



taperfadehub.com

Taper Fade Haircut Cheat Sheet

The Ultimate Guide to Mastering the Taper Fade

1. What is a Taper Fade?

A taper fade is a type of haircut where the hair gradually decreases in length from the top of the head down to the neckline and around the ears. It creates a clean, sharp, and polished look.

- **Taper = Gradual reduction in length**
 - **Fade = Blending hair smoothly into skin or shorter lengths**
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2. Types of Taper Fades

Type	Description	Best For
Low Taper Fade	Starts just above the ears, very subtle.	Business & conservative styles.
Mid Taper Fade	Begins halfway up the sides, more noticeable.	Versatile, balanced look.
High Taper Fade	Starts high near the temples, bold look.	Edgy, trendy styles.

Type	Description	Best For
Skin/Bald Taper Fade	Fades all the way to the skin.	Ultra-clean, sharp appearance.
Temple Taper (Brooklyn Fade)	Only the sideburns and neckline are tapered.	Natural finish for textured hair.
Burst Taper Fade	Rounded fade around the ear.	Mohawks or textured curls.

3. Tools You Need

- Clippers with guards
- Trimmers/Edgers
- Straight Razor (for lineup)
- Barber Scissors
- Neck Brush
- Mirror (dual view recommended)

4. Taper Fade Guide (Step-by-Step)

1. **Consult:** Decide on fade type & length.
2. **Prep Hair:** Wash and dry.
3. **Create Guidelines:**
 - Start with your first guideline (low, mid, or high).
4. **Clipper Work:**
 - Use longer guards on top, decrease as you move down.
 - Flick motion to blend.
5. **Detail Work:**
 - Lineup the edges and neckline with a trimmer.

- Clean stray hairs with scissors.

6. Razor Finish (optional):

- Use straight razor for ultra-sharp edges.

7. Style & Product:

- Apply pomade, wax, or mousse as needed.

 **5. Clipper Guard Length Cheat Sheet**

Guard # Length (inches) Length (mm)

0	0 (bare blade)	0
1	1/8"	3 mm
2	1/4"	6 mm
3	3/8"	10 mm
4	1/2"	13 mm
5	5/8"	16 mm
6	3/4"	19 mm

 **6. Face Shapes & Taper Fade Matching**

Face Shape Recommended Taper Fade

Round	High taper to add height.
Oval	Any taper works well.
Square	Low or mid taper to soften angles.
Diamond	Low taper with more volume on top.
Heart	Low taper with fuller crown.



7. Pro Barber Tips

- Always start with a higher guard, then go lower.
 - Blend thoroughly to avoid harsh lines.
 - Use clipper-over-comb technique for smooth transitions.
 - Keep the client's head upright for even blending.
 - Taper fades need regular maintenance every 2-4 weeks.
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8. Common Mistakes to Avoid

- Not blending properly between lengths.
 - Cutting too high or too low without clear guidelines.
 - Using too much product post-cut (makes hair look greasy).
 - Forgetting to clean necklines and ear areas.
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9. Maintenance Tips

- Recommend trims every 2–3 weeks.
 - Moisturize scalp to avoid flakiness.
 - Use sulfate-free shampoo & lightweight styling products.
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10. Bonus: Taper Fade Styles to Offer

- Taper Fade with Waves
 - Curly Hair Taper Fade
 - Mohawk Taper Fade
 - Afro Taper Fade
 - Taper Fade with Part (Hard Part)
 - Taper Fade with Beard
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Understanding the Difference: Taper vs. Fade

Taper: A gradual shortening of hair length, typically around the sideburns and neckline.

Fade: A more dramatic blending of hair from longer on top to very short or skin at the bottom, often covering a larger area.

Tip: All fades are technically tapers, but not all tapers are fades!

Taper Fade Variations Around the World

- USA: Skin fades and burst fades dominate.
- UK: Low tapers and temple tapers are most popular.
- Asia: Soft tapers with textured tops are trending.
- Africa & Caribbean: High tapers with sharp lines & designs.

Barbers should know regional preferences to attract diverse clientele.

Hair Types and Taper Fades

Hair Type	Ideal Fade
Straight	Low, Mid, or High Taper
Wavy	Mid Taper or Temple Taper
Curly	Burst Taper or Afro Taper
Coily/Kinky	Temple Taper + Hard Part

Client Consultation Checklist

1. What style are you looking for?
2. Do you want a low, mid, or high fade?
3. Would you like a hard part or designs?
4. How often do you plan to maintain it?
5. Any skin sensitivities or allergies?

Pro Tip: Take a photo before to compare with your after work!

 **Pro Finishing Techniques**

- Use a foil shaver for ultra-smooth skin fades.
 - Apply cold towel post-shave to soothe skin.
 - Use a straight razor for crisp edges and line-ups.
 - Add a hard part with a trimmer for a bold style.
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 **Best Content Creators to Learn From**

- Tomb45 (Real-world fades)
 - 360Jeezy (Detailed tutorials)
 - Chris Bossio (Advanced barbering)
 - GetBeamed (Beard and taper fades)
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 **Taper Fade Maintenance Schedule (for Clients)**

Time	Action
Daily	Brush and moisturize scalp
Weekly	Shampoo and condition
Bi-weekly	Edge up or trim taper
Monthly	Full haircut/taper refresh

 **BONUS: Marketing Yourself as a Taper Fade Specialist**

- Build a strong Instagram portfolio (before/after shots).
- Use geo-targeted hashtags like #TaperFadeNYC, #ChicagoBarber.
- Offer loyalty discounts for regular taper fade clients.

- List yourself on StyleSeat and Booksy for bookings.
 - Encourage client reviews and testimonials.
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Common Myths About Taper Fades

1. **Myth:** Taper fades only suit young people.
Fact: They suit all ages when styled properly.
 2. **Myth:** Tapers damage hair.
Fact: Done right, tapers are healthy & manageable.
 3. **Myth:** Fades must be skintight.
Fact: Low tapers offer a subtle, blended look.
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Final Words

A true master barber understands that a taper fade is an art form.
Master the tools. Perfect your technique. Customize for every client.
Your fade is your signature—make it sharp!

11. Additional Resources

- **YouTube Tutorials:** “Tomb45”, “360Jeezy”, “ClayDesk”
- **Barber Forums:** Barber Connect, Barber EVO
- **Apps:** StyleSeat, Booksy (for booking & showcasing work)
- **Calculators:** ClayDesk.AI (Free online calculators and productivity tools)