

## Relaxing Curls and Straightening Wigs.

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First off, let me nip the most popular myth right in the bud by saying...

**You should not use any sort of "iron" to straighten wigs.**

Steam irons, curling irons, crimping irons, and straightening irons all have one thing in common: They use HOT METAL to change the shape of whatever material they're designed for.

None of these tools are designed to work with Kanekalon fiber, since the one hot metal tool that *is* designed to work with wig fiber is called a "Heat Sealer" (or braid sealer) and is designed specifically to turn the fiber into **hot plastic slag**. Pretty much any of those other irons will produce the *exact same effect*.

I don't care what your friend said, or how they figured out some neat technique using an ironing board and a wet towel. If they managed to use an iron to straighten their wig without damaging it, then maybe they should go buy a lotto ticket, coz they're apparently quite lucky. I've also heard of people using a curling iron to straighten wigs, and no matter what type you use, *even temperature controlled irons* are going to cause kinks and crimping in the wig fiber even at the lowest setting.

I can not stress this enough: Wigs are not hair. If you have any questions about the differences between the two, please go back to the "[Basic Wig Facts](#)" tutorial before proceeding.

If you want to *safely* straighten your wig, then follow the simple instructions below.

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### Step 1: Pin the wig to a wigform.

One pin at each temple, one in the top, and one in the bottom of the back seam. You can put in more if you like, but this is the bare minimum.

In the example, we are using a Femme Fatale style wig from Amphigory, which comes with a natural curl at the bottom. I placed the wigform on a pole to hold it up while I work, but you can also use a 2 liter bottle filled with water as a makeshift wigstand.

**You must put the wig on some sort of stand so the hair can hang straight.** This method will *not* work if you are merely dunking the wig in a sinkful of hot water, it needs to be able to hang straight to dry.

Once you have the wig pinned in place, set it up in the bathtub.



This is a heat sealer. Note the bits of *melted plastic* stuck to the metal.

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**Note: This is a tutorial, not a *magic spell*. If your wig is very curly, or the fiber is thick, it may not be able to be straightened completely with this method. I've personally straightened about 60 Kanekalon and Toyokalon wigs using this method, but I can not guarantee that you will get the same results I do since I do not know what types of wigs you are starting with.**



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**Step 2: Bathwater.**

The trick to changing the shape wig fiber is sustained, controlled heat. That's why blowdryer/round brushing won't work, coz it can't be sustained, and irons don't work coz' they're way too hot.

The temperature of water I use is hot enough to bathe in, but not hot enough to cook in. If the water burns you, it's definitely going to melt the wig, so slowly get the water warmer and warmer until it's what you would consider to be "hot", but not *painfully* hot. (If you're one of those people who like to take showers so hot that you come out of them bright red, then take it down a few notches for your wig...)

Once you get the right temperature of water, slowly pour it over the wig, until the wig is completely soaked. It should feel the same temperature to the touch as the water.



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**Step 3: Let it cool and dry completely.**

Do not comb or brush the wig when it's wet. Ever. Allow it to drip dry completely before going to the next step.

This will take over an hour, sometimes as long as four for very long wigs, so go do something else for a while. (Don't you have a costume to work on?)



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**Step 4: Comb and brush.**

Once the wig is completely dry, first finger comb it, then use a wide-toothed comb, and slowly work your way up to a parallel bristled brush. (Try to avoid large paddle brushes or brushes where the bristles stick out in a radiating pattern when brushing a wig.)

If you wish to straighten the wig more than it is, just repeat the steps as many times as necessary. The curlier the wig starts, the longer it will take to achieve a perfectly straight wig. But for removing kinks or waves, usually only one treatment will do the trick.



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**For Straightening Extensions:**

Kanekalon extensions can be straightened using a similar method, but you'll need a very tall stand to be able to keep them hanging straight while you work. Also, you should use slightly hotter water than you would with the wig.