

Tika Sumpter
rocks an easy-to-do
halo braid that's
perfect for the
warm weather.

Summer's Coolest Styles

BEFORE YOU HIT THE BEACH, THE
POOL OR A CONCERT THIS SEASON,
PLAIT IT UP WITH A CHIC BRAID
BY NYKIA SPRADLEY

HAIR

STEFANIE KEENAN/GETTY IMAGES FOR GLAMOUR

HAIR : BRAIDS

Tika Sumpter, Zendaya and Aja Naomi King



THE BRAID BRIGADE

Clearly all these ladies got the memo that braids are where it's at this summer, and as we can see from Solange's cascading coil to Tessa Thompson's and Tamera Mowry-Housley's cute updos, there are many options. "The key is to create an effortless braid that isn't perfect," says hairstylist Keira White, who designed Tika Sumpter's milkmaid do. Hair chameleon Zendaya shows us how chic classic cornrows can be. And celeb stylist Larry Sims crafted a double-layered French braid for actress Aja Naomi King. If you're worried about looking like a kid with your twists, "mess them up a bit," says Sims. "I take a Mason Pearson brush and graze the top lightly to make it a little frayed."

Solange



"To make braids look mature and less kiddish, mess them up a bit. Graze the top lightly with a brush to make it a little frayed."

—LARRY SIMS, HAIRSTYLIST



Tessa Thompson



Tamera Mowry-Housley

Ciara



MIX MASTER

To play off the fun patterns in Ciara's dress, "I immediately thought of something twisted, dreaded and frizzy," says Cesar Ramirez of the singer's double-textured halo. He framed a cornrow against the hairline, then switched to a fishtail braid using added hair that he pinned like a headband across the crown. To finish he pulled on strands in each braid for a slightly frizzy texture. w

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: STEFANIE KEENAN/GETTY IMAGES FOR GLAMOUR (2); PASCAL LE SEGRETAIR/GETTY IMAGES; JOHN SCULLI/GETTY IMAGES FOR LOUIS XIII; JON KOPALOFF/FILMMAGIC; PAUL MORIG/WIREIMAGE.

HAIR : BRAIDS



Braids are regal and a natural way to wear a crown. Style them to accentuate your best features.

—CHIOMA NKWODIMMAH VALCOURT, HAIRSTYLIST

Leona Lewis



Yaya DaCosta

HAUTE HAWK

"Braids are regal and a natural way to wear a crown," says Chioma Nkwodimma Valcourt of Next Vanity salon in New York City. Smaller ones are great for special occasions. Style them to accentuate your best features. "Yaya has high cheekbones and these braids flow with the beautiful angles of her face," says Valcourt, who created this look for DaCosta.



Janelle Monáe

THE BRAIDED POMP

Hairstylist Caprice Green shaped Janelle Monáe's signature pompadour into an edgy, oversize faux hawk.



Karrueche Tran

FUN FISHTAIL

"Half-up styles are romantic and carefree. It's nice to have something that is off the face, but still playful and flowing," says Justine Marjan, who did Kelly Rowland's look below. Braids offer longevity; plus, you can take them out later for fun waves!



Kelly Rowland



Gabrielle Union

GODDESS GETS

To fashion this do for Gabrielle Union, stylist Kiyah Wright started by curling the entire head with a medium-size waving iron. She then added large French braids along the sides and back of the head. "Create this look with any texture of hair, whether it's straight, kinky or curly," says Wright.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: MATT COWAN/GETTY IMAGES; FOR COACHELLA: UNIQUE NICOLE/FILMAGIC; MICHAEL KOVAC/GETTY IMAGES; FOR PALEY CENTER FOR MEDIA: JASON MERRITT/WIREIMAGE; PIERRE SUU/GETTY IMAGES; STEVE GRANITZ/WIREIMAGE; SIIPA USA VIA AP; COURTESY OF JUSTINE MARJAN; @JUSTINEMARJAN; KGC-146/STAR MAX/IPX/AP IMAGES; JASON MERRITT/GETTY IMAGES; MIKE PONT/WIREIMAGE