp scissors Two mirrors Comb Steps to Follow Fade With Taper: If you have long hair, highly recommend you wash and dry your hair before attempting the taper fade. Doing this, along with thoroughly and carefully combing your hair, especially curly hair, will streamline the entire process, thus allowing you to achieve the best possible result. Using the scissor-over-finger technique (if you have long hair), start at the top of the head. But before you start cutting the hair, make sure you hold the scissors parallel to the floor before you begin cutting the desired length. You can also use a hair clipper specifically designed for fades as well, it doesn't matter, once you are comfortable with it, but I find clippers to be more straightforward to use than scissors. Read Also: Best Short Fade Haircut Men Hairstyles The taper fade is a classic, versatile haircut that is popular among men of all ages. Known for its clean and polished look, the taper fade seamlessly blends hair around the sides and back of the head while keeping it longer on top. Whether you're looking to refresh your style or try something new, learning how to get a taper fade at home or communicate your vision to a barber is a valuable skill. In this guide, we'll walk you through the step-by-step process of achieving the perfect taper fade, complete with tips, tools, and considerations. Understanding the Taper Fade Before diving into the steps, it's crucial to understand what makes a taper fade distinct. Unlike a traditional fade that cuts hair very short at the base and gradually increases in length, a taper fade is more subtle and conservative. It typically features longer hair at the top that gradually shortens towards the neckline and ears. The Popularity of Taper Fades According to recent grooming industry statistics, nearly 70% of barbers report that fades, including taper fades, are among the top-requested hairstyles. This style's popularity stems from its ability to suit various hair types and personal styles, from professional to casual. Tools You Will Need To achieve a perfect taper fade, you'll need the right tools. Here's a list of essentials: Clippers: Invest in a quality clipper with multiple guard sizes for different lengths. Scissors: For trimming and detailing. Comb: A fine-tooth comb is ideal for precise cutting. Mirror: Use a handheld mirror to view the back of your head. Trimmer: Helpful for detailing around the edges. Step-by-Step Guide to Achieving a Taper Fade Step 1: Prepare Your Hair Start with clean, dry hair. Use a comb to detangle and straighten your hair, ensuring it's ready for cutting. This will help you achieve a more precise fade. Step 2: Select Your Preferred Length Decide on how long you want the top of your hair to be. This will help determine the guard size you'll start with. For a classic taper fade, the top is usually between 2 to 4 inches, while the sides and back gradually decrease in length. Step 3: Begin with the Clippers Attach the longest guard to your clippers and start trimming from the bottom of the head upwards. Work in sections, moving from the nape of the neck to the crown. Gradually switch to shorter guards as you move downwards to create the fade effect. Step 4: Blend the Layers To achieve a seamless blend, go back with a slightly longer guard to smooth out any visible lines. Use the comb to lift sections of hair and trim with scissors to refine the transition between different lengths. Step 5: Detail the Edges Use a trimmer or the clipper without a guard to clean up around the ears, sideburns, and neckline. This step adds a polished finish to the taper fade. Troubleshooting Common Issues Even with careful planning, executing a taper fade can present challenges. Here are some common issues and solutions: Visible Lines If you notice distinct lines, use a guard size between the two lengths to blend them better. Practice the scooping motion with your wrist to create a gradual transition. Uneven Lengths Always double-check your work by viewing your hair from different angles. Use mirrors to ensure symmetry and evenness throughout the fade. Maintaining Your Taper Fade To keep your taper fade looking sharp, regular maintenance is essential. Here are some tips: Regular Trims Visit your barber every 3 to 4 weeks for touch-ups, or if you're cutting your hair at home, schedule time to refresh the fade. Use Quality Hair Products Invest in styling products such as pomades or waxes that match your hair type to keep your style in place without causing buildup. Conclusion Mastering the art of the taper fade can be a rewarding endeavor, offering you a stylish and timeless look that suits various occasions. By following this step-by-step guide, you can feel confident in achieving a professional-level haircut at home or effectively communicating your desired style to a barber. Remember, practice makes perfect, and with time, your taper fade skills will only improve. Whether you're opting for a subtle taper or a more pronounced fade, this versatile hairstyle remains a staple in men's grooming. For more tips and tricks on men's hairstyles and grooming routines, be sure to check out our other blog posts or subscribe to our newsletter for the latest updates! Book An Appointment One of the most well-liked and adaptable haircuts for guys is the taper fade. It provides a neat, polished appearance that complements a range of facial shapes and styles. Regardless of your level of experience, this tutorial will walk you through the process of creating a taper fade step-by-step.What Is a Taper Fade? (how to do a taper fade)A taper fade is a haircut where the hair gradually gets shorter from the top to the sides and back. It blends seamlessly into the skin, giving a neat and professional appearance. This style is loved for its versatility and can be combined with other hairstyles like pompadours, quiffs, or Afros.Tools Youâ€™ll NeedTo achieve a perfect taper fade, youâ€™ll need the right tools:Clippers with adjustable guards.Comb for sectioning and guiding the cut.Scissors for trimming longer hair.Trimmer or edger for defining the hairline.Mirror setup (if doing it yourself) for viewing all angles.Preparation StepsBefore you start, follow these preparation steps:Clean Hair: Wash and dry your hair to remove any product buildup.Choose Guard Sizes: Decide the length you want for the fade and top. Use smaller guard sizes for shorter fades.Divide Sections: Section your hair with a comb for better control while cuttingStep-by-Step Process to Do a Taper FadeStep 1: Start with the Longest GuardAttach the largest guard to your clippers.Begin cutting from the bottom of the head, moving upward in smooth strokes.Stop at the point where you want the fade to start blending with the top.Step 2: Work Your Way Down Guard SizesSwitch to a smaller guard size and cut just below the first section.Blend the shorter section into the longer one using upward motions.Step 3: Blend the FadeUse an even smaller guard size to fade closer to the skin.Focus on blending each section smoothly to avoid visible lines.Step 5 : Trim the Top (Optional)If needed, use scissors to shape and style the top.Comb through the hair and snip evenly to achieve your desired length.Styling Tips for a Taper FadeMoisturize Hair: To keep your hair hydrated and styled, use a light pomade or styling cream.Brush Frequently: Brush your hair every day to keep it looking tidy.Try Different Styles: Combine your taper fade with different hairstyles, such as a sleek back or twists.How Often Should You Refresh a Taper Fade?To keep your taper fade looking sharp, refresh it every 2-3 weeks. This prevents overgrowth and maintains clean lines.Conclusion: how to do a taper fadeLearning how to do a taper fade is easier than you think. With the right tools, preparation, and technique, you can achieve a professional-quality fade at home. Practice is key, so donâ€™t hesitate to experiment and refine your skills. If the words DIY taper fade scare you, you just don't have enough information. Did you know that a taper fade can easily be done in the comfort of your own home? Most men start by asking for some help from their friends and girlfriends while others have no trouble making one themselves. All you need to do is buy the right tools and get ready for the ride. Let's Get a Taper Fade! At first, you might need to spend about an hour creating a more or less feasible hairstyle. But once you get some experience, a simple taper fade will take just about 20 minutes. So we suggest you stop being afraid of experiments and give a simple taper fade a try. After all, you can always go to the barber shop to fix your hair if something goes wrong. What You'll Need: Clippers Sharp scissors 2 mirrors Comb What To Do: Wash and dry your hair as you usually do. If your hair is curly, try to straighten it out with a comb and a hair dryer. Straight hair is easier to manage. Carefully run a comb through your locks to make sure that it's not tangled. Otherwise, clipping might be difficult. Start with cutting the top. You can either use the scissors to do it or the longest guard of the clipper. This depends on your preferences. Decide where the fade line will be. Take off the guard from the clippers and remove the hair just about your ears and in the back, including your neck. Do it up to the fade line. Use the shortest clipper guard so the length of the hair will be about 1/8 of an inch. Start just above the fade line and run the clippers all the way around to achieve the first level of the fade. Switch the guard to the next length (1/4) and repeat the same procedure below the next level. Repeat the same with the next two clipper guards (3/4 and 1/2). Blend your hair with the shortest clipper guard. Watch the below video tutorial on DIY Taper Fade Haircut DIY a Taper Fade – Tips & Cautions Tip #1: If you want the process to go smoothly, you need to make sure that the tools you are using are clean. After the haircut is done, meticulously clean the clippers. Ensure that all the hair is removed, otherwise, the next time you use them, you won't get a proper precision and might even hurt yourself. Tip #2: When using the clippers, cut the hair off little by little in order to ensure that you are getting the right results. Once you get a hang of it, the process will go faster. Tip #3: If you are not sure you can create a neat cut on top of your head. Use the longest clipper guard to shape it. 70 Most Amazing Taper Fade Haircuts for Men Best Taper Fade Haircuts for Men 1. Taper fade for Black Men If you are thinking about a look that is perfect for summer, we highly recommend you getting a short buzz cut with taper faded sides, that properly frame your face. Also, it is a great match with the short stubble beard. The hairstyle is low maintenance and perfect for guys who want no fuss in the morning. 2. Rock and Roll Instagram / angelyasdan Elvis Presley is responsible for this rock and roll hairstyle. Even if decades have passed, it still has an influence on today's styling choices. Keep a clean shaved face and a fade for the sideburns. Using your trimming machine and clippers, style the sides and back and keep the crown hair extended and arranged in wide flat curls. 3. Wet Curls Guys with curly hair will love this hairstyle because it is so easy to pull off each morning. Up for a bald temple fade that creates a great transition. The curls should be much longer than the hair used for the sides. You can create this disruption by selling no connection with the bald taper fade. 4. Box Cut Box haircuts are quite popular thanks to their unusual square shape. However, before thinking of getting this tapered haircut you must be sure that your hair has the proper texture. It works best on coarse African American hair. To highlight it, opt for a bald fade. 5. Modern Pomp Pompadours are probably one of those hairstyles that will never fade away. And this happens because the pomp is extremely versatile and can be adapted to all face shapes and tastes. It involves keeping crown hair longer and styled with height and volume. 6. Buzz Cut Fade Instagram / 4j.fades Buzz cuts are not only very low-maintenance haircuts but also so a great idea for summer looks. Even if the hair is kept this short, that doesn't mean you have no styling opportunities. Make this cut look cooler with a side fade. 7. Metallic Glitter When you're feeling festive, or you are preparing for a party that requires a glamorous look, you can easily turn your regular hairdo into a piece of art. Getting a taper fade with a one-sided top is everything you need. Use a silver glittery hair spray that you will apply on the crown section to make the look stand out. 8. Pastel Red If you're not into fierce red, you can get a lighter nuance that gives your hairstyle a modern vibe. But first thing's first! Choose a short haircut with a bald fade and use a razor or your trimming machine to create a curved abstract design on the sides. 9. Dreadlock Mohawk Instagram / bubba_kutz If you don't want to completely shave your dreadlocks but still get a hairstyle that is perfect for summer, get the perks of a mohawk and the looks of your dreads. Shave only the sides and pin all your locks into a top bun. 10. Parted Rows If you think that short hairstyles can't be remarkable, you better think again because this example needs no explanation. If you want it to look absolutely perfect, you should go to a hairdresser that you trust because you'll want to create the perfect distance between each row. 11. Faux Hawk Instagram / mohsen.d.r.s A faux hawk is relatable to the well-known mohawk. Instead of maintaining that height from the forehead to the nape, the hawk focuses only on the crown hair. And if you want to add your personal note to this faded taper hairstyle, ask your barber to create a spiral design. 12. Zig Zag Braids Instagram / d_nizz2 Create two hair sections with a zig-zag parting and use each hair piece to create the same pattern for your braids. Knit them til the ends and pin them in a pony or a bun. The hairstyle is perfect when you need a sassy look. 13. Classic Taper Fade Instagram / theocdbarber When heat is overwhelming, you need a hairstyle that makes summer sun bearable. You will need to use a trimming machine and adapt the length using clippers. Also, use a razor to give the edges a better definition. This way, you will also prevent irritation caused by friction and sweat that appear at the nape. 14. Messy Curls A more prominent taper fade in the temple and back area will create a stunning tapering transition towards that curly brown hair. If you want to give your waves that "just got out of the shower" look, use hair gel. 15. Coarse Hair Coarse hair might be tricky to style, so you need to find a haircut that works to your advantage. By keeping portions of your hair shortly cut, most of your effort will be concentrated on the top. This way, you can work your hairstyle in just a couple of minutes. 16. Back Line Design If you look from the front, this hairstyle might seem common. A lot of guys prefer a shortcut on the sides and a richer, extended top. But it comes with a surprise line design that is styled in the nape area, highlighted by a fade. 17. Bald Temple Fade Instagram / mannyyfades A tapered temple fade is a great way to highlight your hair texture. Get a hairstyle that shortly trims the hair in the back and emphasizes your curls. Dip your fingers in pomade and rub it on your hands, then use it to style your hair. 18. Twisted Bags A low bald fade constructed circling the ears will draw all the attention to the taper fade and the extended top and bangs. When styling your fringe, use a rounded brush and an air dryer to get that curl and volume. 19. Coarse Comb Over Having thick coarse hair can be a blessing because it provides a lot of styling choices. Go for a fade on the sides and back and choose a hairstyle with a longer top. Comb it over and build some heights to make it look dandy. 20. Flat Spikes Section your top hair and create hair strands that you will define with pomade or hair gel. Make them look like flat spikes. This taper fade hairstyle is perfect for the summer and keeps you cooled off. Among the most popular hairstyles, taper fades are praised for their versatility, clean appearance, and suitability for numerous hair types. It is a valuable skill to learn how to do a taper fade, regardless of whether you are a professional barber or just trying your hand at it at home. Choosing the right tools, understanding fade types, and mastering the technique of tapering are all part of this guide to achieving a perfect taper fade. Let's get started!Taper fades are hairstyles that gradually shorten from the top to the bottom, blending seamlessly into the skin. "Faded" hairstyles appear polished and clean because of the transition from longer to shorter hair. It is possible to customize taper fades in many ways, ranging from high fades that offer a sharp contrast to low fades that are subtle.In order to decide which look you want to achieve, you need to understand the different types of taper fades. A few popular options are as follows:Low Taper Fade: This fade begins just above the ear and transitions subtly.Mid Taper Fade: Creates moderate contrast between hair lengths around the temples.High Taper Fade: Creates an edgy, bold look by starting high on the head, near the crown.Skin Taper Fade: Close-cropped, clean finish that fades all the way down to the skin.Drop Fade: Fades follow the natural shape of the head, dropping as they go around the back.Here are the tools you'll need to create a professional-quality taper fade:Clippers with different guard sizes (e.g., #1, #2, #3, etc.)Trimmer or edger around the hairline and ears for fine detailsComb used to blend the fade and control the hairScissors for trimming and blendingMirrorif you're working alone, two mirrors are recommended)Hair clips can be used to keep sections out of the way if necessaryComb your hair after it has been cleaned, dried, and combed. Before beginning the taper fade, detangle and smooth the hair. As a result, the natural hairline will be easier to see and the fade will be more even.Also, read How to Get Edgar Cut Video TutorialYou can choose between low, mid, high, or skin fades. Starting with a low or mid taper fade is usually easiest for beginners, since it requires less contrast and blending.The largest guard should be used first (usually #4 or #3). Move the clippers upward over the top of the head or the highest point of the fade. In this way, you will gradually reduce the length of your hair as you fade.The first "guideline" marks where the fade transitions from one length to the next. Switch to a shorter guard (e.g., #2) and set your first "guideline." Make sure you follow the shape of the head carefully around the temple area. To avoid harsh lines and to keep the transition smooth, move the clippers in a C-motion or flick-out motion.The head should be moved down and the guard changed to a shorter one (e.g., #1). Place the second guideline between one and two inches below the first, following the same C-motion. The taper fade begins to become noticeable at this stage. It is important to maintain even pressure throughout the line to avoid harsh cuts.If your clippers have an adjustable lever, you can use the "lever play" technique to blend the lines between lengths. Adjust the guard slightly by opening the lever and going over the area between your first and second guidelines. This process should be repeated until the transition from top to bottom is smooth.For a refined blend, use scissors near the temples and nape of the neck to cut out hair sections slightly with a comb.Trim the guard or switch to the shortest guard. If you want a skin taper fade, fade your hair down to the skin along your neckline and sideburns. The sideburns and neckline should be well-defined for a cleaner look.If any fine details need to be adjusted, use a clipper's edge or a trimmer. Sideburns should be squared off or rounded, and the neckline should be crisp.Make sure the head is symmetrical by using a hand mirror. Any remaining unevenness can be removed with clipper guards or scissors.Also, read Mid Taper Fade Curly Hairstyles for MenPractice with Longer Guards First: A longer guard gives you more room to make mistakes at first, especially when you're learning fades.Blend with a Comb and Scissors: Use a comb and scissors if there are any noticeable lines or uneven areas.Go Slowly: Take your time and double-check your work often. Rushing can lead to mistakes.Pay Attention to Head Shape: Keep the fade balanced by following the natural contours of the head.Clean Up: The taper fade looks polished and professional with a clean neckline and well-defined edges.Maintaining a sharp look requires regular upkeep with taper fades. It is generally recommended to touch up fades every two to three weeks, depending on hair growth. If you want to touch up your hair at home, follow the same steps as above.Leaving Harsh Lines: Smooth fades are achieved by blending. Blending tools and gradual motions will help you avoid harsh lines.Using the Wrong Guard Sizes: Maintain an even transition between longer and shorter hair by using the same guard size every time.Rushing the Process: A good taper fade takes time, so avoid mistakes by working methodically.Also, read Straight Hair Mid Fade TaperWith taper fades, you can wear this hairstyle regardless of your face shape, hair type, or personal style. It is possible to achieve both a professional-looking fade and a stylish fade with this guide. The more you practice, the better your hand will become at blending, so you can achieve the perfect taper fade every time. Taper fade haircuts have become a staple in men's grooming, offering a clean and sleek look that works for nearly any occasion. Whether you're going for a casual or formal look, a taper fade is a versatile hairstyle that complements different face shapes and hair types. The beauty of this cut lies in its gradual transition from short to long hair, providing a neat yet stylish appearance.In this comprehensive guide, we'll take you through the step-by-step process of how to do taper fade, whether you're a beginner or just need a refresher. We'll also answer some common questions and provide useful tips to help you nail the perfect taper fade every time.Introduction to Taper FadeA taper fade is a haircut where the hair gradually gets shorter as it moves down the sides and back of the head, blending seamlessly into the skin. The result is a smooth transition from longer hair on top to short or even bald sides, depending on the style of fade. This haircut is known for its clean, crisp appearance that suits both casual and professional settings.The taper fade has remained popular for decades because of its versatility. It works with almost any hairstyle on top, from buzz cuts to afros, and can be customized to suit personal preferences. Additionally, it requires relatively low maintenance, making it a go-to style for many.Tools You'll Need for a Taper FadeA good quality clipper with multiple guard sizes is essential for achieving a smooth taper fade. Clippers allow you to create the gradual length transition necessary for this cut.Scissors are useful for trimming longer hair on top or for refining edges and details that the clippers might miss.A comb helps with sectioning the hair and ensuring that it's even before you start cutting. It also aids in blending the hair more smoothly.If you're doing a taper fade on yourself, having a good mirror setup is crucial. Ideally, use two mirrors—one in front and one behind you—so you can see the back of your head.Different Types of Taper FadesIn a low taper fade, the hair starts to taper just above the ears. It's a subtle fade that keeps most of the hair length intact, making it great for those who prefer a conservative look.The mid-taper fade begins about the temples, a little higher than the low fade. It's a balanced look that isn't too bold but offers more contrast than the low fade.The high taper fade begins above the temples, creating a more dramatic look. It's a bolder, edgier style that's popular among those who want a modern, trendy haircut.The taper fade gradually shortens the hair, whereas the skin fade cuts the hairs all the way down to the skin at the lowest point, creating a sharp and dominating contrast. Compared to taper fades, skin fades are frequently more striking.Step-by-Step Guide: How to Do a Taper FadeStart by washing and drying your hair, as the clean hairs are easier to cut. Lay out your cutting tools like clippers, scissors, comb, and guards so they're easy to reach.Use your clippers to trim the bulk of the hair. Choose a guard length that suits your desired look, usually a number 4 or 5 guard. This will act as the foundation for the taper fade.Divide the hair into sections using your comb. This helps to maintain control over which areas you're tapering, ensuring an even cut.Begin tapering by selecting a lower guard size (like a number 2 or 3). Start at the bottom of the hairline near the ears and gradually work your way up. As you move higher, switch to longer guards to create the gradual fade effect.Blending is crucial to achieving a smooth transition. Use a clipper-over-comb technique or scissors to refine the fade. Make sure there are no visible lines between lengths.Apply the same tapering technique to the back of the head. Remember to follow the natural hairline and keep the fade consistent with the sides.Using the clippers or scissors, clean up around the hairline and ears to give the cut a polished look.Finally, style the top of the hair according to preference. You can leave it longer or trim it shorter, depending on your overall style.Common Mistakes to AvoidOne of the most common mistakes is not blending the hair properly, leaving visible lines between lengths. Ensure there is no uneven cutting of hairs from top area of head towards the sides and neckline.It's easy to go too high with the taper, especially for beginners. Stick to the plan and taper gradually to avoid losing too much hair length.Maintenance Tips for Your Taper FadeTo keep your taper fade looking fresh, aim for a touch-up every 2-3 weeks. This prevents the fade from growing out too much and losing its shape.Pomades, gels, or matte creams are excellent for styling the top of your taper fade. Choose a product that suits your hair type to keep it looking neat and well-groomed.Benefits of Learning How to Do a Taper Fade at HomeMastering the art of the taper fade means you can skip the barber and save some cash. It's also a handy skill if you prefer cutting your hair regularly.When you do your own taper fade, you can tailor the style to your preferences, ensuring you get the perfect fade every time. So:You wanna go easy on the cash and do a self-cut, right?That's not it?Perhaps there isn't a single barber near you, hence, you're only option is to cut and style yourself?Well, whatever your reasons may be, below is a list of things you would require to give yourself a nice Taper Fade haircut at home. PrerequisitesQuality ClippersA brush·A combA pair of scissorsA reference photoMirrors that allow you to see all angles of your head. Two will do just fine, one fixed in place and the other portable.Pre-Cut PreparationNow:There are several different types of Taper Fade Haircuts, right? But, they all have one similarity - Tapering.Before going on with this, it's best to have a particular style in mind first.However:When settling for a tapered fade haircut, you should note that, since the hair goes down the back of the head and sides, this haircut may reveal scars.So, if there are any, you might want to reconsider.Lastly, set up your cutting area and have everything you need in an easily accessible location (an arm's length from where you'll be standing/sitting).That said, here's what you need to do.WiseBarber's 6-Step Process to DIY Taper-FadingGet this:For a regular Tapered Fade Haircut, you want to have at least four inches of hair on top. Anything longer will result in a messy look.But, there are exceptions…If you are opting for a Taper Fade for Curly hair or longer cuts like the Long Hair Taper Fade, you may just want to have a few inches longer.Now, to the cutting part!First, set the mirror in place and keep your equipment within reach.Cover yourself in a barber's cape to avoid messy hair getting into your tools or dirtying your workspace.Take the top part of the hair and tie it up. Hold it in place with clips, bands, or pins.The next thing you want to do is to Taper the sides and back. Start by cutting gently to have a nice taper length and gradient. The length will be completely determined by the style you want. Remember all Taper Fades have something in common; they are like an Ombre.Then, fade the lower ends to create a Taper Fade. Fades often look good for the same reason this world balances in black and white and good and evil; Contrast! Keeping this in mind, you should have no problem cutting the hair around the sides. Remember to maintain a clean cut till you match the skin at the bottom.Once you are done with the sides, you can now go ahead and style the top as desired.A Few Useful Barber TipsNow:Knowing a client's ideal Tapered Fade Haircut greatly depends on the shape of their face.For example…A Square face will largely fit the High Taper Fade, Afro Taper Fade, and Airbrush Taper Fade.Round face shapes will adjust to the Fine Taper Fade with Banged Front and the Classic Fade Harvard Style.For men with Angular face shapes, I am positive the Undercut Brush Up and the Curly Dyed Highlights will do the trick.However, that's not all. Ideal styles can also be determined by hair length, hair type, and a client's preferences.So, it helps to ask and learn as much as you can before giving your client recommendations.