

how to do nice updos for long hair

How to Do Nice Updos for Long Hair: Your Ultimate Guide

how to do nice updos for long hair is a query many with luxurious locks have. Long hair offers a canvas for endless styling possibilities, but mastering elegant updos can seem daunting. This comprehensive guide is designed to demystify the art of creating beautiful, sophisticated, and secure updos for any occasion. We will explore essential preparation techniques, essential tools, and step-by-step instructions for a variety of popular styles, from the classic French twist to the effortlessly chic braided bun. Learn how to manage volume, add texture, and ensure your updo stays in place all day or night, transforming your long hair into a stunning statement.

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Essential Preparation for Long Hair Updos

Before you even think about twisting, pinning, or braiding, proper preparation is key to achieving polished and long-lasting updos. Clean hair can be slippery, making it difficult for pins and bobby pins to grip effectively. Therefore, many stylists recommend starting with hair that has been washed and dried the day before, or at least 24 hours prior. This allows natural oils to develop, providing a better foundation for styling and preventing flyaways. If you must style freshly washed hair, consider using a

texturizing spray or dry shampoo to add grit and hold.

Detangling is another crucial preparatory step. Long hair is prone to knots and tangles, which can disrupt the smooth lines of an updo and even cause breakage during styling. Always begin by gently brushing your hair from the ends upwards, working your way to the roots. A wide-tooth comb can also be beneficial, especially for very long or curly hair. Ensuring your hair is completely tangle-free will make the entire styling process much smoother and result in a more professional-looking finish. Think of it as preparing your canvas before painting a masterpiece; the better the prep, the better the final result.

Must-Have Tools for Updo Success

To successfully execute beautiful updos for long hair, having the right tools at your disposal is non-negotiable. These items act as your trusted assistants, ensuring security, style, and polish. Investing in quality tools will make a significant difference in both the ease of styling and the final appearance of your chosen updo. Don't underestimate the power of the right equipment; it can transform a frustrating styling session into a satisfying creative endeavor.

Bobby Pins and U-Pins

Bobby pins are the workhorses of updos, essential for securing sections of hair and holding the entire style in place. It's crucial to have a variety of colors that match your hair shade to ensure they blend seamlessly. For longer and thicker hair, U-pins are often more effective. These have a slightly different shape that can grip more hair and provide stronger hold, making them ideal for the foundational structure of many updos. Always have more pins than you think you'll need; it's better to be overprepared.

Hair Ties and Elastics

A good selection of hair ties is also vital. Opt for seamless, snag-free elastics that won't damage your hair or leave creases. Clear or hair-colored elastics are excellent for creating ponytails that will serve as the base for buns or twists, as they become virtually invisible once incorporated into the style. Strong, durable elastics are particularly important for long hair, which has more weight and requires a secure hold.

Styling Brushes and Combs

Beyond a basic brush for detangling, consider a teasing brush or a backcombing comb for adding volume and texture, which is often desired in updos. A fine-tooth comb is useful for creating clean partings and smoothing flyaways. A tail comb, with its pointed end, is invaluable for sectioning hair precisely, which is fundamental for creating structured updos.

Hairspray and Styling Products

A reliable hairspray is your best friend for ensuring an updo stays put. Look for a flexible hold hairspray for a natural look and feel, and a strong-hold version for styles that need to withstand a long day or evening. Texturizing sprays, volumizing mousses, and smoothing serums can also be used in the preparation phase to add grip, control, and shine, enhancing the overall aesthetic of your chosen updo.

Classic and Timeless Updos

These enduring styles have graced heads for decades, offering elegance and sophistication that never goes out of fashion. Mastering these foundational updos will equip you with the skills to tackle a wide range of more complex styles. They are perfect for formal events, professional settings, or whenever you want to feel polished and put-together.

The Classic French Twist

The French twist is an epitome of timeless elegance, characterized by its sleek, vertical coil of hair. Start by gathering all your hair to one side, as if you were creating a low side ponytail. Then, begin twisting the hair upwards towards the crown, keeping the twist tight. As you twist, start tucking the hair into itself, gradually building the twist upwards. Use bobby pins generously to secure the coil against your head, inserting them in the direction of the twist to maximize hold. Smooth out any stray hairs with a fine-tooth comb and a mist of hairspray.

The Elegant Chignon

A chignon, a sophisticated knot or bun usually worn at the nape of the neck, is another classic for long hair. Begin by creating a low ponytail at the nape of your neck. You can then twist the ponytail into a rope and wrap it around the base of the ponytail to form a bun, securing with pins. Alternatively, you can loop the ponytail through the elastic once, leaving the ends out, and then wrap the ends around the base of the bun. This creates a softer, more textured chignon. For a smoother finish, divide the ponytail into two sections, twist each section, and then wrap them around each other before securing.

The Sophisticated Low Bun

The low bun is a versatile and chic updo that can be adapted for various occasions. Gather your hair into a low ponytail at the nape of your neck. Twist the ponytail tightly, then wrap it around the base of the ponytail to create a neat bun. Secure the bun with bobby pins, ensuring they are tucked in discreetly. For added polish, you can smooth the sides of your hair back with a comb and a touch of hairspray. This style is perfect for both everyday wear and more formal events.

Modern and Trendy Updos

Beyond the classics, contemporary updos offer fresh takes on timeless styles, incorporating elements

like braids, twists, and intricate knotting. These modern interpretations are perfect for adding a fashionable edge to your look, whether for a night out or a stylish daytime event.

The Messy Bun

The "messy bun" is a perennial favorite for its effortless charm and relaxed vibe. It's achieved by creating a high or low ponytail, then loosely twisting and wrapping the hair around the base, deliberately pulling out sections to create a textured, undone look. The key is to not over-perfect it; embrace the flyaways and asymmetry. Secure with bobby pins, allowing some strands to fall naturally around the face. A texturizing spray can enhance the lived-in feel.

The Twisted Updo

This style offers a more intricate yet achievable look. Divide your hair into several sections. Take one section, twist it tightly, and then wrap it around the base of your head or a central point, securing with pins. Repeat with other sections, layering and weaving them together to create a unique, textured updo. This can be done at the nape of the neck, higher on the head, or even as a side-swept style.

The Top Knot

A modern and bold choice, the top knot is a high bun placed precisely at the crown of the head. It offers a sleek and architectural silhouette. Gather your hair into a high ponytail, then twist and wrap it into a tight, compact bun. Secure with pins and hairspray for a polished finish. This style is particularly striking for those with long, thick hair, as it creates a dramatic focal point.

Braided Updos for Long Hair

Braids add an element of intricate beauty and texture to updos, transforming simple styles into works

of art. They also provide excellent grip and structure, making them ideal for keeping long hair securely in place.

The Braided Crown

A romantic and elegant option, the braided crown is achieved by creating a braid along the hairline, then wrapping it around the head to form a halo. You can create a single Dutch braid or French braid that encircles your head, or two braids that meet at the back. For a softer look, gently pull apart the sections of the braid to "pancake" it for added volume. Secure the ends discreetly with bobby pins.

The Braided Bun

This is a popular and versatile style that combines the security of a braid with the elegance of a bun. Start by creating a ponytail. Braid the ponytail, then wrap the braid around the base of the ponytail to form a bun. You can create a single braid or multiple braids for a more complex look. For added texture, you can loosen the braid before wrapping it. This updo is fantastic for keeping long hair controlled and looking stylish.

Fishtail Braid Updo

The fishtail braid offers a more delicate and intricate texture than a traditional braid. You can incorporate a fishtail braid into various updos, such as weaving it into a low bun or creating a braided headband. To create a fishtail braid updo, start by braiding a section of hair, then loosen it to make it fuller. Wrap and pin the braid around your head or incorporate it into another updo style. The unique pattern of the fishtail adds a touch of bohemian charm.

Tips for Ensuring Your Updo Lasts

The last thing anyone wants is for their beautifully crafted updo to fall apart halfway through an event. Several key strategies can help ensure your hard work pays off with a style that stays put from morning to night.

- **Start with the Right Hair Texture:** As mentioned, day-old hair with natural oils holds pins and products much better than freshly washed, slippery hair. If you must wash your hair, use a volumizing shampoo and conditioner, and consider using a texturizing spray or dry shampoo after drying.
- **Use Quality Products:** Invest in a good stronghold hairspray, and consider using a styling paste or pomade for added grip and control, especially for smoothing flyaways around the hairline. A volumizing mousse applied to damp hair before drying can also provide a strong base.
- **Master the Art of Pinning:** Don't just stick pins randomly. For maximum hold, insert bobby pins at an angle, crossing them over each other in an "X" pattern. For buns and twists, anchor pins into the structure of the updo itself and against the scalp. Ensure your pins match your hair color for a seamless look.
- **Build Structure from the Base:** Many updos rely on a secure ponytail or braided base. Ensure this foundation is as solid as possible before proceeding with the styling. Teasing the hair at the crown can also add volume and create a better anchor point for the updo.
- **Consider Your Hair Type:** Fine hair might need more volumizing products and teasing, while thick hair may require more pins and stronger hold products. Curly hair can often be styled into updos with less product due to its natural texture, but ensuring curls are defined is key.
- **Practice Makes Perfect:** The more you practice these styles, the better you will become at

judging the right amount of product, the most effective pinning techniques, and the overall structure needed for longevity.

Styling Updos for Different Hair Textures

Long hair comes in a multitude of textures, and adapting updo techniques to suit these differences is crucial for success. What works for pin-straight hair might require adjustments for wavy or curly hair.

Fine or Thin Hair

For those with fine or thin hair, the goal is to create the illusion of thickness and volume. Start by backcombing or teasing the hair at the crown and throughout the sections you'll be using. Apply a volumizing mousse or spray to damp hair before drying. When creating buns or twists, don't pull the hair too tightly; this can make the hair look thinner. Instead, gently pull out sections of the finished style to create fullness. Using smaller pins and focusing on building structure is also beneficial.

Thick or Coarse Hair

Thick and coarse hair can be a dream for updos due to its natural body and hold. However, it can also be heavy, so ensuring a secure foundation is paramount. Start with a strong elastic for ponytails. Braids are excellent for managing thick hair, as they help to contain it. When pinning, use more bobby pins and U-pins to ensure each section is firmly anchored. Consider using texturizing spray or a smoothing serum to control any frizz and add shine, preventing the updo from looking too bulky.

Wavy or Curly Hair

Wavy and curly hair often has built-in texture that is perfect for achieving a softer, more romantic updo. Embrace your natural texture! For a polished look, you might want to enhance the curl definition with a curl-enhancing product before styling. For updos like messy buns or braided styles, the natural texture adds effortless charm. If you prefer a smoother finish, you may need to use a flat iron on certain sections before styling, or apply a smoothing serum to tame frizz. Pins tend to grip well in curly hair, but ensure they are placed to avoid disrupting the curl pattern.

Mastering how to do nice updos for long hair opens up a world of stylish possibilities. By understanding the importance of preparation, utilizing the right tools, and practicing various techniques, you can confidently create beautiful and lasting hairstyles for any occasion. Whether you opt for a timeless classic or a trendy modern twist, the ability to style your long hair elegantly will undoubtedly enhance your confidence and personal style. Experiment with different looks and discover the updos that best suit you and your hair.

FAQ

Q: What is the best way to prepare long hair for an updo to ensure it holds?

A: The best preparation involves styling hair that is not freshly washed. Hair that has been washed 24-48 hours prior has natural oils that provide better grip for pins and styling products, leading to a more secure updo. Using texturizing spray or dry shampoo on freshly washed hair can also add the necessary grit for hold.

Q: How can I make my updo look fuller if I have fine or thin long hair?

A: To create the illusion of fullness, start by backcombing or teasing the hair at the roots and throughout the sections you will be using. Applying a volumizing mousse or spray to damp hair before drying can also help. When styling, avoid pulling the hair too taut, and gently pull apart sections of the finished bun or twist to add volume.

Q: What are the essential tools for creating updos for long hair?

A: Essential tools include a variety of bobby pins and U-pins (in hair colors that match yours), strong and snag-free hair elastics, a good quality hairspray (flexible and strong hold options), styling brushes and combs (including a teasing brush and fine-tooth comb), and potentially texturizing sprays, mousses, or serums.

Q: How do I prevent my updo from falling out throughout the day?

A: To ensure longevity, start with properly prepared hair (not freshly washed), use quality hold products like strong hairspray and texturizing spray, and master the art of pinning by inserting pins at an angle and crossing them for maximum hold. Building a strong foundational base, such as a secure ponytail or braid, is also critical.

Q: Can I create trendy updos with wavy or curly long hair?

A: Absolutely! Wavy and curly hair often has natural texture that lends itself beautifully to updos, creating softer, more romantic styles. Embrace your natural texture, or enhance curls with styling products. Braided updos and messy buns are particularly forgiving and chic with textured hair.

Q: What is the difference between a chignon and a low bun?

A: While both are worn at the nape of the neck, a chignon often implies a more intricate or sculpted

bun, sometimes achieved by twisting and looping the hair multiple times or by creating a knot. A low bun can be simpler, achieved by twisting and wrapping a ponytail around its base. Both are elegant options for long hair.

Q: How can I hide my bobby pins in my updo?

A: To hide bobby pins, use pins that match your hair color as closely as possible. Insert them strategically into the structure of the updo, tucking them under strands of hair or into the base of a bun or twist. For extra security and invisibility, place pins at an angle and criss-cross them.

Q: What is the best updo for very long and thick hair?

A: For very long and thick hair, updos that incorporate braids are excellent for managing the volume and weight. Braided buns, French twists secured with multiple pins, or intricately woven braided updos work well. Ensuring a strong foundation with a good elastic and using plenty of U-pins will be key to keeping the style secure.

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