

art deco hairstyles

Discover the Glamour of Art Deco Hairstyles

Art deco hairstyles epitomize the glamour, sophistication, and boldness of the 1920s and 1930s. This era was characterized by innovative designs, geometric shapes, and a sense of luxury that reflected the cultural shifts and artistic movements of the time. Hairstyles from the art deco period continue to inspire modern fashion and beauty enthusiasts, embodying a timeless elegance that remains relevant today. Whether you're attending a vintage-themed event, a costume party, or simply want to channel the iconic style of the roaring twenties, understanding the nuances of art deco hairstyles can help you achieve a spectacular look.

The Origins and Significance of Art Deco Hairstyles

The Rise of the Art Deco Movement

The art deco movement originated in France in the early 20th century and gained worldwide popularity during the 1920s and 1930s. It influenced architecture, fashion, jewelry, and hairstyles. The movement celebrated modernity, geometric patterns, and luxury, which translated into distinctive and innovative hairstyles.

How Hairstyles Mirrored the Art Deco Spirit

Art deco hairstyles are known for their sleek, structured, and geometric designs. They often showcased:

- Sharp, clean lines
- Symmetry and balance
- Bold shapes like waves and rolls
- Decorative accessories such as headbands, feathers, and jeweled pins

These elements reflected the aesthetic ideals of the era and conveyed a sense of confidence and sophistication.

Key Characteristics of Art Deco Hairstyles

Geometric Shapes and Symmetry

The hallmark of art deco hairstyles is their geometric precision. Hairstyles often feature symmetrical patterns, sharp angles, and defined curves.

Sleek and Structured Finish

The hair is typically styled to be smooth and polished, creating a sleek and refined appearance.

Use of Accessories

Accessories play a vital role in completing the art deco look. Common adornments include:

- Bejeweled headbands
- Feathered hairpieces
- Decorative hairpins
- Turban-style wraps

Short and Medium Length Styles

While long hair can be styled into art deco shapes, many iconic styles are short or medium length, making them practical and stylish.

Popular Art Deco Hairstyles of the 1920s and 1930s

The Bob Cut

The bob is arguably the most iconic art deco hairstyle. Its sharp, geometric shape symbolizes the modern woman of the 1920s.

Features:

- Hair cut straight around the head at jaw level
- Often styled with a sleek finish or slight wave
- Frequently accessorized with headbands or decorative pins

Finger Waves

Finger waves are characterized by close-set, S-shaped waves that lie flat against the scalp.

How to Achieve:

- Use a styling gel or mousse
- Create waves with your fingers or a comb
- Secure with pins if necessary
- Finish with a shine spray

Ideal For:

- Short to medium hair
- Formal events or flapper-inspired outfits

The Marcel Wave

Named after French hairstylist Jacques Marcel, this style features deep, uniform waves that evoke elegance.

Features:

- Voluminous, sculpted waves
- Usually styled on medium to long hair
- Perfect for evening occasions

The Geometric Updo

Updos with sharp lines and geometric shapes are a staple of art deco styling.

Examples:

- The Eton Crop
- The Empire Roll
- The Side-Swept Chignon

Styling Tips:

- Use hair gel or pomade for a sleek finish
- Incorporate accessories like jeweled pins for extra flair

The Flapper Hairstyle

The quintessential 1920s look, featuring a bob or a short crop with added embellishments.

Features:

- Straight or slightly waved hair
- Accessories like headbands with feathers or rhinestones
- Often paired with dramatic makeup

How to Achieve Authentic Art Deco Hairstyles

Tools and Products Needed

- Fine-tooth comb
- Hairpins and clips
- Styling gel or pomade
- Hair spray for hold
- Decorative accessories (headbands, feathers, jeweled pins)

Step-by-Step Guide for a Classic Art Deco Look

1. Prepare Your Hair: Start with clean, dry hair. Apply a styling gel or mousse for hold.

2. Create Finger Waves (Optional): Use a comb and your fingers to form S-shaped waves, pinning them in place.
3. Shape the Style: For a bob, blow-dry hair straight, creating a sharp, even cut. For updos, section the hair and shape into geometric forms.
4. Secure the Style: Use pins and clips to hold waves or shapes.
5. Add Accessories: Place headbands, feathers, or jeweled pins to enhance the look.
6. Finish with Hairspray: Set the style with a strong-hold hairspray to ensure longevity.

Tips for a Modern Take

- Incorporate contemporary hair colors like platinum blonde or bold reds.
- Use modern styling tools like curling irons or flat irons to achieve sleek or wavy textures.
- Mix vintage accessories with modern jewelry for a personalized twist.

Modern Inspirations and Variations of Art Deco Hairstyles

Red Carpet Looks

Celebrities often draw inspiration from the art deco era, especially for themed events and award shows. Look for sleek bobs, sculpted waves, and embellished headbands.

Bridal and Special Occasion Styles

Brides opting for vintage or themed weddings can choose art deco-inspired updos with intricate details and accessories.

Everyday Wear

With the right styling and accessories, art deco hairstyles can be adapted for everyday fashion, adding a touch of vintage glamour to casual outfits.

Maintenance and Care for Art Deco Hairstyles

Tips for Longevity

- Use strong-hold styling products
- Avoid excessive touching or brushing
- Protect your hairstyle from humidity with anti-frizz sprays

Tips for Restyling

- Keep accessories safely stored
- Use a gentle brush or comb to refresh waves or shape the hairstyle

- Reapply hairspray if needed for touch-ups

Conclusion: Embracing the Timeless Elegance of Art Deco Hairstyles

Art deco hairstyles are more than just a fashion statement; they are a celebration of an era that embraced elegance, innovation, and bold expression. Whether you prefer the sleek lines of a bob, the intricate waves of finger styling, or a dramatic updo, there are endless ways to incorporate art deco elements into your look. With a little practice, the right tools, and some vintage-inspired accessories, you can recreate these iconic styles and enjoy a timeless, glamorous appearance that pays homage to one of the most stylish periods in history.

Remember, the beauty of art deco hairstyles lies in their versatility and their ability to blend classic elegance with modern flair. So go ahead—embark on your journey to vintage glamour and make a statement that's both sophisticated and unforgettable.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the key characteristics of Art Deco hairstyles?

Art Deco hairstyles are characterized by sleek, geometric shapes, bold waves, finger waves, and often incorporate metallic accessories or embellishments to create a glamorous, vintage look.

How can I achieve an authentic 1920s Art Deco hairstyle at home?

To achieve an authentic 1920s Art Deco look, focus on creating smooth finger waves or pin curls, use styling gels for a sleek finish, and accessorize with vintage-inspired hairpins or headbands for the complete effect.

Who are some iconic celebrities known for popularizing Art Deco hairstyles?

Celebrities like Clara Bow, Louise Brooks, and Gatsby-era stars like Daisy Buchanan (from adaptations of *The Great Gatsby*) are famous for their iconic Art Deco hairstyles that epitomize the style's glamour.

Are Art Deco hairstyles suitable for modern weddings and events?

Yes, Art Deco hairstyles are very popular for vintage-themed weddings and events. They add a touch of elegance and timeless glamour, especially when paired with vintage accessories and flapper-inspired outfits.

What hair types work best for creating Art Deco hairstyles?

Medium to thick hair with natural wave or straight hair that can hold styles well works best. However, with the use of styling products and tools, many hair types can achieve an Art Deco look.

What accessories are typically used to enhance Art Deco hairstyles?

Common accessories include decorative hairpins, headbands, combs with geometric patterns, metallic clips, and jeweled hairpieces that complement the bold, glamorous style.

Can modern hairstyling tools help recreate Art Deco hairstyles more easily?

Absolutely. Tools like curling irons, flat irons, and setting rollers, along with strong-hold styling products, make it easier to create the sleek waves and geometric shapes characteristic of Art Deco hairstyles.

What are some popular vintage-inspired products to achieve an authentic Art Deco hairstyle?

Look for vintage-style setting gels, strong-hold hairsprays, pomades, and styling creams that help hold structured shapes, along with accessories that add to the glamorous vintage feel.

Additional Resources

Art Deco Hairstyles: A Glamorous Reflection of the Roaring Twenties

The early 20th century was a period of dramatic social, cultural, and technological change, and nowhere was this more visibly expressed than in the world of fashion and beauty. Among the most iconic and enduring elements of this era's aesthetic was the art deco hairstyle—a symbol of modernity, sophistication, and bold elegance. This investigative article delves into the origins, evolution, and cultural significance of art deco hairstyles, examining their distinctive features, key figures, and lasting influence on contemporary fashion.

Origins and Historical Context of Art Deco Hairstyles

The Birth of the Art Deco Movement

The term "art deco" originates from the 1925 Exposition Internationale des Arts Décoratifs et Industriels Modernes held in Paris. This movement was characterized by rich colors, bold geometric shapes, lavish ornamentation, and a sense of luxury. While initially associated with architecture, interior design, and visual arts, art deco's influence rapidly extended into fashion, jewelry, and hairstyling.

The 1920s, often referred to as the "Roaring Twenties," was a time of liberation and experimentation, especially among women. The aftermath of World War I saw a shift towards greater independence, and fashion became a vehicle for expressing modern identity. Hairstyles evolved from the restrictive, elaborate styles of the Victorian and Edwardian eras to more daring, streamlined looks that embodied the spirit of the age.

Transition from Victorian Elegance to Modern Minimalism

Prior to the 1920s, women's hairstyles were characterized by intricate waves, braids, and elaborate accessories, often requiring extensive time and effort. The art deco era marked a departure towards simplicity, symmetry, and geometric forms. In this context, hairstyles began to reflect the aesthetic principles of art deco—clean lines, bold shapes, and a sense of symmetry.

The shift was also influenced by technological innovations, such as the advent of electric curling irons, hairpins, and pomades, which facilitated new styling techniques. Moreover, the increasing popularity of short hair among women, exemplified by the "bob cut," signified a break from traditional femininity and a move towards modern independence.

Key Features of Art Deco Hairstyles

Art deco hairstyles are distinguished by their distinctive geometric shapes, sleek lines, and bold ornamentation. They often incorporated symmetrical patterns, sharp angles, and decorative accessories that accentuated the geometric aesthetic.

Common Elements and Techniques

- Geometric Shapes: Sharp curls, stacked waves, and sculpted rolls formed the foundation of art deco hairstyles, emphasizing symmetry and clean lines.

- **Shorter Haircuts:** The bob was the quintessential art deco hairstyle, often styled into precise, geometric shapes with finger waves or sleek finishes.
- **Finger Waves:** A hallmark of the era, finger waves involved shaping the hair into S-shaped curves close to the scalp, creating a smooth, sculpted appearance.
- **Sculpted Rolls and Chignons:** These involved arranging hair into geometric rolls or buns, often decorated with decorative pins, beads, or feathers.
- **Use of Accessories:** Hairpieces, jeweled combs, and headbands adorned with geometric motifs were common, adding a touch of luxury and sophistication.
- **Sleek and Shiny Finishes:** Achieved through pomades, gels, and setting lotions, hairstyles aimed for a glossy, polished look.

Typical Hairstyles of the Era

- **The Bob:** A short, straight cut that often featured sharp angles or wave patterns.
- **The Marcel Wave:** A deep, uniform wave pattern that became synonymous with glamour.
- **The Flapper Style:** Characterized by bob cuts combined with headbands, feathers, or jeweled accessories, embodying youthful rebellion and glamour.
- **Sculpted Waves and Rolls:** Typically styled into geometric shapes, often symmetrical on both sides of the head.

Influential Figures and Cultural Icons

The popularity and evolution of art deco hairstyles were heavily influenced by prominent figures and cultural icons who embodied the style's spirit of modernity and glamour.

Hollywood and the Silver Screen

The 1920s and 1930s Hollywood stars played a significant role in popularizing art deco hairstyles. Actresses like Clara Bow, Louise Brooks, and Joan Crawford showcased the chic, geometric looks that became

aspirational icons.

- Louise Brooks: Known for her sleek, short bob with a deep side part, Brooks epitomized the flapper aesthetic, blending art deco geometricity with youthful rebellion.
- Clara Bow: Her playful, tousled waves and shorter styles embodied the energetic, free-spirited ethos of the era.
- Joan Crawford: Often styled with sleek, polished waves and elegant accessories, she represented sophistication and glamour.

Fashion Designers and the Art Deco Aesthetic

Designers such as Paul Poiret and Coco Chanel embraced the art deco aesthetic, influencing hairstyles through their emphasis on geometric patterns and luxurious ornamentation. Their designs promoted a modern, liberated style that extended into hair fashion.

Technical Aspects and Styling Techniques

Recreating authentic art deco hairstyles required a combination of technical skill and access to specific styling tools.

Tools and Products

- Electric Curling Irons and Marcel Waves: Essential for creating uniform, sculpted waves.
- Hairpins and Clips: To secure geometric shapes and rolls.
- Pomades and Gels: For achieving sleek, shiny finishes and holding complex shapes.
- Setting Lotion and Hair Nets: For setting waves and ensuring longevity.
- Decorative Accessories: Headbands, jeweled combs, feathers, and beads for embellishment.

Step-by-Step Styling Process

1. Preparation: Clean, blow-dried hair with a light styling product.
2. Sectioning: Divide the hair into sections based on desired pattern.
3. Wave Formation: Use curling irons or finger wave techniques to shape waves.
4. Shaping and Securing: Form geometric shapes like rolls or buns, pinning securely.
5. Finishing: Apply pomades for shine, set with hairspray, and add accessories.
6. Maintenance: Use gentle styling sprays and avoid excessive touching to preserve the style.

Modern Revival and Influence on Contemporary Fashion

While the art deco hairstyle reached its peak in the 1920s and 1930s, its influence persists in contemporary fashion, beauty, and costume design.

Revival in Popular Culture

- Fashion Runways: Designers often draw inspiration from art deco patterns, incorporating geometric motifs into hair accessories and styling.
- Costume and Themed Events: Art deco hairstyles are popular choices for themed parties, vintage weddings, and film recreations.
- Contemporary Stylists: Modern hairstylists sometimes incorporate art deco elements into editorial shoots, music videos, and runway shows, blending vintage glamour with current trends.

Contemporary Interpretations and Innovations

- Use of modern styling tools like curling wands and styling gels to recreate authentic geometric shapes.
- Incorporation of modern accessories such as metallic headbands, art deco-inspired jewelry, and decorative pins.
- Fusion with other styles, such as combining art deco geometry with bohemian or punk aesthetics for eclectic looks.

Legacy and Cultural Significance

The art deco hairstyle is more than just a fashion statement; it symbolizes a cultural shift towards freedom, innovation, and modernity. It challenged traditional notions of femininity, embracing boldness and individual expression.

Symbol of Women's Liberation

The adoption of shorter hairstyles like the bob was a radical move that represented women's growing independence. The geometric, sleek styles conveyed confidence and a break from Victorian femininity.

Enduring Appeal

The timeless quality of art deco hairstyles lies in their bold, graphic lines and association with a transformative era. They continue to inspire contemporary designers, stylists, and fashion enthusiasts seeking to evoke the glamour and audacity of the Jazz Age.

Conclusion

Art deco hairstyles are a fascinating intersection of art, fashion, and social change. Their distinctive geometric shapes, sleek finishes, and luxurious accessories encapsulate the spirit of an era defined by innovation and liberation. From Hollywood glamour to modern reinterpretations, these hairstyles remain an enduring symbol of elegance and modernity. Their influence underscores the power of fashion as a reflection of cultural identity and societal progress—a testament to the timeless allure of the art deco aesthetic.

References and Further Reading

- "The Art Deco Style" by Bevis Hillier
- "Vintage Hairstyles of the 1920s and 1930s" by Susan Swartz

- "Hollywood Glamour: Hairstyles of the Silver Screen" by Mary Mallory
- Articles from fashion and history journals on 1920s fashion trends
- Online archives of vintage photographs showcasing iconic art deco hairstyles

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art deco hairstyles: *Art Deco Hair* Daniela Turudich, 2003 Art deco has long been associated with uncompromising style and sophistication, and this guide to recreating the sassy, controversial styles of the '20s and '30s offers a glimpse back at the hairstyles of this era. Includes hundreds of vintage illustrations, photos, step-by-step instructions, and diagrams.

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media, or setting beauty standards, these hairstyles have left an indelible mark on popular culture. - **Impact on Identity and Self-Expression:** Explore how these hairstyles allowed women to express their identities and individuality. Understand the social and personal significance of these styles, and how they empowered women to showcase their personality and status. **Why You Should Have This Book:** 1900s-2020s Women's Hairstyles Through the Decades is not just a visual delight but a rich historical archive, making it a must-have for: **Fashion Enthusiasts:** Gain a comprehensive understanding of the evolution of women's hairstyles and their impact on fashion. **Hair Stylists and Beauty Professionals:** Get inspired by the iconic styles that have defined beauty standards and learn the historical significance behind them. **Historians and Researchers:** A valuable resource that places hairstyles within the larger context of social and cultural history. **General Readers:** Anyone with an interest in beauty, culture, and history will find this book engaging and informative. Whether you are a professional in the beauty industry, a student of fashion and cultural history, or simply someone who loves to explore the trends that have defined each decade, this book is for you. Each chapter is meticulously researched and richly illustrated, providing both a visual feast and a deep dive into the history of women's hairstyles. Add 1900s-2020s Women's Hairstyles Through the Decades: 65 Women's Hairstyles and Their History to your collection and discover the fascinating world of women's hair fashion. This book not only chronicles the evolution of styles but also celebrates the artistry, innovation, and individuality that each hairstyle represents. Secure your copy today and embark on a journey through time, style, and beauty!

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1,000 colour photographs and diagrams. It also charts the history of 1940s hair fashion and provides guidance on how best to achieve vintage looks for those wishing to re-enact, model or wear the classic styles of the era. Includes thirty step-by-step hair tutorials, and covers heat setting and wet setting with twenty pin-curl patterns. With further information on modern and traditional methods, troubleshooting, tips and tricks and a hair accessories guide this is the complete guide to recreating authentic hair styles of the 1940s. For vintage enthusiasts, students of hair and fashion, theatre designers and those looking to re-create the styles of the era. Superbly illustrated with over 1000 colour photographs and diagrams.

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seventies furnishings, old-fashioned beauty parlours, Art Deco cafés or retro restaurants, The Rough Guide to Vintage London will show you where to find the best bargains and the hippest hang-outs. This authoritative illustrated guide casts a discerning eye over the entire city, highlighting the best of vintage London in each area. It covers over 200 budget and luxury attractions, from the East End hotspots of hyper-cool Hoxton and Shoreditch to the eccentric emporia of the West End, as well as the pick of London's markets and the classiest vintage outlets north and south of the centre, all marked on full-colour maps. Whatever your look or interest - blitz chic, beehive hairdo, forties screen idol, rockabilly, twenties flapper or Edwardian chap - The Rough Guide to Vintage London will tell you where you can enjoy them to the full. From Consultant-Editor Wayne Hemingway and written by Francis Ambler, Emily Bick, Samantha Cook, Nicholas Jones and Lara Kavanagh. Now available in ePub format.

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art deco hairstyles: ON TREND VINTAGE Bhavna Champaneri, 2013 On Trend Vintage is Bhavna's second book on hairstyles. Her fabulous, imaginative creations continue to wow people in the industry and is a fantastic inspiration for students. Focusing on the '40s, '50s and '60s, Bav puts a funky twist to the Vintage styles of each period. Be creative, be daring and never be afraid of hard work!

art deco hairstyles: Rookwood Bob Batchelor, 2020-09-15 Published to coincide with Rookwood's 140th anniversary, this beautiful, collectible, fully illustrated volume tells the rich story of this female-founded, female-owned great American art pottery company. *2021 Independent Press

Award Winner in the Category of Fine Arts* Author and historian Bob Batchelor tells the compelling story of this artisanal ceramics company, still operating in the heart of the Ohio River Valley from its founding to present day. Filled with behind-the-scenes artist and creator interviews, stories of Rookwood's avid collectors, as well as never-before-seen images and documents from the company's historic archives, you will see why Rookwood remains a pillar of true craftsmanship. About Rookwood: The Rookwood Pottery was the most famous company making art pottery in the United States in the late nineteenth century into the twentieth century, achieving an international reputation and consistently promoting artistic innovation. Proud that the pottery was "an artist's studio, not a factory," Rookwood Pottery is known for its exceptionally fine glazes and successful experimental designs. By assimilating the strengths of myriad aesthetic movements from the American Art Pottery Movement to Art Nouveau and Art Deco, Rookwood Pottery encouraged decorators to try unusual subjects and to explore new techniques. The Rookwood Pottery Company is located in the bustling Over-the-Rhine neighborhood of Cincinnati, Ohio—and it has been for decades. Pioneering artist Maria Longworth Nichols Storer founded the studio in the Queen City in 1880, building the business and laying the foundation for what Rookwood is today: a world-renowned artisanal ceramics company, operating in the heart of the Ohio River Valley. From New York's Grand Central Station to The Louvre in Paris, contemporary boutique hotels to historic homes, Rookwood has truly made its mark on the world in the past three centuries. And now, it's embarking on the next chapter. Today, Rookwood continues to build upon its rich heritage, creating high-quality pottery and architectural tile in the United States. With a team of just over 70 employees, Rookwood is deeply committed to its mission: cultivating artistic inspiration, giving back to the community, and balancing its rich legacy with forward-thinking momentum—ideas that are central to the Rookwood brand. The company takes pride in their process, their people, and their product, ultimately creating premier pieces with a story—and a one-of-a-kind luxury experience that can only be Rookwood.

art deco hairstyles: Creating Chinese Modernity Peter Gue Zarrow, 2006 Over the first half of the twentieth century, the lives of millions of urban Chinese were transformed by new ideas, new objects, new jobs, new leisure pursuits, new forms of transportation, new architecture: in a word, new «life-styles» and habits of mind. What did these changes mean to ordinary people? The essays in this book examine how prevailing discourses - on nationalism, feminism, democracy, individualism, socialism, and the like - emerged and were absorbed into the lived experiences and material culture of ordinary Chinese. Only from intimate personal experiences with forces ranging from war, revolution, and state-building to advertising blitzes and boycotts was Chinese modernity forged, forged out of «forces» larger than individuals but simultaneously observed, interpreted, adapted, and absorbed by those individuals.

art deco hairstyles: Cartier Hans Nadelhoffer, 2007-10-18 From modest beginnings in Paris to predominance in the world of high fashion, the rise of the house of Cartier is comprehensively chronicled in this lavish volume. In the 1980s Cartier granted Hans Nadelhoffer exclusive access to its archives in order to write the definitive history. Long out of print, Nadelhoffer's exhaustive research has been revived with lush new photography and design sketches of the world's most distinctive and finely crafted jewelry. Through charming and compelling anecdotes, these famed gems and the elite clientele who don them are brought to life. This fully illustrated account is the essential complement to any jewelry lover's collection, and will satisfy the longings of all those who covet this legendary brand.

art deco hairstyles: Fashion from Victoria to the New Millennium, Second Edition Daniel Delis Hill, 2023-12-01 This survey of EuroAmerican fashion and style includes a detailed, thoroughly illustrated chronology of women's, men's, and children's dress since 1800. Each chapter covers in detail virtually all categories of clothing, including day attire, evening dress, outerwear, sportswear and swimwear, undergarments, sleepwear, accessories, footwear, hats, hairstyles and grooming, and more. Over 1,000 illustrations visually document the past 200 years of fashion and style. Each era is introduced with an overview of the history and cultural developments that impacted modern fashion.

art deco hairstyles: Fashion, Costume, and Culture Sara Pendergast, Tom Pendergast, Sarah Hermesen, 2003 This volume provides a history of human decoration and adornment.

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