

healthy kids, happy families

Parents

BE MERRY!

50 crafts, cookies, and gifts guaranteed to bring the fun

THE YEAR'S BEST KIDS' BOOKS

FEEL CLOSER AS A FAMILY

PEACE ON EARTH STARTS AT HOME

5 FRESH TWISTS ON PASTA DINNER

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host a cookie-decorating playdate!

try this!

SIMPLE GAMES TO TEST YOUR BABY'S PROGRESS



Get Fairy-Tale Hair

Try one of these princess-inspired styles for your next enchanted evening.

by DEVON ABELMAN photographs by THAYER ALLYSON GOWDY

The Gilded Topknot

Long hair is a must for this style (you can always buy some clip-in extensions!). And you want the bun to look slightly roughed up—like you just went for a walk through a forest. Ryan Nickulas, owner of Ryan Darius Salon, in New York City, shares this simple step-by-step.

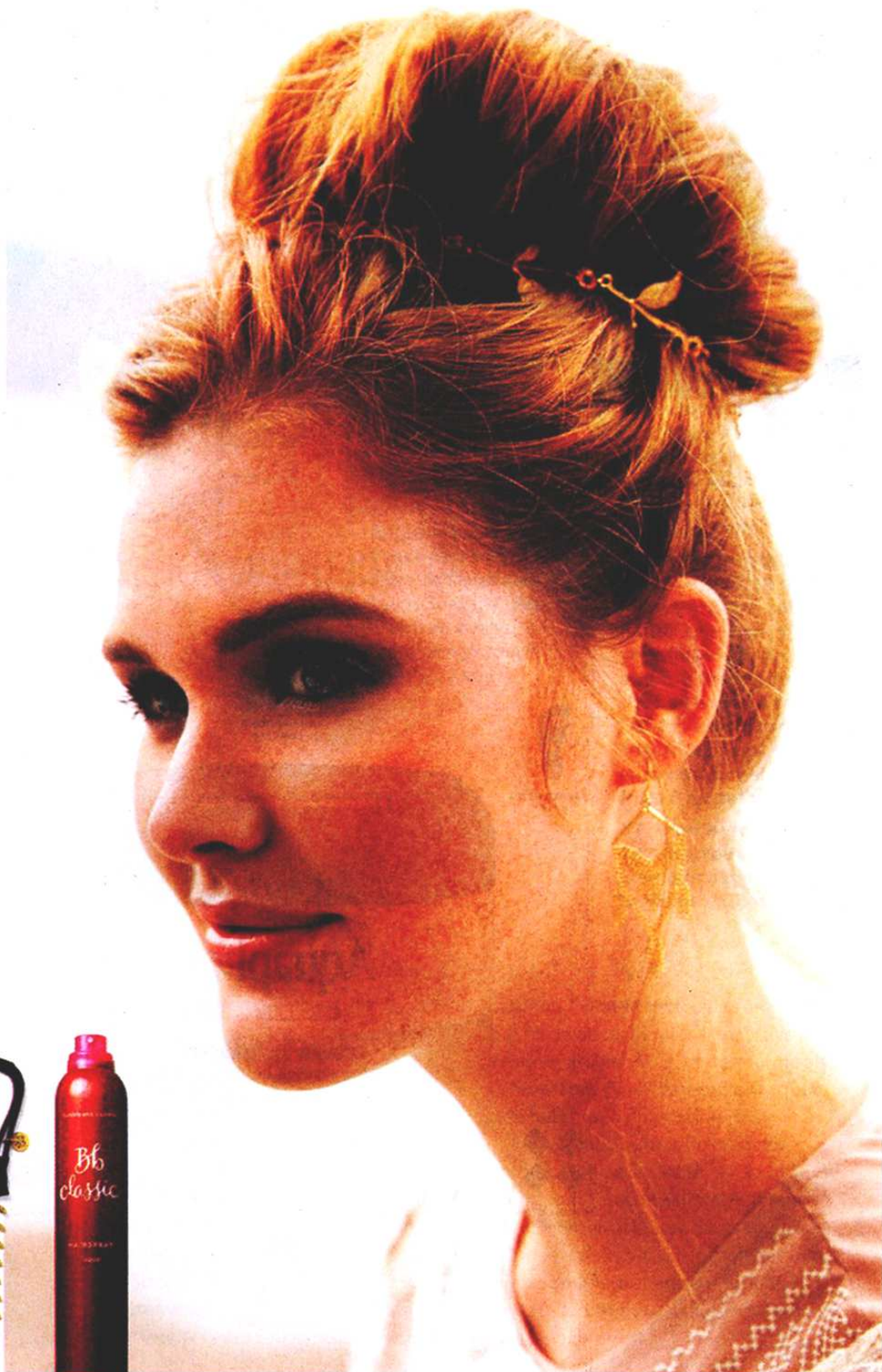
1. Flip your head and put your hair in a high ponytail.
2. Use one of the nifty new bun-wrapping devices to create the topknot shape, allowing a few strays to poke out here and there.
3. Place your headband around the base of the bun, and use bobby pins to secure it. Finish with an all-over misting of hairspray.

CROWNING GLORIES

Sarah Potempa The Wrap Up. \$12; sarahpotempa.com • Soho Style Leaf Elastic Headband With Crystals. \$20; sohostyle.com • Bumble and bumble Classic Hairspray. \$26; bumbleandbumble.com



it comes in blond too!





Whimsical Waves

The best part about this loose-spiral style? It works for most hair lengths and textures. To get the waves just right, try these tips from Sadah Saltzman, a hairstylist at Salon AKS, in New York City.

1. Take a 1-inch-wide section of dry hair and twirl it into a tight spiral. Spritz the length of it with a sea-salt texturizing spray. Repeat throughout.
2. Once the product has dried, create a side or middle part. Then use your fingers to gently comb through the waves to loosen them up.
3. Take a piece from the front, twist it to the side, and fasten with a jeweled barrette.

CROWNING GLORIES

Ouidad Wave Create Sea Spray. \$23; ouidad.com • Oberon Design Butterflies Hair Clip. \$17; oberondesign.com



The Spellbinding Side Braid

If you're not already a pro at French or fishtail braiding, take a minute to check out our step-by-step video at parents.com/braid-how-to, or do a regular braid. Just be sure to follow these pointers from Nicholas Penna Jr., owner of SalonCapri, with three Boston-area locations.

1. To give your braid texture, hold, and luminosity, rub a thickening pomade and a shine-enhancing cream together in your hands. Next,

use your fingers to rake the product through your dry hair.

2. Create a deep side part, then gather a small section of hair from the front and braid it along your hairline. Stop when you get to your earlobe.

3. Take the rest of your hair and bring it to the same side before sectioning it to begin another braid. Combine the end of the top braid into one of these sections to make one big braid down to the bottom. Secure with an elastic.



CROWNING GLORIES

Drybar Gold Mine Shimmering Leave-In Conditioner. \$29; thedrybar.com • L'Oréal Paris Advanced Hairstyle TXT IT 02 Hyper-Fix Putty. \$5; lorealparisusa.com