

THE BEGINNER'S DICTIONARY
TO THE ALTERNATIVE HAIR INDUSTRY

A-Z
Hair Toppers & Wigs
Glossary



YOUR HAIR DICTIONARY BY
MYHAIRTOPPERS.COM

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A

- **Adhesive:** A type of glue or bonding agent used to secure wigs, hair toppers, or hairpieces to the scalp or skin.
- **Alternative hair:** a term used to describe a hairpiece, hair extensions, hair toppers, or a wig.
- **Alopecia Areata** A patchy type of hair loss due to an autoimmune condition. Is a common cause of hair loss. It often starts with one or more small round bald patches on the scalp and can progress to total body hair loss.
- **Alopecia Totalis** Total hair loss on the scalp due to an autoimmune condition.
- **Alopecia Universalis** Hair loss all over the body due to an autoimmune condition.
- **Androgenetic Alopecia** A condition where hair is lost due to a genetic predisposition.
- **Anti-Slip Gel:** A product used to prevent wigs or hairpieces from slipping or shifting on the scalp.
- **Asian Hair** A type of hair that is made in the construction of human hair wigs and hairpieces. The structure of Asian hair is thicker and coarser than European hair.
- **Average Cap Size** The average cap size is generally the following measurements (INCHES): Around the Head – 21 ½ – 22 Front to Back – 14 ¼ – 14 ½ Ear to Ear – 13 ½
- **Average/Large Cap Size** The average/large cap size is generally the following measurements: Around the Head – 22 ½”– 23” Front to Back – 14 ¾ – 15 Ear to Ear – 13 ¾ – 14

B

- **Baby Hair** Is the small flyaway strands of hair, often curly at the base of the frontal hairline and adds to a realistic look. Also, baby hair can often camouflage the edge of the wig.
- **Bleached Knots** As the name is self-explanatory, these knots are put through a delicate bleaching process after being tied to the base with extremely tiny half knots. This removes most of the dark color and leaves a virtually invisible knot that appears to be growing right from your scalp.
- **Blending** To achieve the most realistic color graduations in a final wig, hairpiece, or extension, multi-colors of fiber are mixed.
- **Bonding** A process by which a hairpiece is glued onto the head for some time.
- **Bundle** A pack of hair extensions.

C

- **Capless Wig** Very similar to the standard cap design. However, it does not have a closed lace layer at the crown. It is open-wefted in the back, sides, and crown. This allows for maximum ventilation and the ability to pull your hair through. It is also the lightest weight cap you can purchase.
- **Capless Construction with Lace Front:** A combination of capless construction for lightweight wear and a lace front for a natural hairline.
- **Chinese hair** is Naturally straight and sleek but without a shiny doll-hair look. It ranges in color from off black to dark brown. Not easy to hold curls.
- **Color rings** display virtually all the possible colors that a company can create. A very useful ordering tool when it comes to identifying your hair color.
- **Clip-on hair systems** Hair systems that are secured to your existing hair by sewn-on clips.

- **Cicatricial Alopecia** A rare condition that occurs when inflammation damages and scars hair follicles, causing permanent hair loss.
- **Closed/traditional cap:** the original construction of machine-made wigs that have an interior lace material sewn to the crown of the wig.
- **Clip-In Extensions** Clip-in extensions are wefts of hair that come with clips attached. They can be easily clipped into the natural hair to add length, volume, or highlights.
- **Closures:** Small pieces used to close a sew-in weave or to create a natural-looking part in a wig.
- **Crown Topper** A crown topper, also known as a top piece, is a hairpiece designed to cover the crown area of the head and add volume to thinning or flat hair.
- **Coarse:** a specific type of hair texture that has a large diameter.
- **Cuticles:** Cuticles are a fundamental component of human hair. They play a dual role, serving both as a protective outer layer for your hair and as a mechanism that secures the hair shaft within the follicle. In the context of Remy human hair toppers and hairpieces, where the cuticles are carefully aligned in the same direction, the hair is far less prone to tangling.

D

- **Double Drawn** is the process of hackling single-drawn hair to remove shorter hair to create a fuller bundle of hair.
- **Double monofilament** A softer, double monofilament material that will help to eliminate irritation against the scalp. Hair is individually knotted onto the mesh which gives the wearer the ability to style the hair in any direction.
- **Density** is the number of strands of hair on a hairpiece or wig.
- **Dip-Dyed:** Dip-dye is a classic two-tone coloring technique in the wig and hair industry, where the hair is intentionally dark at the roots and gradually transitions to lighter shades towards the ends.
- **Double knots** are a way of knotting the hair to the base. Double knots are considered the strongest and most durable type of knot and are widely used on integration systems and other big-holed base materials. That said, these are bigger and more visible than other knots.

E

- **Ear-To-Ear Lace Front:** A lace front that extends from one ear to the other, providing a larger area for natural parting.

F

- **Fall** A partial wig that is most often used to add length to a style and almost full coverage of the head while allowing plenty of ventilation and guaranteeing a secure fit.
- **Fillers** A partial hair piece - not a full wig.
- **Full Fall** A partial wig that's placed on the crown of your head and is designed to blend with the front of your hair.
- **French Lace:** A delicate and sheer type of lace often used in the construction of lace front wigs and toppers.
- **French Top:** Light fabric lining, such as silk, which is placed under the cap area to simulate the color and appearance of the natural scalp.
- **Frontal** is a large, ear-to-ear area of lace used to mimic an entire hairline.

G

- **Glue Remover:** A product used to safely remove wig adhesive or tape residues from the scalp and wig/topper cap.
- **Grafting:** A technique used in hair restoration/transplant where hair follicles are implanted into the scalp.

H

- **Halo Wigs:** A type of hair extension that is secured with an invisible wire giving added length and volume.
- **Hat Falls** Often referred to as Chemo Cap or as ½ wigs, have a bare cap on top held together by pieces of elastic in a crisscross design that fits securely on the head where the hair or wefts are attached from the temple down giving the “perfect illusion”. This is suggested specifically worn by those with sensitive scalps or who seek a lighter feel while wearing a cap or scarf.
- **Headband Wig:** A wig that is designed to be worn with a headband for a quick and easy style.
- **Heat Resistant Hair** A special blend of fiber that is heat resistant and will allow you to use heat appliances such as a blow dryer, hair straighteners, and other heated styling tools.
- **Heat tools:** blow dryers, straighteners, flat irons, curling wands, curling irons.
- **High-density wigs** or hairpieces/toppers that create a large, voluminous look that is fuller and harder to maintain than lower-density options.
- **Human Hair Blend** A combination of human hair and synthetic fiber. The combination gives the wig more versatility and flexibility in styling. It is usually used in 25%, 35%, and 50% ratios to synthetic fibers.
- **Inside Wefting** A cost-effective alternative to hand-tied ventilation. These are machine-sewn wefts.

I

- **Indian Hair** is Sourced in India and is similar in texture to European hair. It is stronger, durable, and fine, but has a lower cost than European hair.
- **Injected hair** is injected into a usually thicker skin base at an obtuse angle and can be combed in any direction.
- **Integration System** An Integration System allows you to pull your existing, growing hair directly through the unit. This allows you to wear a custom hair replacement system without shaving your head. Your natural, growing hair is combined with the hair in the system to create a more voluminous and complete head of hair.
- **Invisible Knots:** Knots tied in a way that makes them nearly invisible, creating a more realistic look. (Often bleached knots).
- **Invisible Hairline:** A virtually undetectable hairline, often achieved with lace front wigs.

K

- **Kosher Wigs** Kosher wigs do not contain any hair from India. Wigs are manufactured with supervision from the Rabanut, verifying that no hair from India has been used.

- **Knots:** are how the hair is hand-tied and secured into the fine lace material of a lace front or monofilament top.
- **Knot Bleaching:** The process of lightening knots on a wig to reduce their visibility.

L

- **Lace Front** A wig made with a mesh insert in the front into which individual hairs are hand-tied. It creates a realistic-looking hairline. When properly worn with a special adhesive, it is almost undetectable that it is not the wearer's growing hair.
- **Lace Wig:** A wig constructed with a lace cap or lace front for a natural appearance.
- **Lace Parting:** A wig or hair topper with lace is the portion of parting where the hair has hand-tied into a lace material to allow for a realistic-looking scalp.

M

- **Machine-made wigs** are made from wefts of hair that are sewn on by a machine.
- **Medical Cranial Hair Prosthesis** This is a specially designed wig with special features for comfort, natural appearance, and special needs of the medical hair loss patient.
- **Mannequin head:** Made of Styrofoam, rubber, or canvas and cork, mannequin heads mimic the shape and are ideal to use for styling wigs.
- **Memory Cap** A wig cap that replaces the wide stretch lace used in most of today's wigs with a material that molds to the shape of the head for a lighter, more secure fit.
- **Monofilament** A type of wig or hair topper base made of fine mesh. Hair is individually knotted onto the mesh which gives the wearer the ability to style the hair in any direction. Some wigs feature 100% monofilament caps, while others utilize a monofilament area only at the top.
- **Mono Part** Mono Part wigs integrate a soft monofilament construction along the part line upon which hand-tied fibers create a real hair growth look.
- **Mesh Cap** All the cap is constructed with a thin, micro-mesh, stretchy fabric to which hair is 100% hand tied. A second layer of mesh is sewn over the crown area.
- **Micro Knots:** Tiny knots are used to secure individual hair strands to the wig base for a natural appearance.
- **Multi-directional knotting:** a term used to describe hair that has been hand-tied onto the base of a hair system or wig and can be styled in multiple directions.
- **Multidirectional Part** Higher quality skin, silk, or mono top that can be combed or parted in any direction, much like your own hair. It allows you to change the part to right, left, or center as desired by the wearer.

N

- **Nano Ring Extensions:** Hair extensions are applied using tiny nano rings for a discreet look.
- **Non-Remy:** human hair collected from multiple sources that cannot guarantee the root and tip ends are not in the same direction. The cuticle is partially removed to prevent tangling and inversion of the hair.

- **Non-Surgical Hair Replacement Products** Any type of wig, hairpiece, cranial prosthesis, etc.

O

- **Open Ear Tabs** Flexible material at the ears that allows you to adjust and contour the wig to your face around the temple area.

P

- **Paddle Brush:** A type of brush used for detangling and styling wigs and hairpieces.
- **Paraben-Free:** In the realm of wigs and hair care products, "paraben-free" refers to products that do not contain parabens. Parabens are a type of preservative often used in cosmetic and hair care formulations. These water-soluble molecules are easily washed away and do not accumulate on the hair. However, they possess a high molecular weight, which can impede moisture evaporation and lead to frizz and dryness in the hair.
- **Permatease:** A technique that involves crimping hair near the base of a wig to add volume.
- **Polyurethane (Poly)** A transparent plastic material that is used as a hair system base. Can be made with different levels of thickness depending on whether the focus is realism or durability.
- **PU** is Another name for polyurethane but is often used to refer to a thicker type of polyurethane that is used around the perimeters of bases to give them added sturdiness and make the bonding process easier.
- **Polyurethane Ear Tabs** are used on the sides of a wig cap to adhere to tape or glue for stronger security.
- **Processed Hair:** chemically treated hair. In most cases, the cuticle will be removed to allow the hair to lay in a direction without tangling. It may then be bleached and colored to the shade required.
- **Pre-Made Wig** A piece that is ready to be worn out of the box.

R

- **Ready-to-wear wig** Refers to a wig or hairpiece that is pre-styled. What you see is what you get.
- **Rat tail comb** Creates extra precision when parting your wig or sew-in.
- **Raw Hair** is unprocessed hair that has not been manipulated by chemicals.
- **Remi/Remy Human Hair** Refers to Human Hair. Remy which is less expensive than European, Italian, or Russian hair. The hair has been harvested from root to end with the cuticle all going in the same direction which prevents the hair from tangling and is very easy to care for. It may be colored or permed. It is soft and silky and is used for making higher-quality wigs, extensions, and hairpieces.
- **Rooted Wig / Hair Topper:** A wig or topper with a darker root area to mimic natural hair growth.
- **Returns** Hair shorter hairs tied throughout a wig or lace top topper to represent the natural look of flyaway or to lessen the density of the underside of a wig. They are not related to breakage or damage to the hair used.

S

- **Silk Top (or Part)** Refers to a strip of fabric, usually silk, along the part where the hair is threaded. It gives the appearance of the hair growing directly from the scalp.
- **Single-drawn hair** Refers to the length of hair within a weft that has been cut from one end only which means there will be varying lengths of hair (i.e., 16" hair may have 12", 14" and 16")
- **Skin Top** is Sometimes referred also as Silk Top.
- **Silicone Wig Grip:** A band or cap with a silicone lining to prevent wig slippage.
- **Standard Cap** A standard cap is the most common and most affordable cap design. The layers of hair are open-wefted in the back and sides to allow for ventilation and have a closed lace layer at the crown. The hair at the crown is often lightly teased or crimped so you cannot see down through the cap.
- **Synthetic Fiber** There are three types of synthetic fiber used to manufacture wigs, which are polyester, acrylic, and polyvinyl chloride (PVC). They are not resistant to heat or styling products.
- **Synthetic Hair Blend** A specially made synthetic fiber that is just like your own hair that you can curl or blow dry. It reflects the look of human hair and dries quickly. They are less expensive than human hair and are lifelike.
- **Synthetic Hair – Kanekalon Fiber** is a modacrylic fiber that closely resembles human hair composed of a combination of two monomers: acrylonitrile and vinyl chloride which are joined together in a process called Co-polymerization. It is lighter in weight and more consistent than other synthetic fibers.
- **Synthetic Hair Wigs or hair toppers:** Wigs made from synthetic fibers, offer affordability and a wide range of styles.

T

- **Tape-In Extensions:** Hair extensions are applied using double-sided tape for a seamless look.
- **Thinning shears** Type of shear that is used to eliminate and remove “weight” or “density” from hair. The spacing between the teeth of the blade allows only a certain percentage of hair to be removed with every closure of the blade.
- **Topper (Hair Topper):** A smaller hairpiece designed to add volume or cover specific areas of thinning or hair loss on the top of the head.
- **Traction Alopecia:** Hair loss caused by continuous pulling or tension on the hair, often associated with tight hairstyles.
- **Trichotillomania** The compulsive urge to pull out one’s hair leading to noticeable hair loss, distress, and social or functional impairment.
- **T-Part Wig:** A wig cap with a T-shaped part for versatile styling options.

U

- **Under Knotting** When the hair is added at the edge of the underside of the hairpieces to hide the edging of the cap. Commonly, added at the front to create a soft edge.
- **Unprocessed Hair** Human hair that has not been chemically treated.

V

- **Weave** A hairstyle created by sewing extensions or wefts of hair into natural hair to add length and volume.

- **Velvet Front** velvety soft material, which is inserted into the front of a wig to create a more comfortable fit at the hairline.
- **Ventilation** The process of knotting individual hairs by hand into the base of the hairpiece.
- **Virgin hair:** Untouched Hair, like what we start in this world with. It refers to strands that have never been color-treated or chemically processed in any way.
- **V-Part Wig:** A wig cap with a V-shaped part that allows for versatile styling options.
- **Virgin Unprocessed** Very fine quality human hair in its original state which has not been chemically treated in any way, (processing removes the cuticle) only sanitized and blended. It has not been permed, colored, or altered in any way. The cuticle goes in the same direction and is preserved to maximize its special quality.

W

- **Wefted** A long string of hair fiber that is doubled over and sewn closely together.
 - **Welded lace** is a thin synthetic fiber running in a grid pattern that is ultrasonically heated and fused.
 - **Wide-tooth comb** is a comb that has wider spacing between its teeth. Very helpful in detangling any fiber.
-
- **Wiglet** A spot enhancer that is designed to work with your hair to add volume.
 - **100% hand-tied cap:** a technique in creating a wig where each hair or fiber is tied into a sheer material by hand to achieve the most natural look and movement of the hair.

Y

- **Yaki Hair** Hair texture is designed to look and feel like African American hair.
- **100% Hand-tied** when the hair is 100% hand-tied to a micro-mesh cap. This provides the most natural look and ultimate styling versatility.