

LESSON 1

IDENTIFYING THE HAIR TYPE & TEXTURE



WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO IDENTIFY YOUR CLIENT'S HAIR TYPE & TEXTURE?

Your cutting, styling and coloring technique will vary not only based on the client's desired end result but also on the hair type you are working with. This is why identifying the hair type and texture you are working with is a vital step before starting your service.

IDENTIFYING THE HAIR TYPE & TEXTURE

Before identifying the hair type, it is important to understand that beyond race, ethnicity, size or age, we all can have multiple hair types and textures on one head. The hair type chart in this

lesson is based on the Andre Walker hair type classification and should serve as a guide to help adjust your hair cutting, styling or coloring technique for optimal end results.

This hair type classification uses alpha-numeric references where the number represents the hair type (straight, wavy, curly and coily) and the letter represents the subtype.

HAIR TYPE	HAIR TEXTURE	DESCRIPTION
 1A	Straight (Fine)	Very straight and fine or thin texture.
 1B	Straight (Medium)	Straight with slight bends or medium texture.
 1C	Straight (Coarse)	Straight, coarse texture.
 2A	Wavy (Loose Waves)	Wavy and fine texture, loose S-shape.
 2B	Wavy (Defined Waves)	Wavy and slightly more defined S-shape.
 2C	Wavy (Wide Waves)	Wavy, well-defined S-shape or loose Z-shape.
 3A	Curly (Loose Curls)	Loose curls with full body.
 3B	Curly (Tight Curls)	Tight and springy curls.
 3C	Curly (Very Tight Curls)	Very tight and springy curls, defined S or Z-shape.
 4A	Coily (Loose Coils)	Loose coils, defined O-shape.
 4B	Coily (Zig-Zag)	Tightly coiled, defined Z-shape.
 4C	Coily (Tight)	Tightly coiled, very defined O-shape.

STEP 1 Identify the numerical hair type reference (Either 1,2,3 or 4).

	 1 - STRAIGHT	 2 - WAVY	 3- CURLY	 4- COILY
DESCRIPTION	Reflects light (shine) resilient hair type.	Prone to frizz.	Full-body.	Z-shape.
APPEARANCE FROM THE ROOT	Straight.	Slight bend/curve.	Along the scalp first.	Curl from the scalp.
HAIR FOLLICLE	 Round.	 Oval.	 Elliptical.	 Flat oval.

STEP 2 Identify the alphabetical hair texture reference (Either A,B or C).

If you identified Type 1 - Straight hair in step 1, you will need to assess the hair texture by diameter.	ASSESSING & COMPENSATING FOR TEXTURE	 FINE HAIR	 MEDIUM HAIR	 COARSE HAIR
	HOW IT LOOKS AND FEELS	Lacks body but is easily molded.	Is bouncy and has good body.	Is thick in appearance and has firm body.
	HOW EACH TEXTURE FEELS	You can barely feel the strand.	You can easily feel the strand.	The strand has significant substance under fingertips.

