

Scissor cutting tips: Keep the hair wet. Use the Orange slice method (I will demonstrate). Partition the hair in 1–2 inch sections running along the head from the beginning of the hair line, across part of the head until tapering off into the crown. The way you partition looks something like the navel of an orange looks after it is peeled. Take the first section that you cut and match the length to the section next to it, so as to keep an even length as you go around the head. Pros: looks more natural, easier with small children. Cons: takes longer, takes a little more practice. When finished, look for uneven spots, and comb the hair different directions to identify them.

Buzz cut tips: When cutting your desired length on the person's head, remember to go back for a second round to catch any hairs that the clippers missed. Fine, soft hair usually does not catch in the clippers, resulting in a wildly uneven cut. You may have to buy expensive clippers for fine hair or you may just have to use the scissors. For a short buzz on fine, soft hair, cut the hair with scissors almost to the desired buzz length, and then go over the head with the buzz guard on to even the cut out. (That would be my approach on soft hair + cheap clippers problem) ON GUARDS: 1 guard=1/8 of an inch of hair left on your subject's head. 2 guard=1/4 of an inch.... and the measurements go up from there, adding 1/8th of an inch at a time as the number on the guard increases.

Fade cut tips: Don't quit if at first you don't succeed! Girls at the hair college have expressed to me that the blending part of this cut is one of the more challenging skills to learn. It just takes practice. It is a really nice looking cut, and would be valuable to learn. Use the comb as your measure. If you don't make it to the Provident Living class, go pay for a haircut on your hubby and watch how the hair stylist does it, or find a video on YouTube. The process of blending is hard to describe, and much easier to learn from watching. Ask the stylist a few questions. Consider it your tuition for becoming a home hair expert.

