

# The Westie Headpiece

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Think round. The profile is to resemble two soup plates face to face. The eyes, nose and mouth are the centre point of the circle. Before you bathe, sporadically finger pluck through the skull to encourage new coarse coat growth. You can use styling mousse at the roots of the skull hair when you are drying for extra texture and lift.

- 1) Clip the neck from just behind the occipital, curving down the sides leaving at least 1½ - 2" of hair behind the jaw line and rounding under to the throat.
- 2) Holding the chin up, thin out or clip a small triangle of hair between the jaw bones.
- 3) Clip the top quarter of the ear with a #10 blade inside and outside with the grain.
- 4) Thin the stop area short but not bald. Clipping balds.
- 5) Pluck or scissor a very small area (1 or 2mm, or a row 2 or 3 hairs deep) over the upper eyelid. This opens up the eye and creates lift as the coat grows.
- 6) Using your fingers to hold the hair, lift the coat between the ears at the top centre of the skull and thin to the height of the ear tips. This is the same length you want under the jaw at the bottom and the same width at the sides of the head.
- 7) Pick up the hair on each side and thin gently rounding to the clipped area of the ear.
- 8) Fold the ear over at the clip line and thin across the line to the outside edge.
- 9) Moving to the chin, set the length the same as that between the ears.
- 10) Thin, rounding up to the width on the sides.
- 11) When you are parallel to the eyes, hold out the hair with your fingers to cut and round up to the clip line on the outside edge of the ear.

- 12) To shape the back of the headpiece, start at the occipital. Blend from the clip line forward toward the centre of the skull and backs of the ears.
- 13) From below the ears, comb back over the clip line and thin off the excess with your thinners at a right angle (90°) to the neck, rounding down and under the throat. This will make the back hair bevel forward to the width.
- 14) To layer the hair over the eyes, using your fingers in a rounded curve, thin in sections from 1" from the eyelid up to the height between the ears. This area extends from the outside of the eyes to the outside edge of the ears.
- 15) To layer the muzzle, holding the hair out with your fingers in 1" sections, round upwards with the sections getting longer as you go back towards the eyes. Your circles increase as you travel back on the muzzle.
- 16) Thin the front of the muzzle back slightly.
- 17) Using a REAL stripping knife (Hauptner), tightly backcomb the roots of the skull. The back of the headpiece is teased forward toward the ears. The front of the skull is teased back and the cheeks are teased up and forward.
- 18) Covering the eyes and nose, spray with hairspray and gently pick out the ends with a wide-spaced comb.
- 19) Re-trim lightly to tidy and perfect shape and lightly re-spray to set.
- 20) Scissor-clip ear edges to tidy.