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The Appeal of the Undercut

Jasmine Schillinger

Iowa State University

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The Appeal of the

UNDERCUT
The Undercut. That’s the official name for this rapidly growing hairstyle. When the sides of the head are shaved, with the back slicked back, or messy styled top. Rocked by either a male or a female, it doesn’t matter. Undercuts are hot—period.

The undercut is becoming more and more popular, but a lot of the time it is misinterpreted as a different style.

Jordan Peterson, owner of the Des Moines Universal Kutz barbershop, explains what exactly the undercut hairstyle is and why it is often times confused with a side-part or comb over style.

“An undercut is where the longer hair on top dishevels and flops over the sides without it being blended into the haircut,” Peterson says, “On the other hand, a side-part is a haircut that is going to have a part line and be blended in.”

This style was very common during the ‘40s and ‘50s. You might have seen these haircuts supported in shows like Mad Men or movies like The Great Gatsby. This haircut is often times slicked back and styled very neatly with every hair in place.

Peterson explained in order for an undercut hairstyle to have a “distinct disconnection,” when the hair clearly flops over the shaved sides, the person needs to put some time into growing their hair out first.

Eric Cain, senior at DMACC, is still working on growing out his hair for more of the disconnected look. He supports a hybrid style with a mixture between an undercut and a hard part—a very distinctive part, created with a straight razor.

Cain explained how he has always been fascinated by old-school barber cuts, but for the longest time he couldn’t find anywhere that would style his hair like this. One of Cain’s inspirations for the hairstyle was Tom Hardy. After seeing the movie Lawless, he had to have the cut.

It’s no secret that these hairstyles have grabbed the attention of the opposite sex. Many women swoon over the sight of a man with a well-groomed undercut or side-part hairstyle.

“When guys have this hairstyle, I feel like it shows that they like to take care of themselves and they want to look good, which is definitely an attractive aspect,” says Cassie Garrett, a senior in elementary education.

Cain shared his opinion on why he thinks women enjoy this cut so much, “It’s just like anything else that stands out, whether it be a nice body, good fashion sense or whatever you’re into. I feel like women respect a man that is well-groomed and takes care of his hair, especially a unique cut like this.”

Tyler Hansen, a recent graduate in journalism, supports the more popular side-part hairstyle. “I wouldn’t say any one person in particular motivated me, but Ryan Gosling is my father. Like father, like son.”

When asked about what the ladies think, Hansen explained that he doesn’t do it for them, “I don’t do it for the girls, only for my personal preference. If it helps me pick up more chicks, it helps—one point Tyler.”

Hansen noted if any men are looking for a good haircut in Ames, The Salon is the place to go.

An aspect that seems to get brought up when talking about these particular hairstyles is fashion.

According to Cain, the cut goes with just about any outfit.

It’s common to see people stem their haircut inspiration from a well-known celebrity, like Tom Hardy or Ryan Gosling. But those are just a couple of names that have sported these stylish cuts. Macklemore, in particular, was one of the first to support the undercut style.

Other names that have rocked the undercut at some point in time are Brad Pitt, Aaron Paul and Cristiano Ronaldo.

Pink and Miley Cyrus were some of the first females to start making the undercut a style for women. Now, it’s not uncommon to see some women with one side of their head completely shaved with hair flopping over the top.

As for the much more common side-part or comb over style, many celebrities have taken this look over. Leonardo DiCaprio, Justin Timberlake and Adam Levine—just to name a few.

Peterson says that if you do decide to rock this hairstyle, you need to take care of it.

“People with an undercut usually get their hair cut every two weeks, that’s common. Three weeks, depending on your budget. If you go four weeks—the look is probably starting to look lazy.”

Peterson recommends using Lay-rite pomade to create the style. The product carries three different kinds of hold and he promises it’s a hold that will last all day. Also, when styling, a blow dryer should always be used. Blow-drying the hair will give the look more volume before styling it with product.

“I feel like these cuts make a man look more grown up and respectable,” says Cain. “Although, I feel like it’s a package deal, meaning, if you’re going to be sporting the haircut, you better have the style to back it up.”

“Whether you’re out in boots, a white tee, or denim, it’s sure to dress up your style.”