

Tongs

You've heard your stylist mention it all the time, you've seen celebs swear by it, but what exactly is it? Products, terms, concepts or techniques got you confused? **hair** takes you back to school to decode all that's new, different or unheard of in the world of hair.

Feature Sakshi Singh Tolani



Photography: [Name], Makeup: [Name], Hair: [Name], Styling: [Name], Hair: [Name], Hair: [Name], Hair: [Name]

D.I.Y. tong tips

Hakim Aalim

Tongs are easy to use. Lots of people even use irons to get the tong effect. Curls or waves created using tongs can look fake sometimes when they are too tight. If you use an iron, try the twist and roll technique to create a good effect. The iron should be at least one centimetre thick. When you tong, ensure that the hair is not moist. Use a lot of mousse while doing it at home, that way your curls will stay longer. I feel L'Oréal products are good. Mild hairsprays will also do you good. It would be difficult to use tongs on very short hair.

Seema Jerajani

To create curls at home, blow-dry your hair with a round or paddle brush. This is to ensure that curls are consistent in wavy hair too. Apply heat protective serum. Partition the hair in approximately one-inch sections. Place the end of the strand in the tongs and roll the entire or part of the strand (depending on the length you want to curl) upwards. Hold for 10 seconds. Gently remove the tongs from the curled section. Let the hair cool, as this will set the hair. One can use different diameter tongs in the hair to give a textured effect.

It's important that heat protective products are used prior to using tongs so as to prevent heat damage. For straight hair, it would be good to use setting lotions or spray, to make the curls last longer, otherwise the curls will open out in a couple of hours. To give an extra shine to the curls, shine serum or spray can be used.

One needs to be careful while using tongs, so that one doesn't burn one's fingertips or scalp if the tongs aren't handled properly. Anyone can use tongs, however a little help from a friend is always good!

Why don't you use tongs? Sounds familiar? If you were wondering what your hairstylist meant when he / she used the word "tongs" the last time you wanted a different hairdo; we clear your head.

By using tongs on your hair, you can create different types of curls (tight ringlets, loose curls, curl waves) and give your hair more volume. Seema Jerajani, owner and founder of Fusions, says, "A pair of tongs is an equipment / tool / heat appliance with which waves or curls can be created. There are different sizes and shapes of tongs, such as circular, conical or flat. They can be thick or slim. Different types of tongs are used to create different types of curls. Slim tongs create small tight curls and tongs thick in diameter, create waves." Now that we know what tongs are, lets move on to how you can get them done on your hair.

To tong or not?

You may love the look on your favourite celeb but it may not be the ideal way to wear your hair. Hakim says, "It doesn't suit all hair types and depends on the occasion. For an evening 'do it's ideal. However, it can look slightly artificial, for noon or mornings. Heavy faces should steer clear from it. If you have fine hair and a slim face, it will make your face look fuller."