

TREATMENT TRIED & TESTED

This month we reveal how to turn your goth locks into sun-kissed tresses. Our in-house guinea pig, Linda McCormick, was dye-ing to volunteer

tester: linda mccormick

illustration: christina koutsospyrou

WHAT IS IT? Colour correction can be done either with bleach alone or with a mixture of bleach and a product called Efassor, which lifts pigmented colours out of the hair, effectively stripping it. The hair is then dyed back to its natural colour using a temporary tint, so when the natural locks grow back you have no more nasty root issues.

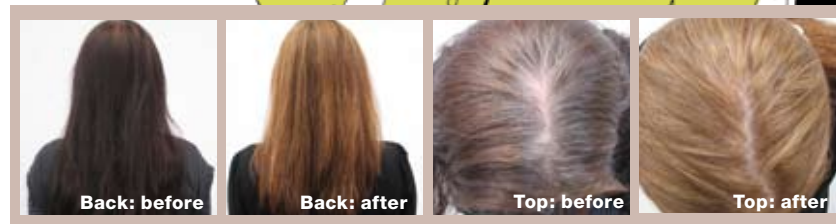
WHAT HAPPENS?

First of all, I found a reputable salon. Colour correction is hard to get right if you just whack bleach on; your roots can go white while the rest of your hair turns bright orange – not a good look.

Initially, my colourist went through colour options with me. I've had chunks of grey hair since the age of 11 so have always dyed it dark brown or black. I was keen to go for a complete change to light brown, so my grey streaks could be highlighted in blonde shades when the roots started to show.

Three six-inch strands of hair were taken for testing to see how well the colour would lift and I was warned that the strand test could take a few hours and the colour might not lift at all. But after just half an hour my strands lightened and we were ready to go to work on the real thing.

After a quick hair wash, the stripper was applied to the dyed hair and cotton wool was placed in between sections to make sure the product wouldn't touch the roots. Then I was placed under a heater and left for 30 minutes to let the colour corrector do its magic. The colour change was happening before my very eyes. Very scary and exciting.



“ONCE THE STRIPPER WAS RINSED OUT, STARING BACK AT ME WAS A STRANGE SIGHT – ORANGE HAIR, DARK ROOTS AND STRIPY BITS WHERE THE OLD DYE HAD OVERLAPPED”

Once the stripper was rinsed out, staring back at me was a strange sight – orange hair, dark roots and stripy bits where the old dye had overlapped. But it wasn't over yet. My hair was then cut and reshaped; the stripping process makes already dry hair more brittle, so it needed a good few inches taken off. Then it was back to the colouring board. The new colour and highlights were put in and I had another 20 minutes


under the heater. Only then did I have a secret panic; my hair started to turn dark again and I thought it mightn't look any different after all. I calmed myself by ordering a nice cup of tea.

One more hair wash plus a blow-dry later, the agony of waiting was over. Ta-dah! New, lighter, silky soft hair.

DID IT WORK?

Yes. After years of having overly-dyed, unnaturally dark hair, my only other option was to have it cut short and wait for the roots to grow out, then start all over again. Instead, I now have golden brown locks.

WORST BIT: Looking like Tony the Tiger in a very posh London salon.

BEST BIT: The end result. Lots of extra hair-flicking for me from now on. 

Scarlet's tester went to Steve Carey's salon. Prices start at £145 per hour. Contact 020 7495 5353 or visit 112 Mount Street, London, W1. For more info log on to stevencareysalon.com.

If you'd like us to try out a treatment to save you the time, energy and hard currency, mail the details of the treatment to Editorial@ScarletMagazine.co.uk and we'll report back to you.