

Clipper Guard Sizes & Fade Types Chart

Guard	Inches	mm	Looks like	Typical uses
#0 (no guard)	1/16" lever open; ~1/50" closed	1.5 mm open; ~0.5 mm closed	Scalp clearly shows; heavy stubble	Bottom of fades, outlines, neckline
#0.5	1/16"	1.5 mm	Shadow, scalp visible	First blend above skin or #0
#1	1/8"	3 mm	Very short, scalp shows through	Low/mid fade base, buzz cuts
#1.5	3/16"	4.5 mm	Short shadow with a bit more cover	Blending #1 into #2
#2	1/4"	6 mm	Short, even, scalp shows in light	Sides of classic short cuts, fade mid-zone
#3	3/8"	10 mm	Short but covers the scalp	Sides of tapers, short buzz all over
#4	1/2"	13 mm	Short crew length, soft texture	Taper sides, crew cut tops
#5	5/8"	16 mm	Noticeable length, still neat	Longer sides, blending into scissor work
#6	3/4"	19 mm	Medium-short, hair starts to lie down	Grown-out sides, short tops
#7	7/8"	22 mm	Medium-short with movement	Blending sides into longer top
#8	1"	25 mm	Longest standard guard, full coverage	Short-all-over trims, tops of crew cuts

Numbers are the common Wahl-style standard (each step adds 1/8 inch). Wahl, Andis and Oster guards can differ by about a millimeter, some brands number half sizes differently, and a #0 depends on the blade and lever position. Always check the length printed on the guard itself.

Seven fade types · guard progressions from bottom to top



Low fade

Starts ~1/2" above the ear, follows the hairline to the nape.

1. #0 open
2. #1
3. #2
4. #3 (blend into top)



Mid fade

Starts at the temple, halfway up the side.

1. #0 open
2. #1
3. #2
4. #3



High fade

Starts at the parietal ridge (where side meets top).

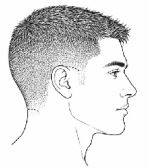
1. #0 open
2. #1
3. #2, top left longer



Skin / bald fade

Bottom band shaved to skin.

1. Foil shaver or zero-gapped trimmer
2. #0 closed
3. #0.5
4. #1
5. #1.5
6. #2



Taper

Only sideburns and neckline graduate; sides stay longer.

1. #1 at the edges
2. #2
3. #3
4. #4 on the sides (or scissor-over-comb)



Drop fade

Starts at temple height, curves down behind the ear to the nape.

1. #0 open
2. #1
3. #2
4. #3, following the arc



Burst fade

Semicircle around the ear only; nape stays long (mohawk/mullet).

1. Skin or #0
2. #1
3. #2 around the ear

How to blend

Work from bottom to top. Flick out with the lever open at each transition, and use half guards between steps to soften visible lines.