

## Best Prom Updos

Teens can get glam for the big night by stealing these red carpet-worthy updos from Hollywood's hottest young stars. Here, hair pros share simple, step-by-step instructions for recreating each gorgeous prom hairstyle at home.

By Kelly L. Phillips



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### Old Hollywood Waves

Taylor Swift's swept-back waves are "very classic, very 1930s glamour-girl-on-Hollywood-Boulevard," says Nicholas Penna Jr., head stylist and owner of Salon Capri in Newton, Massachusetts. "Plus, these waves will look great after you take them down. They're the perfect base for a second look at the after party."

**How to do it:** Use a curling iron to create Swift's spirals. For loose waves, choose a large-barrel iron. For tighter ringlets, use an iron with a smaller barrel. (Or, try using both sizes to create a combination of curls.) Then, sweep curled hair back into a loose bun. Secure with plenty of bobby pins, preferably in a matching color so they blend right in. If your teen wants to switch up her look later in the night, she can just remove the pins and tousle.

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### Volume, Volume, Volume!

Hairspray is the secret weapon to getting Selena Gomez's lifted locks.

**How to do it:** Tease hair as you push it off the back of the head. To do this, run a fine-tooth comb through the last two inches of the hair closest to the scalp in short strokes, aiming at the root. Only tease dry hair (wet strands can intensify the tangle) and keep comb strokes uniform for best results. Use hairspray generously while combing—it'll create a stronger base and maximum volume. Once hair has enough extra oomph, loosely twirl and pin locks back, a few at a time, into a twist, from front-to-back. "A hairstyle like this can be very rocker-chic, so have your teen dress it up with a bit of attitude too," says Penna.

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### Grown-Up Plaits

"This young, fun style on Sarah Michelle Gellar has a preppy, yet very fancy look—it'd be at home on the set of *Gossip Girl*," says Penna.

**How to do it:** To create this grown-up braid, start with a deep side part. On the side of the head with more hair, make a reverse french braid by crossing strands under rather than over while braiding. End the braid at the back of the head. Pull back remaining hair on the opposite side of the head and combine it with the end of the braid. Secure in a low ponytail. Tease or curl the ends for locks as full as Gellar's.

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### The Loose Bun

Teens looking to keep it classy at prom should go with Kristen Bell's 'do, says Penna.

**How to do it:** "The key to this glamorous, mature style is to pin most of the hair into a loose bun, while keeping a few natural waves free-flowing beside the face," says Penna. Start with a side part. Comb hair into a loose bun. Use a curling iron to define the gentle, face-framing waves. Apply a dab of styling wax to the ends of hair to get Bell's piece-y texture.

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### The High French Twist

Keke Palmer's french twist is a chic, classic head-topper.

**How to do it:** Start with straight hair. (Girls with naturally wavy or curly hair will need to use a smoothing product and blow-dry hair straight.) Make an off-center part. Gather hair on both sides, and twist upward, pulling hair extra high to match Palmer's 'do. Secure with plenty of pins. "To change up this look, leave the top part of the twist undone, and texturize with styling pomade and your fingers—it's a great way to liven it up," says Penna.

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### The Tousled Bun

Leighton Meester's funky 'do is perfect for girls who don't want a fussy, complicated look, says Penna. It works particularly well for teens with straight hair.

**How to do it:** Apply pomade to hair to get a piece-y, second-day-hair look. Gather hair into a gentle twist or bun while leaving out a few face-framing pieces. More tendrils coming loose? Let them fly.

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### The Feathered Bob

A sophisticated blow-out and lots—lots—of volumizing products can create a feathered bob like Nicole Richie's, says Nicholas Penna Jr., head stylist and owner of Salon Capri in Newton, Massachusetts.

**How to do it:** Start with a great, layered cut a few weeks before prom (if your daughter likes this 'do, show the stylist the picture). The layers are necessary to create the "feathers," or floaty flips of hair. To get the look, blow-dry hair with a volumizing mousse and round brush, then work in a texturizing product with a bit of hold. Curl strands outward with a large-barrel curling iron. Spritz with hairspray so the wisps don't fall during the night.

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### Curls, Defined

Jessica Lucas wears her bouncy curls in a simple center-part.

**How to do it:** Try this curl-perfecting technique from Nicholas Penna Jr., head stylist and owner of Salon Capri in Newton, Massachusetts: To add texture, take a lock of hair and curl it with a curling iron. Take another lock of hair and curl it with the first. Release, spray with a firm-hold hairspray, then separate locks gently with fingers.

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### Sleek and Simple

Ellen Page's just-barely-wavy blow-out is the perfect complement to any gown, according to Penna.

**How to do it:** Add volumizer to hair to maximize fullness. Then, use a round brush to create volume and loose waves while blowing out hair. When dry, brush and add a dab of shine serum to keep strands looking sleek.

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