

HAIR: KIM KIMBLE/SXX.LA FOR KIMBLE BEAUTY. MAKEUP: TASHA BROWN/EXCLUSIVE ARTISTS MANAGEMENT USING LANCOME. MANICURE: LAVETTE CEPHUS/ENAMEL DICTION.

# Can You Wig It?

MANE MASTER KIM KIMBLE SCHOOLS US ON THE ART OF FAUX HAIR  
BY NYKIA SPRADLEY  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SAMANTHA WOLOV

If you're intrigued by the versatility and ease of wigs, here's a primer on how to select, style and safeguard a hairpiece.

## BEAUTY NOTE

When rocking a short do (real or fake), go bold on your brows. A strong arch will help balance out and frame your face.

Try **Benefit Ka-Brow!** Cream-Gel Brow Color (\$24, [benefitcosmetics.com](http://benefitcosmetics.com)).

# HAIR



**TOOLBOX**

**CHI** Tea Tree Oil Soothing Scalp Spray (\$16, loxabeauty.com); **SLIP** Pillowcase (\$80, slipsilkpillowcase.com); **CURLS** Blueberry Bliss Reparative Hair Mask (\$15, curls.biz).

**“Women change their hair like they change their clothes.”**

—KIM KIMBLE, CELEBRITY HAIRSTYLIST

### STEP 1: CONSIDER

**THE FLEXIBILITY** “Women change their hair like they change their clothes,” says Kim Kimble, who has worked her magic on such A-listers as Beyoncé and Zendaya. “A lot of my clients are moving toward wigs because they like the versatility.” You can also try a short style without the commitment of cutting your own hair.

**THE QUALITY** While there’s still a fair share of bad wigs out there, the shift to improved, natural-looking pieces has taken the stigma away from wearing them.

**THE VARIETY** There’s a wide array of wigs. Lace-fronts tend to look more like the real thing, and in some cases you can see a natural part. Or you can choose unit pieces that open on the top to allow you to pull your own hair over.

**THE PROTECTION** For natural girls or those who are transitioning, wigs offer a protective styling option. Kimble also prefers wigs over weaves because they can be easier on the scalp. “When girls get weaves, they don’t come back [to see me] for two or three months,” she says. With wigs, clients visit more often to condition and take care of their hair.

### STEP 2: SELECT & PREP

**TAKE CONTROL** Kimble favors human-hair wigs because you can color and style them with heat.

**FOCUS ON TEXTURE** You want your wig to look as if it’s your hair—or as close to it as possible. So choosing a texture that matches your natural strands is ideal. Luckily wig trends are now all about texture. Stylists like Kimble have even been able to create certain blends of hair that match our unique kinky, curly or relaxed strands.

**CUSTOMIZE** Although it’s tempting, you should never just slap on a wig and go. Take it to your stylist for customization. It’s important to fashion your wig to suit the size and shape of your face. Adding highlights and lowlights will keep your piece from looking as if you just walked out of the store with it.

**START STRONG** Kimble suggests deep-conditioning your hair with a hot oil treatment before putting on your wig, especially if you’re having it sewn on.

PRODUCTS, COURTESY OF BRANDS



**TOOLBOX**

**K2 BEAUTY** Hair Jelly (\$15, kimkimble.com); **HIS & HER HAIR GOODS CO.** Flex-O-Brush (\$5, hisandher.com); **KIMBLE BEAUTY** Bounce Back Curl Cream (\$13, sallybeauty.com); **KIMBLE BEAUTY** Bounce Back Curl Revitalizer (\$16, Sally Beauty Supply).

**“Wig hair doesn’t have natural oils, so it can get dry and tangled.”**

—KIM KIMBLE

### STEP 3: STYLE

**DUMP THE BUMP** There’s no big mystery to getting a wig to look real, but you do have to learn how to work it. “You can judge [a good job] by how flat it is,” says Kimble.

**ADD FRINGE** If a hairpiece feels too bulky or thick, one of Kimble’s tricks is to create a bang to help balance out the shape.

**CHANGE COURSE** Having a natural part in your style will help it to look more like your own hair, but Kimble suggests switching up the placement of your part to avoid breakage and thinning. “Many times the hair you leave out [of the wig] will break off,” she says. “So change up the part every now and then.”

**TRY A CROP** For shorter looks, Kimble recommends buying a wig that’s already on the short side and having it customized to your desired style, rather than purchasing a long wig and cutting it short. You may spend less, and it will look more like your own hair.

**FORGO THE HEAT** If you’re not into heat styling, a curly texture wig gives you the flexibility of rocking a cool look without having to break out the hot tools. You can style it with a curl cream and a leave-in cocktail.

PRODUCTS, COURTESY OF BRANDS

### STEP 4: MAINTAIN

**SAVE YOUR STRANDS** The process of removing and redoing a sewn-on wig is much faster and easier than a weave, but if you don’t wash and dry your own strands properly it can lead to major scalp issues like odors and bacteria.

**PRESERVE THOSE EDGES** As with any style that’s potentially tugging at your locks, you should always protect your edges. Use a lightweight gel on your hairline and a silk scarf or pillowcase to ward off friction, pulling and rubbing.

**GIVE IT A REST** Be prepared to take a break every so often from wearing your wig, “even if you just put in clip-ins for thickness,” says Kimble.

**CLEANSE OFTEN** As for the wig hair itself, Kimble advises having your stylist wash it every other week and dry it well so that it doesn’t mildew or dry rot. Use a sulfate-free detangling shampoo and conditioner or a cowash to clean. “Wig hair doesn’t have natural oils, so it can get dry and tangled,” says Kimble.

**TREAT THE TRESSES** Brush the wig out and store it on a wig head or in a carrying bag to avoid tangling. »



Kim Kimble



Mary J. Blige

Kelly Rowland

Zendaya

Taraji P. Henson

## KIM'S KINGDOM

With 25 years of styling under her belt, Kim Kimble has built a hair empire that continues to grow. Next year, season five of her hit show, *L.A. Hair*, will premiere and she promises “there will be some major changes happening at the salon.” With a focus on her entrepreneurial endeavors, she is revamping her business to focus on creating and selling custom wigs and hair extensions—and in July she debuted her Kimble Beauty hair care line on HSN. Needless to say, this strand slayer is on fire!



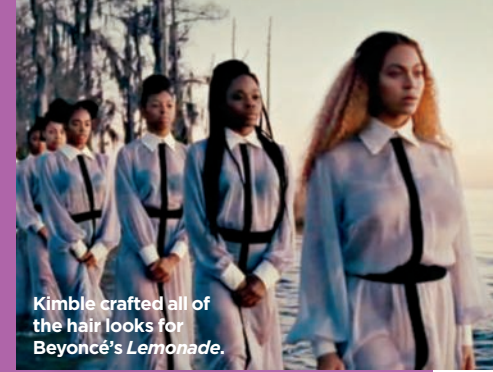
The Kim Kimble wig studio



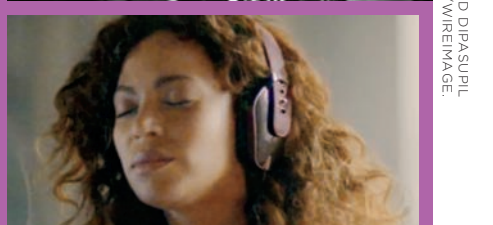
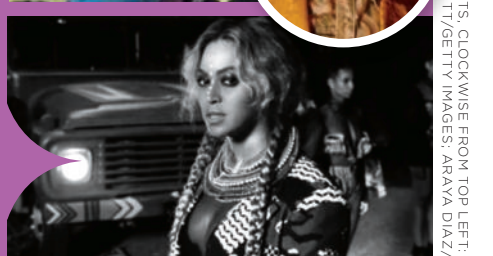
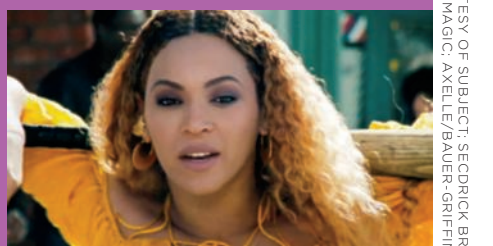
Kimble on *L.A. Hair*

## Lemonade Love

Kimble somehow managed to scoot away from building her brand to craft more than 20 jaw-dropping coifs for Beyoncé’s Internet-breaking visual album *Lemonade*. The project, mostly filmed in Louisiana, meshes creole, African and antebellum influences for one stunning masterpiece. “Texture was important because women [back in the Victorian era] didn’t have relaxers,” says Kimble, who collaborated with Beyoncé to produce a mix of braided and natural styles—all with a modernized, “Kimble-ized,” Bey-approved twist.



Kimble crafted all of the hair looks for Beyoncé’s *Lemonade*.



FROM TOP: KIMBLE; COURTESY OF SUBJECT; SEDRICK BRASS; COURTESY WETV; INSERTS: CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: D DIPASUPLI @FILMAGIC; AXELLE/BAUER-GRIFFIN/FILMAGIC; JASON MERRITT/GETTY IMAGES; ARAYA DIAZ/WIREIMAGE.