

ONE TREND, THREE WAYS

# Smooth operator

Red carpets and runways are seeing a return to sleek, straight strands worn smoothed up, down or to one side, but always off the face. Here's how to get slick

BY JULIA SEIDL

Polished, poker-straight hair worn close to the crown has slipped into favour on all the right red carpets. "It's not the undone look; it's the done look," says Los-Angeles-based stylist Robert Ramos, who works with Jaime King, Kelly Clarkson and Hannah Simone. Centre-parted, brushed back or parted deeply to one side, here are three ways to go smooth without falling flat.



JENNIFER LOPEZ

## SLEEK TOPKNOT

**The look:** Floppy topknots might work at brunch, but the red carpet bun is smooth and perfectly positioned. "It's about finding the right balance for the face shape," says Ramos of the elegant tight bun, as seen on Jennifer Lopez and Kat Graham. For a sweet ballerina-inspired spin, secure your bun centre stage, directly on the top of the head. For more of a statuesque feel like the knots Ramos created on King and Simone, position it farther back at the crown.

**How to get it:** A few drops of argan-oil lotion plus leave-in conditioner equals smooth strands from the get-go, says Ramos. After drying and flat-ironing to remove body, work in a texture cream from the ends up. Pull into a high pony with a brush while lifting your head up and slightly back. If your head is leaning forward, the back will sag, says Ramos. Use a fine-tooth comb to smooth bumps before spraying your ponytail with hairspray to help strands stick together, then twist and wrap the tail around itself, securing the ends with bobby pins.

KEVIN MURPHY UN-TANGLED LEAVE-IN CONDITIONER, \$25, SALONS. **BIO IONIC** ONEPASS 1" STRAIGHTENING IRON, \$280, SEPHORA.CA. **MOROCCANOIL** SMOOTHING LOTION, \$32, MOROCCANOIL.COM



CARA DELEVINGNE



JESSIE J

## DEEP SIDE PART

**The look:** As the pioneer of '90s minimalism, Calvin Klein extended his fascination with all things clean and lean to his models' manes, including in Kate Moss's campaigns. Now a new generation of It girls, including Jessie J and Cara Delevingne, are embracing linear locks with a similar mirror-like sheen but adding modernity and drama with a deep—very deep—side part.

**How to get it:** You want shine, not grease, so avoid using oil-based products while hair is wet and instead start by working in a gel for hold. "You can add product later to get the shine back," says Jessie J's London-based stylist, Alisha Dobson. Create the precise deep side part with a pintail comb. Smooth using a soft bristle brush, then wrap hair in a mesh scarf from a beauty supply store before blowing it dry. "The scarf will keep hair super flat," says Dobson. Finish with a serum for extra shine and a heavy dose of hairspray to tame fly-aways. If you have thick hair, part on a diagonal to prevent bulk on one side.

DENMAN 8.5" PINTAIL COMB, \$16, SALONS. **FEKKAI** SHEER HOLD HAIR-SPRAY, \$28, SHOPPERS DRUG MART. **BUMBLE AND BUMBLE** BB.GEL, \$33, BUMBLEANDBUMBLE.COM



BRITTANY SNOW



GIGI HADID

## CENTRE-PARTED PONY

**The look:** Rarely is a red carpet unrolled without an A-listing posing with her lacquered long locks parted sharply down the middle and pulled back into a low pony. Both Brittany Snow and Gigi Hadid have taken the sharply parted nape-grazing do for a test drive.

**How to get it:** "A centre part is a strong and sometimes hard look to wear," says Dobson. Soften the severity by parting hair a quarter of an inch off-centre or by slightly teasing the roots so the hair lies flat but isn't overly taut. To achieve the right part for you: "Comb the hair back and let it part naturally in a clean line," says Ramos. "It's best to work with the hair." Work in a cream or oil serum before drying and flat-ironing to a straight, smooth finish and secure with a strong elastic.

"The key is to layer product a little bit at a time until you get it right," says Ramos, who recommends finishing with a dry-oil spray for maximum shine.

**ALTERNA** BAMBOO SMOOTH KENDI OIL DRY OIL MIST, \$31, SEPHORA.CA. **DOVE** VITALITY REJUVENATED SILK CRÈME, \$8, DRUGSTORES. **SEPHORA** COLLECTION OMBRE SEAMLESS HAIR TIES, \$12, SEPHORA.CA.

ONE-MINUTE  
MIRACLE

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*Forever indebted,  
Michelle Bilodeau*

**FAST** SHAMPOO, \$20, NISIMINC.CA