

Crop Tops

Hairstylist Pekela Riley, owner of Salon^PK in Jacksonville, Florida, and a guru of short cuts in the South, is here to help you take the leap toward pixie prettiness

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CHIEF ROCKER

Short hair can be your ticket to lots of fun, which is exactly what Riley illustrated with this flirty, curled look. The messiness gives it edge, while loose spirals add the perfect amount of dainty. After prepping hair with a heat-resistant thermal spray, Riley used a one-inch-barrel curling iron to create the spirals. To get the tousled look, she used a flat iron to drag the ends out, making them a little wispy and spiky.

HAIR

FRO SHOW

If you're active, short hair can bring about all kinds of sweaty, gym-poof dilemmas. And if your hair is relaxed, you're probably thinking, *I can't do this style*. Well, your tresses are more versatile than you think. This look is all about creating more definition with what you already have. Riley used Mizani Moisture Milk to dampen natural strands and then did a chunky finger coil. She blew the hair with a diffuser attachment to set the style. To create even more definition (or to get the look on relaxed hair), she went in with a small-barrel curling iron on the ends. "If you want more length, stretch out the top or front while diffusing," says Riley. The shape and deep side part also add a contemporary twist. ▷



SWOOP SWOOP

Update this slick throwback with a touch of volume at the crown, using a round brush and blow-dryer. Smooth out the rest with a flat iron. If you're concerned about the heat interfering with your curl pattern, apply a leave-in conditioner followed by a thermal protectant spray before blow-drying. What brings this spin on a mushroom cut into modern territory is a deliberate disconnect between the sleek top and shaved back. "If you're not ready to completely taper the back, you can achieve this edge with a smaller point of disconnect that starts lower down," says Riley. Make it closer to the nape of the neck.

