

Get a Knockout Look with This One-Two Punch in Hairstyles



When you pick up the latest copy of your favorite hair magazine, you'll find all kinds of interesting looks that'll likely draw your interest. The big question is, which one should you try? Are any of them worth a go, or should you stick to the same style you've been wearing for a few years now? If you're looking for a new look, you couldn't do better than picking what are considered two of the hottest trends of the moment, namely hair extensions and balayage. While each is a phenomenal opportunity for you to upgrade your 'do in style, when combined they can be even more of a showstopper.

Here's what you should know about these two of the most in-demand hair looks around.

Balayage—Is It Worth All the Fuss?

Balayage is a hair technique that's been getting tons of press as of late. All the latest Hollywood actresses, models, and music stars, such as Heidi Klum, Selena Gomez, Halle Berry, Ciara, Jennifer Anniston, and Jourdan Dunn, have been donning looks that are based on the balayage process in which color is "painted" into the hair by hand, rather than stylists using foil. Jennifer Lopez, who's been known to have arguably the best hair in the City of Angels, has been a great example of a star who's worn a balayage-based style with extraordinary flair.

The technique looks much like the ombré style, and, in fact, women frequently use the names interchangeably, although they are not the same at all. Since balayage is a technique itself, it can be used to achieve an ombré style. Otherwise, it's identifiable trait is that it starts higher on the head than the ombré look does, but both have the characteristic gradation in color, going from dark to a much lighter shade, with ombré extending all the way down to the very tips, or ends, of the hair.

Balayage is well-loved for many reasons. One of them includes the fact that it doesn't quite require as much maintenance as the ombré style. It's not unheard of for women with balayage to not need any kind of touch-up for as long as six months, even. Another reason why it's much loved is that it's fine for all different hair types and lengths (except super-short styles).

Hair Extensions

Not only has Jennifer Lopez donned tresses with balayage, but she's also been photographed with stellar hair extensions. She joins a long list of actresses and other celebs, such as Jessica Alba and Paris Hilton, who've discovered this amazing way to go glam really fast. Non-celebs are also increasingly getting them added; even teens are opting for extensions so they can be prom-ready. On a slightly more serious note, more women are also discovering that extensions, while being great to add length can, more importantly, also add density; for women with thinning hair, it's therefore a true godsend. They no longer feel embarrassed by their thinning hair.

Before you dash off to your stylist to get extensions, make sure this is one of their areas of concentration. What you want to do is go to a salon with a hair specialist who really knows how to apply hair extensions, like Colorado's Elle B, a full-service [hair extension salon in Denver](#), with specialists in hair extensions who are 100 percent certified. If you go with an uncertified specialist, it's a huge gamble; you run the risk of having it poorly done that can ruin your own hair. Hair loss has even been reported. A well-qualified specialist can guide you about the best products you should use to avoid any kind of long-term harm to your hair.

Balayage Plus Hair Extensions

What many women don't realize is that they can get various treatments done on their hair extensions as if it were their natural hair. Remember, hair extensions made of human hair are still human hair, which means a stylist can still treat the hair with the balayage process to help you achieve incredibly streaked hair just as if it were done au natural. This combination creates a truly original crown of hair that would surely set you apart and thoroughly confuse anyone about what's real and what's not.

Long and Short of It

Getting either balayage or hair extensions, or both, is a great way to add dimension and density to your hair. It can add a fresh new look and produce a fresh new you. If you're looking to free yourself from the same styles, try these hot looks out for a change.

What celebrity hair trends have you been dying to try? Share below!