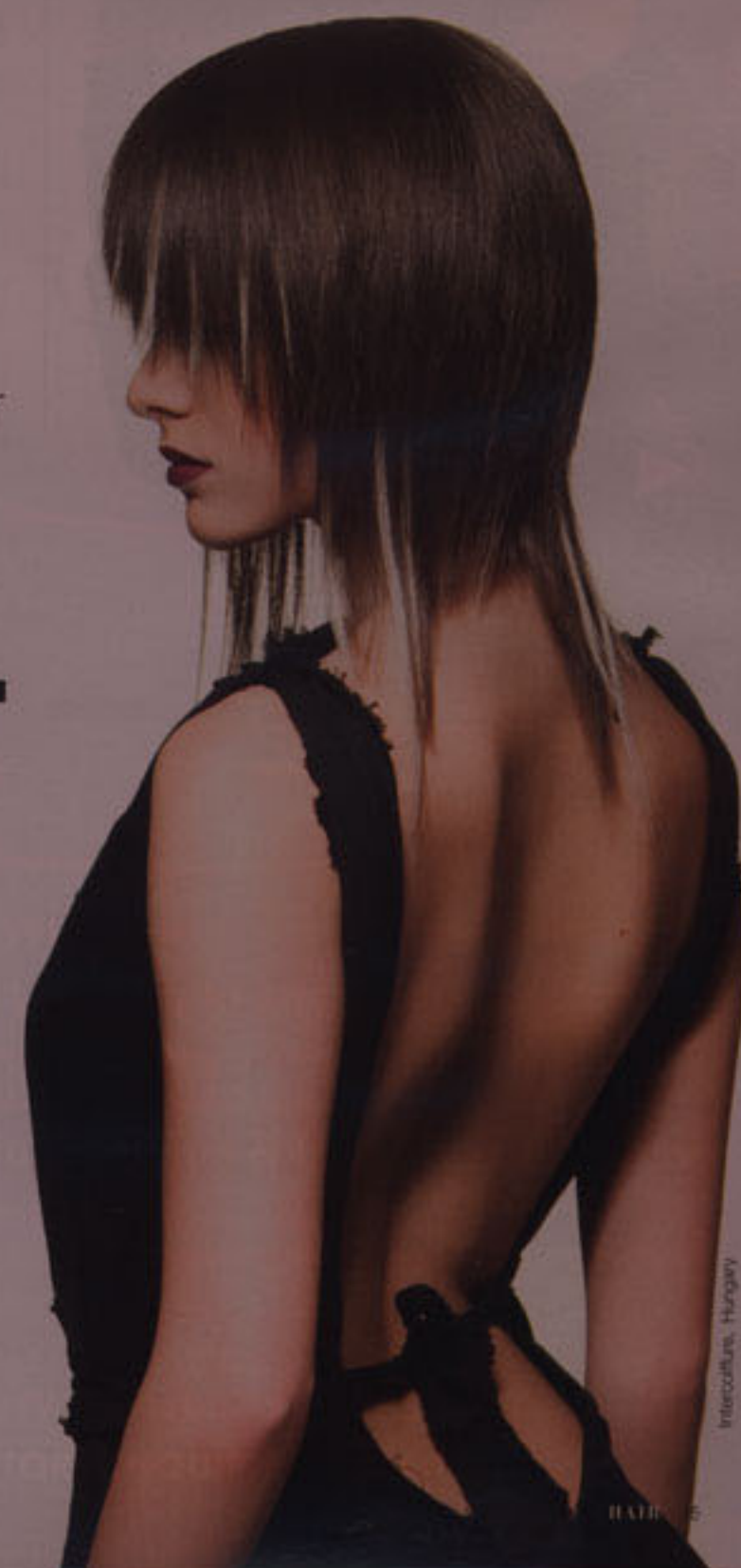


Create a storm

No more playing nice! SMITA IYENGAR discovers that Emo hairstyles bring out your naughty side.

It's amazing what music can do. It lifts your mood, soothes your soul, makes you ponder and, in this case, defines your attitude. One of the most prolific expressions of individual assertion, Emo is a derivative of punk and rock culture. Emo is music to your hair. Literally.

Emo (short for "emotional") is a unique way of expressing your inner self. This new and radical trend takes the more visible route of portraying individual sensitivities. Emo is not just a genre of music; it is a cult, which is evident in one's outlook, attitude, clothes and hair, and speaks volumes about one's identity.



Intercolours, Hungary

HAIR 15



Nad Baranoff ©

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Ozise and Leonardo Pisoni, Samsiz

EMO COLOURS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Artistically crafted bangs are the most important feature in an Emo hairstyle. Adding highlights or streaks, and colouring the bangs from light to dark or vice-versa will help achieve the look. Alternatively, bold, fully coloured hair in red, grey or jet black appeals to Emo enthusiasts. The most sought-after highlights for men are red or purple, and for women it is pink or blue. With wild colours, long and short bangs, neon tints, shock blobs and frazzled patches; you can go crazy with creativity. All you need is the right attitude and willingness to express yourself.

EMO STYLE SUTRA

Your hair can reflect your creativity in a more visible manner than your clothes. Follow the non-conformist path with asymmetrical bangs that have no proportion or balance, different lengths and wavered shapes. Emo guys and gals like to give their hair a natural, yet uneven look and, at times, a surreal feel to add some zing! They dare to declare their emotional status. The Emo look calls for styles that are clean, distinct, impressive and head-turners, but certainly not filthy, clumsily knotted, untidy or bohemian.

Everything from softening lotions to hair wax, anti-frizz products, hair gels, sprays, straighteners and hairdryers can help create those snazzy bangs that fall aesthetically to give the true Emo look.

Self-help guru, Dale Carnegie, seems to have captured the essence of Emo when he said, "When dealing with people, remember you are not dealing with creatures of logic but creatures of emotion."



Intercolours, Hungary

EMO HAIRSTYLES

Emo is a cross between the gothic and punk sub-culture and is an extremely creative look. Emo hair could be short or long. The short Emo style is spiky, with long bangs that are either brushed to one side or fall on the face, covering one eye partially or completely. They are usually highlighted or streaked in striking colours. Guys prefer the short look. Long Emo styles frame the face with long bangs sweeping to one side. It's a completely layered look and a favourite with Emo gals.

You can also create your own Emo style by cutting and styling your hair at home or trusting your friend or partner to go wild and wacky. The idea is to create a rebellious look with waves of irregular, impulsive and unpredictable strokes. However, it is always better to seek professional help. At least the experts will craft your mane with some method to their madness!

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Moving Hair, Switzerland



Tim Hartley and Kiyoshi Inoue at Environment, London



Sean and James Tylew, The Colour Room

EXPERT SPEAK

Manish Arora
Fashion designer

If you've followed his trailblazing innovations in cuts and colours, it's Emo all the way! Manish goes by his emotional instincts and conviction, creating fashion dictates straight from the heart. "My couture uses dark and noir shades that need to be strikingly contrasted with bright embellishments and vibrant neon hair shades like shocking vermilion, fluorescent pink or yellow. That's my inspiration for the futuristic and Space Age feel."

Lata Khanchandani
Hair couturier and beauty expert

"Age is not the criteria, but the right attitude is. Go for it if you have the confidence and conviction to carry your Emo style with guts," remarks Lata. She suggests softening the Emo hairstyle by changing the parting in a way that only reveals some of the contrasting colour patch. "There are so many variations in Emo hair patterns such as forward graduation with the razor technique and styling with gel, mousse and serum. The right colouring techniques are the real USP of a dazzling Emo hairstyle."

Aalim Hakim
Celebrity hairstylist

"A guy's sex appeal can be enhanced by going Emo or funky. But, of course, you should know where to draw the line. Balancing is very important; avoid accessorising yourself if you are going Emo, since it can get too jarring and outlandish. Instead, go for internationally designed cuts for your outfits. The styling has to be correct. Remember, when you want to flaunt your sexuality and individuality, the only part of your body you can change is your hair...cut it, grow it, spike it, colour it, wave it or shave it! And by the way, the clichéd metrosexual look is passé, and is a big no-no!"

Seema Jerajani
Hair couturier and beauty expert

"According to me, there's a very fine line between going Emo and going funky. Emo hairstyles create a zany look. When it comes to straight hair, one can experiment with geometrical and asymmetrical lines." For curly hair, go in for a complete rocker look, suggests Seema. "Curls are naturally wild and naughty and if you combine this with straight hair extensions, you can create an Emo look. Mohawks, another avatar of Emo, are also increasingly popular. This would require a very good hair gel that would keep your hair straight at all times."