

# hairflair

*& Beauty*

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2004  
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Extensions can take your locks from Z-list to A-list in an afternoon, but what type is best for your hair and how can you be sure you're going to love your new look? Read on...

# all you need to know about EXTENSIONS



**H**air extensions have become an essential part of the celebrity 'grooming' regime. With the ever-increasing demand for stars to reinvent themselves, celebrities need a quick, easy way to change their looks without constant restyling, colouring or 'growing out' pains! When applied well, hair extensions can make your own hair look thicker or longer or they can be used to add in a totally different colour in an instant. However, if applied badly they can look dreadful and can even damage your hair. So here's our essential guide to getting them right – what to look out for, where to go to get them done and a who's who in the hair extensions world...

**What are hair extensions?**  
They are individual pieces of hair – either real or synthetic – that are attached to your own hair at the roots.

**How are they put in?**  
If synthetic they are woven in and heat-sealed. If they are real hair they are melted or glued onto your hair.

**How do they match your hair colour?**  
With synthetic hair, the operator will blend several colours together in order to get an exact match when you go for your appointment – they can match to any hair colour. Real hair extensions are generally matched by sending off a piece of your natural hair and having the extensions dyed accordingly.

**How long do they last?**  
Generally for between three to four

## Who's Who In Hair Extensions

Hair extensions operators are now getting as invaluable to celebrities as their hairdressers, so just who are the Nicky Clarkes and Charles Worthingtons of the extensions world?



**\* Simone Raymond, Errol Douglas salon**  
Simone, who works at the renowned Errol Douglas salon in London's Knightsbridge, is getting quite a name for herself! Unusually she

is expert in both real and synthetic hair and has worked on celebrities including actress Emilia Fox.

**Type of extensions offered:** Real hair and synthetic hair.  
**Prices:** From £50.  
**Contact:** Call 020 7235 0110 to make an appointment.



**\* Andrew Gregory, Freelance**  
Andrew works as a freelance operator visiting clients at their own homes in and around London – although he does visit clients as far afield as Germany, Spain and the USA!

He is also Creative Consultant for Prostyles Hair Extensions, one of the UK's leading manufacturers of synthetic hair extensions, where he trains other operators in his unique application system.  
**Type of extensions offered:** Synthetic.  
**Prices:** From £100 to £350 for a full head.  
**Contact:** You can email Andrew on drew-g@blueyonder.co.uk.



**\* Feleny Georghiou, Creative Director, Connect Hair System**  
Feleny and partner Angelo founded the Connect Hair System, based in North London, 17 years ago. Feleny is the magic hands behind

Victoria Beckham's new look and several celebrities including Martine McCutcheon.  
**Type of extensions offered:** Real hair – choose from 40 shades and varying textures.  
**Prices:** From £100 for a fringe to £2,000 depending on the length and thickness of your hair.  
**Contact:** You can call the salon on 020 7483 3845.

months – when treated with care.  
**Will they damage your own natural hair?**  
If applied too tightly or if too much hair is used in the individual extensions, making it too heavy for the real hair, then you can get traction alopecia – a condition which causes hair loss due to too much tension in the hair. You can also suffer from matting at the roots of your hair if you neglect your extensions or leave them in for too long.  
**How do you look after them?**  
If you have synthetic hair extensions they need very little styling. You cannot use conventional straighteners or tongs on them as they will melt, however, blowdrying as usual or using heated rollers is fine. No special products are necessary, but Prostyles Daily

**Conditioning Spray, £4.25,** is an excellent way of keeping them looking shiny and smooth. Real hair extensions need to be well conditioned to maintain the condition of the hair and should be styled like natural hair. Use products that are extra nourishing and conditioning.  
**How much do they cost?**  
Prices do vary and are dependant on how many extensions you want, how long you want them and also which type of extensions you would prefer. Real hair extensions tend to be pricier than synthetic.  
**How are they removed?**  
Synthetic hair extensions can be easily removed by breaking the heat seal and 'un-weaving' the extension. Real hair ones need a solvent to remove them – so should always be done professionally.

### Top Tips

We asked Hair Extensions specialists Mark Glenn Hair Enhancement in Mayfair for their top dos and don'ts when considering having hair extensions...

- Just as if you are having a haircut, ensure that you have a consultation and take in photos of hairstyles or hair extensions that you like... and those you don't!
- Ask to see examples of work that the specialist has done before – it is important to get a good operator.
- Always heed your operator's advice on aftercare.
- Never leave your extensions in for too long – this can cause matting at the roots.
- Do book in for your six-week up-keep appointment – it will help your extensions last their full life.
- Never comb your hair once you have your extensions in – use a bristle brush. This will ensure that you don't accidentally pull out or loosen any of the bonds.



**\* Mark Sharp, Creative Director, Mark Glenn Hair Enhancement**  
Mark has been a specialist in hair extensions for over 15 years. The studio he works from is in the heart of London's Mayfair and specialises in both fashion extensions and also a unique system suitable for women suffering with hair loss. Their clients are totally international and come from as far as Japan, Canada and Italy to visit the studio. Check out their website that shows before and after shots and advice.  
**Type of extensions offered:** Synthetic.  
**Prices:** £350 to £500 for a full head of extensions.  
**Contact:** You can call the studio on 020 7495 6969 or email them at studio@markglenn.com.



## Celebrity Hair-o-meter

Hot



**Holly Valance, Emma Bunton, Jennifer Aniston**  
So natural-looking you just wouldn't notice!



**Victoria Beckham and Jordan**  
These extensions are edging away from simply enhancing their own hair, and are threatening to take over their whole look – when it comes to extensions, less is often more...



**Suranne Jones, Jennifer Ellison, Vanessa Feltz**  
Just too fake looking!

Rot

To find an operator in your area call Dome on 0800 2987780 (synthetic hair), Prostyles on 0800 897105 (synthetic hair), Racoon Hair Extensions on 01295 770999 (real hair) or Great Lengths on 0870 2414671 (real hair).

By Sophie Knight Main Pic: HeadingOut