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## How To Add Special Touches To Updos

By Jenny Andrews B

If you want to create a special and dramatic look for that special occasion, the last thing you want to

do is look like a cookie-cutter Barbie doll when it comes to your hairstyle. And the truth is that many of your formal hairstyles were probably just that, exact replicas of styles that were worn on every special occasion for years stretching back into time. But it doesn't have to be that way. You can create a different and exciting new updo for each and every formal occasion even if you only know how to do one type of formal hairstyle.

You see, the key to creating a different look lies in the details. You could actually style your hair in a French twist without having the same look twice if you added special touches and elements to your style. Here's how:

- Straighten instead of curl - In many updos, the free pieces are curled with a curling iron. You can change your look simply by using a flat iron to sleek down these pieces instead of curling them up. You can even alternate using a crimping iron and flat iron to create a dramatic effect.
- Leave pieces free for effect - You can also experiment by leaving different pieces of your updo free. For example: try leaving a ½" section of hair around your complete hairline free from the updo. Pull your hair up into a simple pony tail. Then, take ½" sections of the free hair and crisscross it in a basket-weave style on top of your updo. Pin into place, and you've created a unique look with little effort.
- Use accessories - By using simple accessories such as hair extensions of a different color than your hair and ribbons, you can add a lot of interest to your updo. Simply insert small strands of hair or ribbon into your style to create splash of color and drama. You can color coordinate these with your dress or use natural colors that will compliment your hair color.
- Flowers - Inserting a small floral accessory into your updo is also a good idea as long as you don't take it overboard. Choose very small flowers and use them sparingly. Using too many will make you look like a flower arrangement. Remember, accessories are used to compliment your style, not overpower it.

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In addition to these ideas, there are many more that you can experiment with. Just remember that small changes make a big difference when it comes to adding that special touch to your updo. So, even if you don't have a lot of creativity and talent, you can still create breathtaking updos that will be envied by all who see them.

Jenny is a hair expert, and the author of an incredible free minicourse, that explains how to find your unique style, how long or short you should have your hair, how to find the right hair color for you, how to find the right salon, and a lot more. Go to

<http://www.hairstylevillage.com/>

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## How To Find The Perfect Formal Hairstyle

**By Jenny Andrews B**

Finding the right hairstyle for that special occasion can be a big chore. No matter whether it is your wedding day or a formal work party, looking your best is always your top priority and you pay just as much attention to your hair as you do your dress. So, how can you find perfect updos and formal styles to suit your individual personality and style of dress?

Probably the best place to start is online. There are literally hundreds of photo galleries dedicated to updos and formal hairstyles alone. By browsing these sites, you can find numerous styles and print them out so that you can share them with your stylist. All you need to do to find these photo galleries is perform a quick search for updos in your favorite search engine. Many of these sites also have how to articles to help you do your hair yourself at home.

Another great way to find unique formal styles is to browse through your salon's style books and portfolios. In most salons, there are stylists that specialize in different updo techniques. A salon might have one stylist who can create amazing braided and basket weaved updos whereas another stylist may be able to create sleek timeless classics perfectly. By looking through a portfolio and seeing each stylist's actual work, you can get a feel of whether or not their style would suit your preferences. And you can get a glimpse of signature styles that you cannot find anywhere else.

You can also find photos and how to articles in many magazines that are geared toward wedding preparations. Hair style magazines also come out with an updo issue occasionally.

Once you have found a good source of formal hairstyle photos, you need to narrow your choices down to a few favorites. When doing this, pay attention to the model's hair. If she has extremely thick hair, you may not be able to achieve quite the same look if your hair is thin and fine and vice versa.

After you have narrowed down your choices, begin experimenting with the different styles by pulling

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your hair up in mock positions. Find one or two combinations that you think would look the best and take them to your hairdresser for a trial run.

Granted, finding a style this way rather than letting your stylist have his or her lead may take a little bit of time, but when you help in the planning process, you will ensure that you get a perfect formal do that will be the envy of the party.

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