

Hair Color

At present people color their hair to cover up or blend gray hair to enhance an existing hair-color and create a fashion. Depending of our life style, age, profession and current fashion, we can select one specific artificial hair-color.

Throughout history, people have colored their hair for different reasons. People colored their hair to indicate one's class in society and as part of their personal beautification. Over 6,000 years ago, Egyptians were the first to use artificial hair-color as part their personal beautification. Hair-color was made from berries, the bark of trees, minerals, insects, nuts, herbs, leaves and other materials. (*Milady's*, p. 7) During the Golden Age of Greece (500 BC) hair coloring became a highly developed art (*Milady's* p-8). Greek women colored their hair to indicate one's place in society. In the same way around 300 BC Roman women used hair-color to indicate their class in society. Noblewomen tinted their hair red, middle class women colored their hair blonde and poor women colored their hair black (*Milady's* p.8). According to *Milady's* "During the later half of the Twentieth Century the hair-color industry has seen growth and expansion unrivaled by any other time in history." (p. 11) What began with the use henna and vegetable extracts has become a multimillion-dollar industry of professional products. At present we have hair-color products can create colors from the lighter blondes to the darker blacks, and everything in between (*Milady's*, p. 11). Therefore the people have more choices now to select a new hair-color or style for them. For example, actors change their hair-color many times depending on their character or events in which they participate. During the previous decade the most popular hair-color among American women was blond. They colored their hair blond with many highlights. Women in the pictures, magazines, TV programs and walking on street had blond hair in 70 percent. The blond color

was most popular artificial hair color among American women. This was top fashion back then.

Nowadays the top fashion hair-color is a wide range of red colors from red, violet, copper, red violet, red copper, black red, and intense red (*Modern Salon Magazine*, p. 42). Right now, we can see in 60 percent each models in the magazines, women in TV programs and women on the street have a red color in one of its variant. Not just American women use these colors for current fashion. The red color is very popular in India, Europe and Asia too (*Modern Salon*, p. 44). People who are coloring their hair to cover the gray hair have many options for their needs, personality and fashion and at same time they enhance their existing hair-color (*L'Oreal Magazine*, p. 36).

In conclusion whether it is to indicate one's place in society, to enhance existing hair-color, to change look for a specific work, to cover gray hair or to create a new fashion the artificial hair-coloring was and still is a practical tool for enhancing in the beauty of people.

Sources:

Milady's Standard Textbook of Cosmetology, Thomson, Delmar Learning, 2004.

Modern Salon, August 2007, Vol.93, number 8.

L'Oreal Magazine vol.96 [missing date]

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Chart about artificial hair-color through out History

6,000 years ago in Egypt. Were first to use artificial hair-color as part their beautification.

Golden Age of Greece (500 BC) Greek Women colored their hair to indicate one's place in society.

In Rome (300 BC) women used artificial hair-color to indicate one's place in society too.

The later half of the 20th Century People in America used Artificial hair-color for a specific work or for current fashion.

**At the beginning 21st Century
in the World people to color their hair for current fashion or cover
gray hair**

Sources for chart:

Milady's Standard Textbook of Cosmetology Thomson Delmar Learning 2004

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