

# HOME HAIRCUTS



*Youngsters are infamous for sneaking some scissors to try a “home haircut”. Naughty—Naughty! But mamma is allowed to attempt cutting hair at home with these simple instructions.*

*Hey Mom! -- Soon you will find you are saving lots of money and you can make them look quite spiffy with just a few simple tools and a bit of practice!*

A LESSON FROM THE HOMEMAKER'S MENTOR

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*Thank you to Amy & Kari,  
who submitted the instructions for this lesson.*

*Amy is a “home-haircutter” and*

*Kari is a licensed cosmetologist and mommy too!*

*This lesson is very practical and a money-saver for the family budget.*

**MARTHA:** “I consider a pair of hair clippers and small sharp hair scissors as essential household items! I too have cut my husband’s hair and all my boys since their first haircut with no training. It really helps that my husband has really curly hair and it is just really easy to cut! I have given the girl’s lots of basic straight cuts and learned from putting together this lesson how to do simple layers on a long hair style! Currently my hair cutting days are about over as the boys have taken to giving home haircuts from watching me. It is a common sight to see a little brother propped on a bar stool, covered in a cape with a big brother clipping away. Three of my older boys have never been to a barber and have been cutting their “OWN” hair since they were teens by using a mirror to see the back (I don’t know how they do it!) . Now I am completely spoiled as I have sweet Kari, who helped on this lesson, and she is a licensed cosmetologist. Even though she doesn’t work at a hair salon, since she married my son—she keeps her scissors & clippers busy on her own family, relatives, and friends. I claimed her as my very own “private hair dresser” when she became my daughter-in-law.



Hair-Doo-Day at Marmees.  
Kari Greene [D-I-L] and Elise Yount [Grand-D]

**AMY:** “As I have raised my family over the years and worked being a keeper of the home I have looked for ways to serve my family and cut costs in our family’s budget. One of the ways I have saved quite a bit of money over the years is by cutting my children’s hair. We estimate I save our family \$60-\$70 per month by cutting our own hair. With this type of savings I have been able to buy a very nice pair of hair clippers and scissors and still come out way ahead. Cutting hair may seem intimidating but once you know the basics it is really quite simple and rewarding.

# TOOLS FOR HAIR-CUTTING

- ✓ A plastic barber's cape or old shirt (to keep hair off the clothing)
- ✓ Electric clippers (sometimes called "buzzers" since they buzz)
- ✓ Hair shears (small sharp scissors –keep these aside to use ONLY for hair cuts)
- ✓ A long comb (the type with ruler markings is quite helpful)
- ✓ Clothespins or long hairdresser's clips can be helpful for clipping the cape or keeping hair sections out of the way.
- ✓ A seat of comfortable height for your family member to sit on so you can easily reach the head you are working on.
- ✓ Broom or vacuum (especially if there is a hose with a brush attachment) for clean-up. If you are trimming hair on a person who is old enough to no longer be scared of the vacuum, you can use the brush attachment to vacuum the little bits of hair off the neck.



## TIPS:

- Keep your shears sharp and clippers well-oiled.
- Start with clean hair—dirty hair is unpleasant & harder to cut.
- It is helpful to have a trashcan nearby to toss hair into as you go, making clean-up easier.

Home Hair Day



Levi (2 yrs) - Haircut at Marmee's draped in Poppee's BIG shirt

Erica Greene Yount & Elise (3 yrs) - Shampoos!



## THE BASIC BUZZ CUT



First decide how long you want the hair on the finished buzz. Amy says: "On my little boys I like a ¼ inch cut. The middle boys prefer ½ inch cut."

Find the appropriate size comb guide attachment and attach it to your clippers according to the manufacturer's instructions. Start at the front in the middle of the head and shear from front to crown in strips. Continue down either the left or the right side until that side is done then do the other side. Next, shear from the nape of the neck up to the crown in the back. You may also need to

shear from the back to front over the ear area as this hair grows toward the back and can be hard to reach behind the ear. Notice you will be going against the nap of the hair. I like to give the whole head a "once-over" when I'm done. I find it very easy to miss some hairs when the hair is especially long. Once you are satisfied with the initial trim it is time to neaten it up. Remove the blade from the shears and shave the nape of the neck



and the area from just behind the ears down, taking care to check the collar area on the older boys and men as they frequently have hair farther down the back of the neck into the collar. This shave will determine the hair length in the back. Then from the front (facing the family member)

shave the side burn area, a little at a time until you have both sides even—after a while you learn exactly where to shave in relation to the ear.



**AMY'S BASIC BUZZ TIP:** As I shear the strips I like to flip the hair that sits on the blade into the garbage sack so I don't have as much to clean off the floor later. Brush off your fella and enjoy a job well done. You have just completed the Basic Buzz Cut.

**MARTHA'S BASIC BUZZ TIP:** My boys like to hop right into the shower after we shake the cape off outside (the bird's can feather their nests with the hair clippings). If we don't have time for the shower, we use talc powder & brush off the neck area to keep from the "pricklies".

**KARI'S BASIC BUZZ TIP:** Dry hair is best to do a buzz as wet hair may clog up the clippers. It also won't leave as many stray sprouts—you may discover later when the wet cut has dried.





## THE GIRL'S BASIC STRAIGHT CUT

This is a nice neat cut for girls that is simple to do and keeps the hair looking neat but requires little upkeep for the young lady. It is simplest to cut this style with the girl standing. Start with clean, wet, well-combed hair. Begin by parting the hair where it will usually be worn then comb it all to the back. Stand behind the girl, beginning in the middle, (Photo A) trim the hair to the desired length. You will be trimming in sections working towards each side, (Photo B & D) the trimmed middle length as your guide. (Photo C)



As you cut each section, re-comb the hair, from the scalp to the end catching the hair just above where you intend to trim between your index and middle finger. Transfer the comb to the crook of your thumb, position the scissors in your hand and trim. (Shown in Photo A)

Once you have trimmed across the back, part the hair down the middle back of the head and pull the hair around to each side. (hair will be falling on the arm area) Using the trimmed hair as your guide, pull it taut, holding it between the index and middle finger, even up any longer pieces by clipping trimming so the longer pieces match the previously trimmed hair in length.



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For the final step to make sure it is all even, comb each side of the hair around to the front of the girl (as shown) and holding hair as before between fingers trim off any areas that are longer than the previously trimmed hair. All of this allows for the hair to be even when the hair is dry and styled.



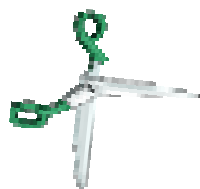
**BANGS:** (optional)

Cut bangs at or slightly below the eyebrows and remember with wavy or curly hair the curl will lift the bangs making them shorter, it is always best to cut them longer than you think you want them then trim ever so slightly if needed.

### AMY'S GIRL CUT TIPS:

- Have your girl stand with a garbage can behind her and allow the hair to fall into the can as you go along. Clean up is a snap.
- The Girl's Basic Straight Cut can go from casual to dressy. It can be worn as is or in a headband, ponytail, braid, pigtails and it easily twists into a bun, chignon knot or other dressy twists and knots without those little fly away hairs that need clippies and hair pins. If there are little hairs they can be easily tamed with a quick spritz of hair spray smoothed with the hands.

**KARI'S EASY LAYER CUT:** To do a layered haircut— to add more texture & volume to the hair—Do all as above for the basic straight cut. Then pull the up the section of hair as shown in the picture (inside the pink circle) by combing straight up and cut off 1-3 inches of this section at the tip (while it is pulled up). How much you trim off depends on how much layer you would like. It is safe to stay with the least amount cut off and cut off a bit more if it doesn't suit.



## THE “GROWN-UP MAN’S” CUT



It seems it is every little boy's dream to have a “grown-up” hair cut. It is a symbol of passing from boy to young man (though some men then realize the practicality of the buzz cut and go back to that easy-care style). The side-part or “grown-up” cut might seem difficult or even be a little intimidating but rest assured you will be able to achieve great results with little effort in no time. Follow step-by-step how to do this cut and you'll be pretty happy with the results!

Begin by deciding what length the back & sides are to be—choose a blade on the clippers (the tooth length on each comb guide attachment is usually the length of the finished hair—so a short comb attachment will make a shorter haircut) it would be best to play it safe until you are used to cutting hair at home to use a longer comb attachment and if the cut isn't as desired then to put a shorter one on—better safe than sorry.

Start at the bottom or nape of the neck (dry hair) and work using an upward motion with the clippers not cutting all the way to the crown stopping approximately where the dotted line in the illustration is marked – working on the back and around to include the sides.



Next you will begin cutting the top (for this step-wet hair is easier). Use water in a cup and dip your comb in it or small spritz-bottle filled with water. The cutter stands behind the child. You will pick up 2” sections of hair and cut to the desired length, about 2” is a fairly standard length. Working in a strip from front to back cut the hair to the same length using a little of the already cut hair as a length guide. Cut another strip next to the first one, again, using the already cut hair as a guide.

## CONTINUED ... THE "GROWN-UP MAN'S" CUT



For the sides cut the hair along the top of the fingers placing palm side of the fingers firmly against the head. You can work this way all the way around the head. Using the clippers to complete blending the top with the sides. use the next size guard (larger size) that was used to clip the back at the beginning of the haircut. Your goal is to make the hair to not have a sharp line where top and sides meet. You are aiming to blend these two layers.

The last step is to shave the back of the neck and sideburns following the directions in THE BASIC BUZZ CUT.



Levi Yount—All smiles after his first GROWN-UP hair cut at home!