The Braid Brigade

THESE SOPHISTICATED AND SEXY PLAITS ARE ROMANTIC, EDGY AND EASIER TO RE-CREATE THAN YOU THINK BY NYKIA SPRADLEY PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRISTOPHER KOLK

CLASSY CASCADE

French braid? Been there, done that. Try this sloped version: Make a side part and brush the bang to hang over your face. Begin at the part and loosely braid down and across your forehead. Continue around to the nape of your neck and on to the opposite shoulder. Add synthetic hair where thickness or length is needed.

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HAIR : BRAIDS



ROCKER ROW

The shaved side had its moment. This take is just as edgy—without the commitment. Make a deep side part, and starting just above the ear, braid a chunky inverted cornrow. Two inches from the tip, secure with elastic. Leave ends frayed and the rest of hair messy for rebel chic.

CROWN ROYAL For goddess glam, use synthetic hair to create a braid that will be added to your own hair. Brush your locks into a low ponytail, then attach the braid to the pony with pins. Bring it forward and then across the crown of your head. Pin to hold in place. Adorn with a headband.



EGYPTIAN TOPKNOT Part hair from temple to temple and

pull the top half into a bun. Cornrow the bottom half from the neck up. Wrap the braided hair around the topknot once, then let the braid fall at the ear. Loop the braid back up and pin the tip under the topknot. TINY TAILS Draw a V at the crown with your comb. At the point, loosely make a fishtail braid. Brush the rest of your tresses into a ponytail. To finish, wrap the end of the fishtail around the pony and secure.

DKF

WOVEN TURBAN

Braid colorful ribbon into two separate chunks of synthetic hair. Set aside. Part your hair from ear to ear, and put each section in a soft bun. Grab one of your ribbon braids, wrap it around the top bun, and bring it down and around the bottom pony. Do the same with the second hairpiece, beginning at the bottom bun. Loop it down toward the nape of your neck, then cascade it up and around the topknot. Tuck in loose ends with hairpins.

TWISTING TOOLS

Redken Outshine 01 Anti-Frizz Polishing Milk (\$18, ulta.com).

Salon Grafix Play It Big! Volumizing Dry Shampoo in Brown (\$10, Target).

Optimum Amla Legend Enchanted Finish Hold + Polish Spray (\$7, Sally Beauty).

Pantene Pro-V Stylers All-In-One Styling Balm (\$5, Walmart).

Ion Anti-Frizz Rat-tail Comb (\$6, Sally Beauty).

Emi-Jay Skinny Hair Ties (\$10 for set of 6, emijay.com).