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clip-in extensions inspired by jessica simpson created by ken paves

hairdo.

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long story

STEPHANIE DARLING CROSSES A FOLLICLE FRONTIER FOR A FULL HEAD OF HAIR EXTENSIONS

For years I have resisted the lure of hair extensions. Bad imagery of Britney's botched jobs, reports of how high maintenance they are (including having to rake them constantly with your fingers to stop them matting) and the damage I've understood they could do to your hair have all stopped me.

Well, things have changed. There I was tripping my way down Palings Lane in Sydney's CBD on my way to a beauty function when hair guru Brad Ngata leapt out from his new bijoux hair salon and stopped me in my tracks with two words: "Hair Lingerie." That's the name of the new extension which promises damage-free, quick application (45 minutes for a full head, as opposed to three-to-six hours for traditional extensions) with wefts secured using bonding tape. And they're quite affordable: from \$300 for six pieces compared with \$1500-plus for a full head of traditional extensions.

This range was developed by LA hair-stylist-to-the-stars, Kiara Bailey. Inspired to create Hair Lingerie after coming across many cases of tension alopecia caused by the overuse of old-school hair extensions, Bailey says the wefts create "fullness and softness, can be reused and, most importantly, are stress-free on hair." Hair Lingerie's unique micro weft is so thin, it is almost undetectable and sits flatter against the head with minimal bulking. You can either have temporary extensions for a special occasion (these last for up to 48 hours) or go for the six-week option.

Hook, locks and sinker - I decide to take the plunge. Trang Ho, a stylist at Ngata's salon, deftly applies the wefts - which are light and soft - in strategic spots secured to the top of my hair shaft with the double-sided tape. In no time at all I have a head of hair Lady Godiva would envy. I swing my way back to the office with that shampoo-ad hair most women covet. Reactions are favourable. "Your hair looks hot," one colleague tells me. "I love it," says another. And then, my favourite. "It makes you look younger!"

COST: From \$50 per weft (I had seven wefts totaling \$450). Maintenance and touch-ups cost from \$25 per piece. **WHERE:** Brad Ngata Hair Direction, Uptown at Ivy, 2 Palings Lane, Sydney, 02 9235 2723.

CARE KIT

1. If you just want a quick hair pick-me-up, try Clip-in Vibralite Extension, \$179.95, by **Hairdo**, by Jessica Simpson and Ken Paves, 1800 251 215. One piece takes you from short to long. Visit hair-do.com.au for a step-by-step guide.
2. Oil is no friend to the extension's tape as it is used to remove the wefts. Keep oil at bay with Xtension Moisturising Shampoo and Leave-In Conditioner and Detangler, \$14.95 each, by **Hairdo**, 1800 251 215. Finish with Ciment Thermique, \$36.50, by **Kérastase**, 1300 365 552.
3. Brushes have now been manufactured especially for hair extensions. Pick of the bunch is the **Great Lengths** range, from \$44-\$100, 1300 138 452.
4. For human hair that lasts up to three months, try Hair Extensions, from \$1200, by **Great Lengths**, 1300 138 452.

