

how to make a fishtail braid

How to make a fishtail braid is a skill that can elevate your hairstyling game, whether you're preparing for a casual day out, a special occasion, or simply want to switch up your look. The fishtail braid, known for its intricate appearance and versatility, is a favorite among many. In this article, we'll guide you through the steps to create a perfect fishtail braid, discuss tips for beginners, and explore variations to try.

Understanding the Fishtail Braid

A fishtail braid is a type of braid that consists of two sections of hair instead of the traditional three. This unique structure creates a beautiful, textured appearance that resembles the tail of a fish. It may seem complex, but with a bit of practice, anyone can master this elegant style.

What You Need

Before diving into the tutorial, gather the following tools and materials:

- Hairbrush or comb
- Hair ties (preferably clear or in a shade similar to your hair color)
- Hair spray (optional, for hold)
- Hair clips (optional, for managing layers)

Step-by-Step Guide to Creating a Fishtail Braid

Now that you have everything you need, let's walk through the process of making a fishtail braid.

Step 1: Prepare Your Hair

Start with clean, dry hair. You can choose to create this braid on straight or slightly wavy hair. If your hair is too slippery, consider adding a bit of texturizing spray to help the braid hold better.

1. Brush your hair to remove any tangles.
2. If you have layers, you may want to clip back the shorter sections to prevent them from getting in the way.

Step 2: Divide Your Hair

Once your hair is tangle-free, gather all of it into a low ponytail at the nape of your neck. Secure it with a hair tie, but don't pull the last twist all the way through; leave a small loop of hair.

1. Split the ponytail into two equal sections.
2. Hold one section in each hand.

Step 3: Start Braiding

To create the fishtail effect, you will be working with small sections of hair from each of the two main sections.

1. Take a small piece of hair from the outer edge of the left section.
2. Cross it over to the right section and combine it with the right section of hair.
3. Next, take a small piece from the outer edge of the right section.
4. Cross it over to the left section and combine it with the left section of hair.

Repeat this process, alternating sides until you reach the end of your hair. The smaller the sections you take, the more intricate and defined your braid will appear.

Step 4: Secure the Braid

Once you've reached the end of your hair, secure the braid with a hair tie. Make sure it's tight enough to hold the braid in place but not so tight that it damages your hair.

Step 5: Finishing Touches

To add a bit of volume and a relaxed look to your braid, gently tug on the edges of the fishtail braid, pulling it slightly apart. This will create a fuller appearance. If you desire a more polished look, you can leave the braid as is.

For added hold, finish with a light mist of hairspray. This will help keep your braid intact throughout the day.

Tips for a Perfect Fishtail Braid

To help you achieve the best fishtail braid possible, consider the following tips:

- **Practice Makes Perfect:** Like any skill, practice is key. Try braiding on a friend or a mannequin head until you feel comfortable.

- **Use the Right Tools:** A good quality hairbrush and hair ties can make a difference. Avoid using hair ties that can snag or break your hair.
- **Experiment with Textures:** Fishtail braids can look different depending on the texture of your hair. Try it with straight, wavy, or curly hair to see what you like best.
- **Adjust Size for Style:** The size of the sections you take will affect the final look. For a more delicate braid, use smaller sections; for a bolder look, take larger sections.
- **Add Accessories:** Consider adding hair accessories, such as flowers, clips, or ribbons, to personalize your fishtail braid.

Variations of the Fishtail Braid

Once you've mastered the classic fishtail braid, you can experiment with different styles. Here are a few variations to try:

1. Side Fishtail Braid

Instead of having the braid fall down your back, pull your hair to one side and create the fishtail braid. This asymmetrical look can be fun and flirty.

2. Fishtail Crown Braid

For a more intricate style, create two fishtail braids on either side of your head and wrap them around to form a crown. This is perfect for special occasions or a bohemian vibe.

3. Messy Fishtail Braid

For a relaxed, beachy look, follow the steps for creating a fishtail braid but don't worry about making it perfect. Loosely pull sections out for a tousled finish.

4. Fishtail Braid with Hair Extensions

If you want a more dramatic look, consider using hair extensions. Simply blend them in with your own hair before starting the braid for added length and volume.

5. Double Fishtail Braids

Create two fishtail braids, one on each side of your head. This playful style is suitable for casual outings or even workouts.

Conclusion

Learning **how to make a fishtail braid** is a valuable addition to your hairstyling repertoire. With practice, you can create a variety of looks suitable for any occasion. Whether you opt for the classic style or experiment with variations, the fishtail braid is sure to add a touch of elegance and creativity to your hairstyle. So grab your brush and hair ties, and start braiding!

Frequently Asked Questions

What materials do I need to make a fishtail braid?

You'll need a hairbrush or comb, hair ties, and optionally some hair spray or serum to tame flyaways.

How do I start a fishtail braid?

Begin by dividing your hair into two equal sections. Hold one section in each hand, then take a small piece from the outside of one section and cross it over to the other section.

What type of hair works best for a fishtail braid?

Fishtail braids work well with medium to long hair. Textured or slightly wavy hair can hold the braid better, but straight hair works too.

How do I make my fishtail braid look fuller?

To make your fishtail braid look fuller, gently pull on the edges of the braid after you finish. You can also use a thicker section of hair when starting.

Can I fishtail braid my hair if it's layered?

Yes, you can still create a fishtail braid with layered hair, but it may require a bit more care to keep shorter layers from slipping out.

How long does it take to learn how to fishtail braid?

With practice, most people can learn to do a fishtail braid in about 10-15 minutes. It may take a few tries to get the technique right.

Is there a way to make a fishtail braid with extensions?

Yes, you can add hair extensions to your natural hair before starting the fishtail braid. Just make sure they blend well with your natural hair color.

What occasions are fishtail braids suitable for?

Fishtail braids are versatile and can be worn for casual outings, formal events, or even sports. They add a touch of elegance and are easy to dress up or down.

How do I secure my fishtail braid?

Once you've completed your fishtail braid, secure it with a hair tie at the end. You can also use a bobby pin to keep it in place if needed.

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