

# THE BASIC FADE

ADVANCED BARBERING PROGRAM  
VOLUME 1

michael**JAYS**  
BARBERING CO

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**Advanced Barbering Program**

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# THE BASIC FADE

This chapter contains the essential fundamentals and techniques needed to achieve the basic fade haircut. The basic fade originated in the mid 1980's and has become one of the most common haircuts chosen by men and even some women today. There are many variations of fades however, all are achieved with the same techniques and fundamentals. By learning how to create symmetric lines, even distribution, precise blending and buzzer movements you will create and customize numerous variations of fades with the correct precision and consistency. Following is a step by step guide on how to achieve the basic fade.

1. Comb the hair forward to create a natural growth pattern.
2. Using a #3 buzzer clip, begin at the front of the hairline and work the buzzer back and forth against the grain of the hair from the front of the hairline, back to the lower crown, and along the parietal ridge.

**\*Keep in mind to adjust/change direction of buzzer when cowlicks, whorls or irregular grow patterns are present.**

3. Crosscheck top by working buzzer horizontally across the head to trim any loose and unwanted hair.
4. Once top and sides of head are even at #3 length remove the clip and begin creating a #0 Guide Line\* (no clip/guard) utilizing 3 points of reference to ensure a balance:

I. The Temple II. Top of Ear III. Occipital Bone

**\*The #0 Guideline is the most important element because it is the guide you will follow throughout the entire haircut. Once the points of reference are identified we simply connect them.**

5. Obtain a balanced position on your dominate side.
6. Once balanced on dominate side work the buzzer in an upward motion from the bottom of the sideburn to the temple creating a guideline.
7. Continue utilizing the same motion working your way around the head to the top of the ear and then to the point just below the occipital bone.
8. Once the occipital bone is met; stop and move to none dominate side.
9. To obtain a balanced lower and upper position identity the 3 points of reference\* again and repeat the same steps in #7 and #8 until both sections meet just below the occipital bone.

**\*It is important the #0 Guideline dips just below the occipital bone to preserve length within the crown area throughout the haircut. The line may appear like a horseshoe however this will create a more balanced fade when haircut is complete.**

10. After #0 Guideline is completed and connected on both sides; check for balance and consistency throughout the head using the 3 points of reference.

**\*Levels at both temples and top of ears must be equal in height. Slight dip and curvature of the #0 Guideline leading to the point of intersection at the point just below the occipital must be balanced on both sides.**



1. Temple

2. Top of Ear

3. Occipital Bone

11. Once top is even at #3 and #0 Guideline is balanced throughout head. The next step is to examine the fade window.

**\*The Fade window is the area between the shortest (#0) and longest (#3) part of the haircut. By examining this window a barber can visualize the sections and estimate the distance (in.) needed between each clip. The distance between clips is usually  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. to maintain balance and proportion within the fade. Since the top is a #3 and the bottom portion of the sides are a #0. The clips needed to blend within the fade window will be #2, #1  $\frac{1}{2}$ , #1, #1/2, in their respective order.**

12. Begin the fading process by attaching a #2 Clip to the buzzer. Starting on your dominant side near the temple. Begin blending with a balanced and steady vertical motion. As you work your way up to the parietal ridge, gently glide the buzzer away from scalp.



**\*Refrain from using a scooping motion, which will create unwanted weight lines. Instead, work in a motion that is on a 90-degree elevation bringing the buzzer straight up towards the ceiling.**

13. Continue blending with the same consistent vertical stroke following your #0 Guide Line around the perimeter of the head.

14. Once hair is completely blended with a #2 on both sides\*. Remove #2 Clip and attach the next smallest clip #1 ½.

**\*You will know it is blended once the sound of hair being cut has stopped and is no longer heard.**

15. Repeat the same process in Steps #13 and #14 following the same #0 Guideline with a vertical motion. However, this time decrease the height in which you blend ¼ of an inch below the section previously blended with the #2 utilizing a 1 ½ clip.

16. After completing both sides with the 1 ½ clip, remove clip and attach the next smallest clip; #1. Repeat the fading process ¼ of an inch below the area previously blended with the 1 ½ clip.



To further assist you, the red dashed lines represent the cutting sections as the red box represents the fade window.

17. Repeat fading process with ½ clip.

**\*As blending continues along the #0 guideline while decreasing the size of the clip as you work your way down from the top at #3, your original #0 Guideline will begin to lighten. The objective is to erase the #0 Guideline**

**completely. This will essentially complete the fade and display an even and gradual build up of weight simply viewed as short on the sides to long on top.**

18. The final step and often the most difficult is blending away the original #0 Guideline. Once the line has become faint and the # ½ clip has not completely eliminated the #0 Guideline; remove any current clip on the buzzer.

19. With no clip on the buzzer using the same vertical motion GENTLY begin to blend away that #0 Guideline.\*

**\*Be aware and cautious not to blend to high above this line. Your objective is to simply erase this line.**

20. Once #0 guideline is completely faded and not visible to the naked eye; brush or comb the hair to remove any loose and unwanted hair.

21. Examine clients' hair for any visible lines of demarcation, holes, loose or missed hairs and dark spots.

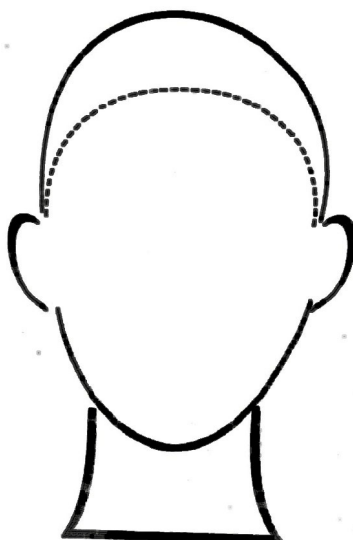
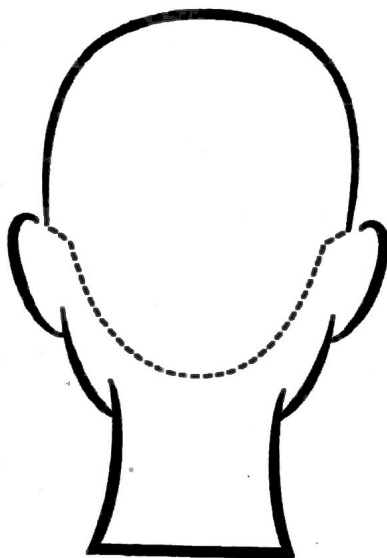
22. Customize and tailor any spots that were missed or areas that can bring more balance to the overall hair design.

23. Blow dry any loose hair off the clients face and neck and clean off with duster.

24. Begin detailing and shape up throughout the hair line.  
(See volume on Shape ups.)



The completed Fade.







When giving a fade, the most important factor is to seek balance within the haircut. Without balance, the overall design cannot be achieved leaving unwanted lines of demarcation and inconsistent blending. In order to achieve proper balance and consistency throughout a fade it is important to create a starting and ending point or create a line that separates the longest hair on top from the shortest hair on the sides. By altering the height of this line, it will determine the end result of the type of fade being sought out.

In the step-by-step guide, we choose to do a basic fade with the top length of a #3. The first step is to buzz the entire head to a #3 creating a blank canvas to work on. Creating a blank canvas will help identify the 3 points within the head to create our shortest length in this example known as "The #0 Guideline". Creating a symmetrical #0 Guideline throughout the head is essential to achieving balance and consistency within a fade. The #0 Guideline is critical because it is what will create the "fade window" and will become the guide needed to follow throughout the haircut.

Once the top and side lengths are established it will become clear where to start buzzing and where to finish. The next objective is to examine the fade window. The fade window is the area in between the #3 and #0 Guideline. Within the fade window are invisible sections that are parallel to the #0 guideline throughout the round of the head. To ensure balance within the fade window, the invisible sections must be equal in distribution from each other. The first invisible section should be 1 inch above the #0 Guide just along the parietal ridge. Each section following should descend 1/4inch until reaching down to the #0 Guideline. As you fade down from the parietal ridge, you will be changing the clips/guards on the buzzer. In this example the clips being used within the fade window will be used in this order: #2-#1 1/2- #1-#1/2.

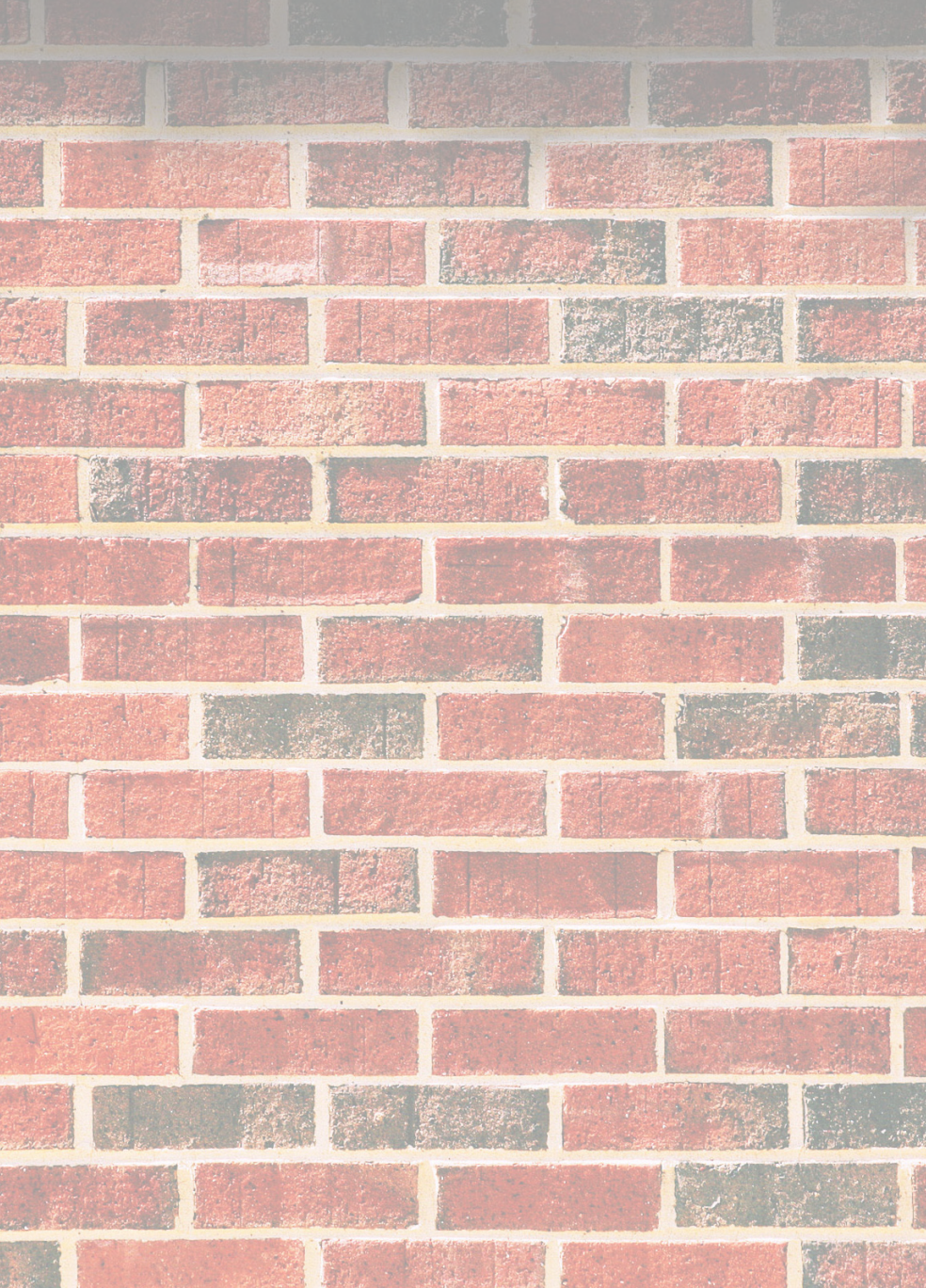
As the fading process begins it is important to move consistently and smoothly both vertically and horizontally throughout the haircut. Be sure to comb or brush the hair time after time to remove loose and unwanted hairs. Be sure to maintain proper lower and upper body position standing directly in front of the section. Arms should not be too stiff or too loose find a comfortable median in order to create harmonious and accurate strokes with the buzzer.

Check balance throughout haircut by walking around the client, checking within the mirror and even taking a step back to look from a distance. By standing at different angles and distances it becomes easier to spot and identify unbalanced areas such as dark spots, patches, and visible lines. By constantly examining the head for these unbalanced areas you will develop your eye for consistency within the haircut, produce better results and decrease time. Remember, the goal is to produce consistent and precise results in the shortest amount of time possible. This goal is the key to generating consistent liquid MONEY!

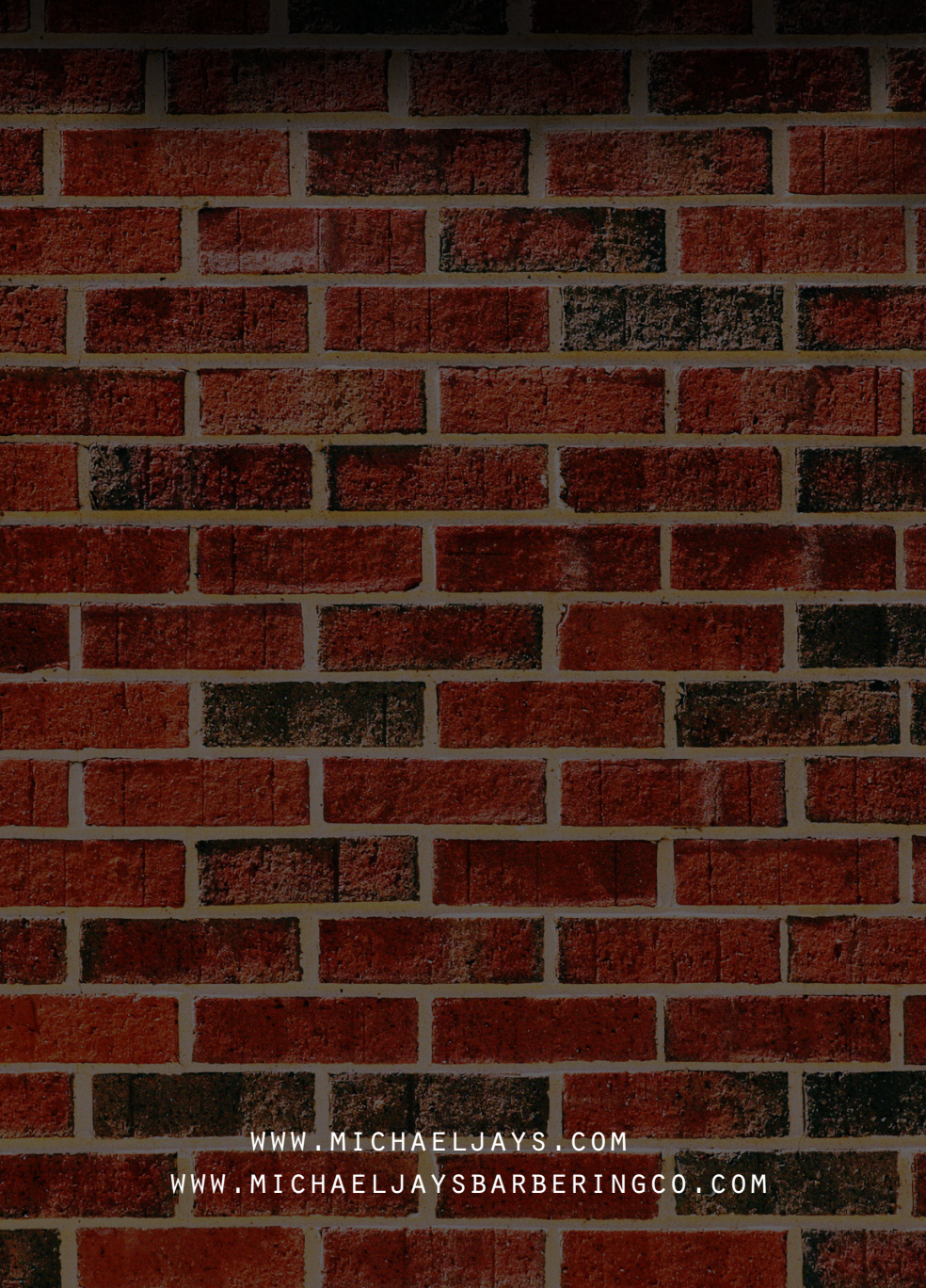
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## Notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper appears to be a standard notebook page or a sheet of stationery.







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