

# The Best Haircut For Your Face

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Tips and tools for getting perfect hair.

## W

Whether you want to soften a strong jaw, play down pinch-able cheeks or give a weak chin some oomph, there's a perfect cut and style for your face shape. Here's how to wear your locks for tress success.

### Heart-shaped

This little sweetheart boasts a pointed chin and roundness above the eye area, and can be a little tricky. In this case, it's all about filling in the bottom of your face. The best cut to offset a heart is a triangle—a perfect way to add what your chin is lacking.

"This hairstyle's objective is to create an oval by adding width at the jaw line," explains Lucie Doughty, local LA stylist and Paul Mitchell's editorial director. "Chin-length or longer styles, side-parted hairstyles, swept-forward layers around the upper face, gently wispy bangs or a chin-length bob are great."

If you have to go short, make sure your style widens, flips out or curls at the ends. Curly and wavy hairstyles can also soften a pointy chin. For shoulder-length cuts, try bangs and add layers from the chin down. Avoid a heavy piece of fringe at the top that will make the face look too triangular.

"Heart-shaped faces usually have incredible cheekbones, so a blunt bang brings attention across the eyebrow and eyes," says Heidi Hublou, director of operations and hair designer at the

Bellagio Salon, Spa & Medispa in Newport Coast. "When they smile, all you see are bright eyes and gorgeous cheekbones—that can be really cute."

### Oval

The most coveted face shape, ovals are so well balanced, the styling world is your oyster—long locks, shaggy bangs or elegant, slicked-back ponytails. Try a sassy twisted chignon—just twist your hair back, pin it at the neck and make it a little messy.

If you're overly oval, tone down the height of your forehead and the length of your chin, adding width to your face with a shoulder-length style.

"The last thing you want to do is close in the face," Hublou says. "You want soft layers, maybe a wispy bang pushing off to the side, so that your eyes are taken out through the cheekbones to accentuate the bone structure. Hair needs lots of movement behind the cheekbones, to avoid making the face too narrow."

"Oval face shapes should also avoid covering up 'perfect' features with heavy bangs or too forward-directed styles," adds Doughty.



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**Square**

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**Square**

A square face can seem a little masculine, so show your softer side! Curly or wavy styles and layering around the face can soften lines.

"Hair should be layered around the face to soften the jaw line. It should wisp around the face to reduce squareness," says Doughty. "Short to medium-length hair, especially with wave or roundness around the face, wispy bangs, off-center parts and height at the crown are styles that work well for square shapes."

"The swept bang is a savior because it's hiding all that forehead," agrees Hublou. And don't rule out the hard-to-wear middle part. "They accentuate every flaw that you have, but the squares can get away with them," she continues. "Instead of looking at the square, you're looking at long, flowing, flipping hair."

Doughty and Hublou agree—no bobs! Cutting your hair shorter than your jaw line accentuates the squareness, so steer clear.

**Round**

A round face is usually a little cheeky...which means less-defined features. So get back in line with linear cuts—a case of opposites attract. A full face is flattered by a short, layered cut. Layers on top add volume, and height and layers around the cheeks narrow the face. But beware of straight or heavy bangs—anything too geometric can make the shape look at odds with itself (like—circle in a square).

"If it's really round, a bob would be great to create squareness and definition," says Hublou. "Choose one with a blunt bang to break up the roundness. It's important to create dramatic lines, so you aren't focusing on the roundness, and the hair is framing."

Stay away from curly or wavy styles that poof out on the sides...they can make your face look even more round. Keep curls around the crown, but never near the cheeks.

"Hair should be cut to create the illusion of length in the face," adds Doughty. "This is achieved by creating height on top of the head, and minimizing hair width by keeping it flat at the sides and around the ears."

**It's All About You**

Flip through your favorite magazines for hair-styles that flatter your face shape. And don't shy away from a great cut just because it doesn't fit the "rules."

"Bring in photos and have the stylist modify it to your face shape," says Hublou. "Let them explain why you can't have a particular cut, but then let them incorporate a bit of the style into your cut."

**Round**

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**What shape are you?**

Hair stylists are the ultimate judges of your face shape, but give this experiment a try. Take the following measurements:

1. Across the top of your cheekbones
  2. Across your jaw line from the widest point to the widest point
  3. Across your forehead at the widest point (generally halfway between your eyebrows and your hairline)
  4. From the tip of your headline to the bottom of your chin
- You have:

A round face if it's as wide as it is long, within 1/4 to 1/2 an inches

An oval face if the length is equal to one and a half times the width

A heart face if it is narrow at the jaw line, wide at the forehead and cheekbones

A square face if the forehead, jaw line and cheekbones are almost equal in width