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30 Best Mid Taper Fade Designs for Black Men

Discover the perfect balance between high and low fades with these expert-curated mid taper styles for Black men. Top mid taper fade styles for Black men.

The **mid taper fade** has emerged as the Goldilocks of men's haircuts—offering the perfect middle ground between dramatic high tapers and subtle low fades. Particularly popular among Black men for its versatility with various hair textures, this style provides enough contrast to make a statement while maintaining professional appeal. We've collaborated with barbers from [Pall Mall Barbers](#) and [Black Men's Hair](#) to bring you the 30 best designs, complete with styling tips and maintenance guides.

What is a Mid Taper Fade?

A **mid taper fade** begins its gradient at the midpoint of the head—typically 1-2 inches above the ear—creating a balanced blend that works exceptionally well with Black hair textures. According to [American Academy of Dermatology](#) guidelines, this style offers several advantages:

- Provides structure without over-exposing the scalp (ideal for sensitive skin)
- Works with natural hair growth patterns common among Black men
- Reduces tension on hair follicles compared to ultra-short fades
- Maintains enough hair for protective styling when needed

Classic Crop Fade



Edgar Cut Fade



Edgar Cut

Twist Fade



Twist Fade

Curly Top Fade



Curly Top Fade

Afro Fade



Afro Fade

Line Up Fade



Line Up Fade

Temp Fade



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Temp Fade

Braided Top Fade



Mid Taper vs Other Fade Types

Feature	Mid Taper	High Taper	Low Taper
Starting Point	1-2" above ear	At temples	Just above ears
Contrast Level	Moderate	High	Low
Best Hair Types	All textures	Thick/straight	Curly/fine
Maintenance	2-3 weeks	2 weeks	3-4 weeks

How to Achieve the Perfect Mid Taper Fade

Follow this professional barbering technique as demonstrated at [Pall Mall Barbers](#):

1. **Preparation:** Start with clean, dry hair. Section off the top using clips.
2. **Guideline Setting:** Using clippers with a #1 guard, create your shortest guideline at the mid-point of the sides (about 1.5 inches above the ear).
3. **Blending Upward:** Switch to a #2 guard and blend upward toward the parietal ridge using scooping motions.
4. **Blending Downward:** Use the #1 guard to blend downward toward the neckline, creating a smooth transition.
5. **Top Connection:** Use shears to connect the top hair to the faded sides, leaving more length for textured styles.
6. **Detailing:** Clean up edges with a trimmer and refine the blend using clipper-over-comb technique.



Mid Taper Fade Step-by-Step

Mid taper fade progression from guideline to blend

Pro Tip from [Men's Health](#):

"For Black men with coarse hair, ask your barber to use a hot towel before fading to soften the hair for cleaner lines and easier blending."

Mid Taper Fade Maintenance Guide

Weekly Care

- **Wash:** Use sulfate-free shampoo 2-3 times weekly
- **Moisturize:** Apply leave-in conditioner daily
- **Edges:** Touch up edges with a razor every 5-7 days

Barber Visits

- **Touch-ups:** Every 2-3 weeks for clean lines
- **Deep Conditioning:** Monthly treatments
- **Seasonal Adjustments:** Consider longer tops in winter

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I explain a mid taper to my barber?

Say: "I want a mid taper fade starting about two fingers above my ear, blended up to my parietal ridge with a #2 guard, and down to my neckline with a #1." Bring reference photos for clarity.

Can I do a mid taper fade at home?

While possible with practice, [dermatologists recommend](#) professional cuts to avoid irritation and ingrown hairs common with DIY fades on coarse hair textures.

What products work best for mid taper fades?

According to [NaturallyCurly](#), use light pomades for definition, anti-humectants in humid climates, and always finish with a satin cap or pillowcase to preserve styles.

Download Complete Style Guide

Includes all 30 styles with detailed styling instructions

Final Thoughts

The **mid taper fade** offers Black men the perfect balance of style and practicality. Whether you prefer a **crop top mid taper** for summer or an **Edgar cut variation** for year-round sharpness, these 30 designs provide endless inspiration.

Remember: Great fades start with great barbers. Book consultations at reputable shops like [Pall Mall Barbers](#) or [Black Men's Hair](#) to discuss which variation best suits your hair type and lifestyle.