

Chapter 1: Basic Wig Facts

How to Wear a Wig

Wearing a Wig Cap



Step 1:

Begin by wetting your hair down. This will eliminate any air pockets and make your hair as flat to your skull as possible. If you have long hair, put it into a low ponytail as well.

BONUS: If you will be wearing your wig for several hours in a hot location (Summer *is* the busiest costuming season...), having wet hair will help keep your head cool under your wig.



Step 2:

Starting from your forehead, pull the wig cap back onto your hair. Remember to pull back, not downward, or you'll look like you're going to rob a bank.

If you have your hair in a ponytail, lay it up flat against your head with one hand as you pull the cap on with the other. If you start with the band of the wig cap against the bridge of your nose, this will be much easier.



Step 3:

Pull the back of the cap fully past your hairline. (If you have your hair in a ponytail, you'll notice how nicely it holds the wig cap on at this stage!)

Use the handle of a comb to slide any hairs that are still sticking out back under the cap. The reason I don't suggest using your finger is that it's actually more likely to pull hairs out of the cap than tuck them in.



Step 4:

Slowly pull the front of the cap back until it's resting on your natural hairline. For extra coverage, use a liquid or stick foundation to cover up any exposed hairline.

Apply the rest of your make-up after getting your cap on to blend the foundation. ►



Putting a Wig on Your Head

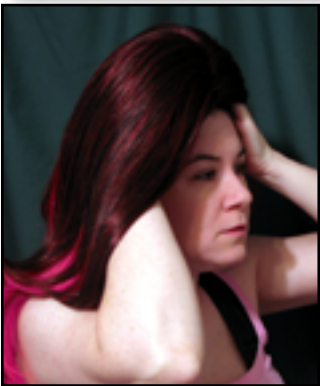
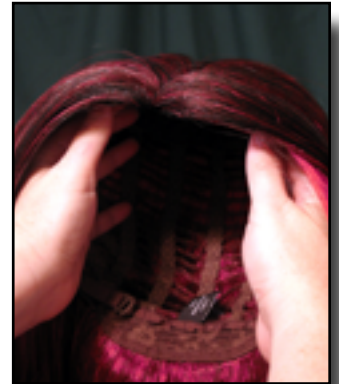


“Ok, so I’ve got my hair all under this cap. Now what?”

Once you’ve got your cap on, and all your hair tucked underneath, it’s time to put on your wig.

Step 1:

First, take the wig off the foam head and hold it by spreading your fingers out underneath it from the sides. ►

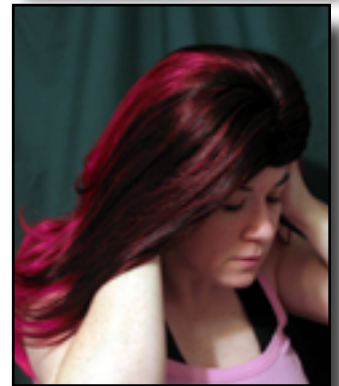


◀ Step 2:

Lift the wig slightly above your head.

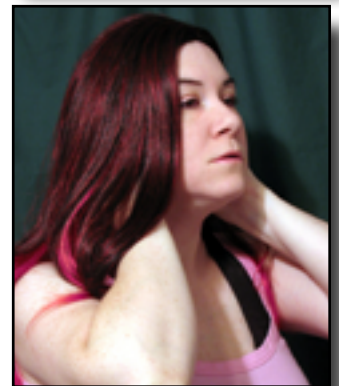
Step 3: ►

Tilt your head forward and rest the front edge of the wig’s “scalp” slightly above your eyebrows. Slowly stretch the sides down over the sides of your own head and slide your fingers out from underneath.



Step 4:

With the wig resting on your head (or being held in place by a friend...), reach back and pull the base of the wig over the back of the wig cap, until the front edge of the wig is slightly below your natural hairline. (Or on your natural hairline, if your wig has bangs.) Be careful not to pull on the fiber in the back, but instead pull the rigid “base” at the bottom.



Step 5:

Use hairpins (not bobbypins!) to pin the wig in place. Use them all along the edges of the wig at every angle you can manage. I use no less than 20, even for my short wigs, and my long and elaborate designs can easily use four times as many or more. (There’s no such thing as too many.) If you’ve got enough pins in place, you’ll easily be able to shake your head, touch your toes, dance a jig, or jump up and down without it falling off.



Putting a Wig on Your Head (continued)



Using Make-up for added realism...

Some people have dark “peachfuzz” hair that extends beyond their normal hairline, and might be left exposed when wearing a wig. This can be easily covered up using a concealer stick that matches your skin tone.

On the other side of the coin, there are those with very light hair who look a little odd when wearing dark wigs. The trick is to darken your eyebrows. Look for a shade of mascara that matches your wig fiber, and apply it to your eyebrow hair. You can also use eyebrow pencil to make your brows appear thicker and darker. This is especially important for females dressing as males. (Also known as “crossplay”.)

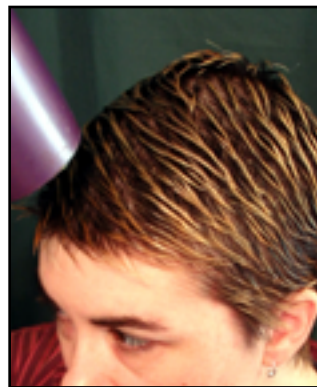
When wearing a very colorful wig, you can usually get away with not trying to match your eyebrow shade exactly, but using a colored brow or lip pencil (or a little lipstick!) in your brows to match the hue can have a nice effect.

QUICK TIP: GRIPPY HAIR

People with very short hair might have difficulty giving the hairpins something to hold onto when wearing wig. In these cases, adding more grip to your hair can be very helpful.



Start by slicking your hair down with extreme or super hold hair gel. Use a wide toothed comb so it makes grooves. Note: If you can part your hair in the middle, this helps even more.



Apply a light coat of hairspray all over your head, and blow-dry it to form a hard shell.

Once dry, put the wig cap on as normal.