# Art Department



## Crystal Gossman

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hair

## Band of braids

**Who needs a cute headband when you have your own hair? Pro stylist Crystal Gossman shows us how to stack braids and twists into one chic style.**

Model mane: Dial up the drama with this cinchy, romantic 'do.

If you're starting with freshly washed hair, prep with a volumizing mousse before drying—texture and grip are key. Next, curl all of your hair away from your face using a 1-inch iron. Prep each section with a spritz of heat protectant spray as you work (try Living Proof Instant Protection, $17, livingproof.com).

Use a comb to section your hair into two main parts: the front (where all your braids and twists will lay) and the back (where you'll tease hair into a poofy pony). Loosely twist and clip the front section to get it out of the way.

Now you'll start building the back section. The trick to teasing? "Sprinkle a teeny bit of texturizing powder into the roots," says Crystal. "A little goes a long way." (We love Eufora Powder Lift, $23, eufora.net.) Rub it in with your fingertips, then use a teasing comb to gently tease the roots all around the crown area. Pull hair into a pony and use your fingers to smooth out any major kinks—but keep things a little messy. Secure with an elastic (add one or two more if you have thick, heavy hair or want a bouncier pony).

Before you begin braiding, Crystal recommends rubbing a small amount of Redken Braid Aid ($25, Ulta) onto your fingers to keep the braids in place. Then, part your hair straight down the center, grabbing a small section from the front, twisting away from your face until you reach the ends. Pin into your pony.

Next, repeat the same steps, but this time braid to the ends and then cross each braid to the other side. Pin in place and keep braiding until you hit your ponytail section.

Remember: Every girl's hair is different, so get creative and switch up the instructions to work best with your tresses. You could try more twists or aim for a single pair of bigger plaits...whatever works for you. Mastering new styles can be tricky at first, but just play around and have fun until you find a look you love!



O&M for Sandy Liang

**TREND ALERT**

**They're baaack! The ribbons you rocked in grade school (or now, to lacrosse games) are having a major fashion moment. Pop 'em onto topknots and high ponies for an instant upgrade.**



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