



# HAIR BRUSH 101

By Maria Oldham

Learn which tools are best for YOU!

Any hair stylist can tell you that brushes are not “one size fits all”—each one is designed to carry out a particular function for a particular hair type. Use this guide to find the perfect tools for your hair, whether it’s thick and curly or fine and thin. You might be surprised by the difference a brush can make!

## 1. CHOOSE YOUR BRISTLES.

Most hair types are compatible with a mixed bristle brush, but as the texture of your hair changes with age, it becomes more important to match your bristle type to your hair care needs.

### Boar

**Ideal for:** distributing oils evenly, shiny blowouts  
**Hair type:** soft enough for fine hair; brushes with “reinforced” boar bristle are strong enough for thicker hair

### Nylon

**Ideal for:** gently detangling, distributing oils evenly  
**Hair type:** medium to thick

## 2. FIND YOUR SHAPE.

The shape of your brush should coincide with both your hair type and your style goals. Each type is designed to assist with a certain “look,” from the sleek and straight to a chic chignon to soft curls.

### Paddle (Flat) Brush

**Ideal for:** straightening hair, drying large areas for a smooth finish  
**Hair type:** long, straight hair or short bobs

### Round Brush

**Ideal for:** creating volume, body, movement, and curl  
**Hair type:** fine  
*Quick tip:* The size of the barrel will determine how much curl you will get. The larger the barrel, the straighter the style.

### Fine-Tooth Comb

**Ideal for:** straightening and separating, detangling wet hair  
**Hair type:** wavy or curly

### Styling Brush

**Ideal for:** smoothing and styling, quick blowouts  
**Hair type:** thick

### Teasing Brush

**Ideal for:** adding height, supporting updos  
**Hair type:** medium to thick

*Quick tip:* Avoid using a teasing brush if you have fine or fragile hair.

### Mixed-Bristle/Porcupine

**Ideal for:** brushing into a smooth finish  
**Hair type:** all

### Plastic

**Ideal for:** detangling and pre-drying hair, a great “first step” brush  
**Hair type:** all, but especially great for medium to thick hair

**QUICK TIP:** To get the most out of your brush, remove hair after each use, clean with warm water and shampoo every two weeks, and replace when bristles begin fraying.

## EXPERT'S CHOICE

Mason Pearson Hairbrushes

Available at  
The Cosmetic Market | [thecosmeticmarket.com](http://thecosmeticmarket.com) | 423.779.1377



Handy Bristle Brush \$230

Mix Bristle Brush \$205

“These two brushes are very hot sellers,” says **Cosmetic Market** corporate manager **Mary Kathryn Yeiser**. “The boar bristle is made from 100% boar hair. The nylon mixture brush is very popular and written-up in all the magazines. It’s the one you always hear about!”

## 3. SELECT A BARREL.

Using the right barrel is key to managing dull, damaged, or curly hair and creating smooth, frizz-free shine. Here are some benefits of the most popular brush barrels.

**Ceramic:** best for daily use, maintains a healthy temperature during blowouts

**Thermal:** protects hair against heat during blowouts

**Titanium:** protects hair against heat with a ceramic coating, more lightweight than ceramic

**Tourmaline (Ion):** smooths hair and prevents static, great for winter months

**Vented:** smooths while detangling, distributes heat for consistent blowouts