Guide to Human Hair Closures

Lace Closures

What are lace closures?

Many who wear sew-in or bonded weaves, use the Lace Closures to cover the top area of the head where the weft hair (track hair, weaving hair) is bonded/sewn down. They are used to cover the area that is known to many as the "leave-out". Those who are very familiar to wearing weaves know that the most important part of weaving is to make sure the area at the front hairline & crown area are well blended. They can also be used with various other weaving methods, including attaching them to u-part or v-part wigs to make a full wig or using them to cover hair loss. You can apply them with weaving thread or with liquid/tape adhesives. No one will ever know it is not your natural hair growing out of your scalp!

Silk-Based Closures

What are silk based closures?

Silk based closures are different typical lace closures because they have a silk base that hides the knots and gives the appearance of a natural scalp. Unlike lace closures, the knots silk base closures do not have to be bleached, thus eliminating an extra cumbersome process of blending the closure with your natural hairline/scalp. Typically silk based closures come in a light brown/semi-transparent color. Because all skin tones are not the same, sometimes dying or darkening the silk on a silk base closure is necessary for creating a seamless look. Additionally, since silk based closures are made from 100% human hair, they can be colored, cut, and curled/straightened like normal 100% human hair.
Darkening the Silk on a Silk-Based Closure

Part your own hair and the closure and compare the scalp color (most people find that their scalp is actually not the same shade as their faces). If you still think the closure needs to be darkened, then you can use one of the three methods described below to dye the silk on your closure. The steps outlined below will allow you to make the color transformation in a gradual manner in order to get your desired tone. If you are more comfortable speeding up these processes, simply soak the closure for longer intervals. To get the deepest tones you may soak up to 45 minutes using the tea/coffee or semi-permanent method (this will be too long if you are using fabric dye). The best way to get an idea of how long to soak your closure is to do a test soak on some plain white or light tan fabric to get the soak time estimate.

Method One: Tea/Coffee Stain Method

Materials Needed:

1. 4-5 bags of regular black tea (make sure it's regular tea and NOT an herbal tea)
2. 1 Cup of Water
3. Gloves
4. Blow Dryer
5. Small plastic bowl
6. Rubber band or clips (to hold hair out of the way)

Step by Step Process:

1. Bring water to a hot temperature, but not boiling.
2. Place 5 tea bags in the water. Let steep for 20 minutes or until water is PITCH BLACK.
3. Microwave the black tea for 45 seconds ONLY. You just want to reheat the water but not boil it.
4. Once you have your tea stain, you should soak the entire silk area of the closure in it for at least 10 minutes.
   a. You may do up 45 minutes depending on your desired tone.
5. Take the closure out, and squeeze out the excess stain.
6. Blow dry the scalp to see the actual color (the color will look darker when wet).
   a. If necessary, you may repeat Steps 4-6 to get a darker tone.
7. Once closure is COMPLETELY DRY, rinse with cold water (to help set the stain).
Method Two: Semi-Permanent Dye Stain Method

Some closures do not stain well using the tea/coffee method. In this case, you may achieve successful results by using a semi-permanent hair dye.

Materials Needed:

1. Semi-permanent hair dye of your choice (this color should be darker than the silk and match closely with the desired tone.
   a. You may need to blend one or more colors to get the color you want. Make sure that the color(s) you use have a NEUTRAL base/underlying color versus a base/underlying color such as red, green, blue, etc. (if you do not know what is meant by BASE color, you should read this article -- http://www.style-hair-magazine.com/hair-coloring.html)
2. Vinegar (Distilled or Apple Cider)
3. Gloves
4. Blow Dryer
5. Small plastic bowl
6. Plastic spoon
7. Rubber bands or clip (to hold hair out of the way)

Step by Step Instructions:

1. Measure 2 parts semi-permanent color to 1 part vinegar
   a. Vinegar makes the dye bath more acidic which helps with color adhesion.
2. Mix thoroughly until blended well
3. Microwave the mixture for 45 seconds ONLY (mixture should be hot, but not boiling)
4. Soak the closure in the dye bath for at least 10 minutes.
   a. You may soak longer to achieve a dark color faster. But, dyeing the closure in 10 minute intervals it recommended for beginners.
5. Remove the closure from the dye bath and squeeze out the excess dye.
6. Blow dry to see the actual new color of the closure.
   a. If necessary, repeat steps 3-6 until desired color is reached.
7. Rinse with cold water (to help set the stain)
8. Let dry completely before installing.
Method Three: Fabric Dye Method

WARNING: This method is better for experienced individuals as it can result in over-dyeing if not careful. Please use caution when using the fabric dye method. Only use if your silk base closure has not responded to the tea/coffee or semi-permanent methods.

Materials Needed:

1. Powdered RIT dye (You may need to blend one or more colors to get the color you want)
2. Water
3. Vinegar (Distilled or Apple Cider) or salt
4. Gloves
5. Blow dryer
6. Small plastic bowl
7. Plastic spoon
8. Rubber bands or clips (to hold hair in place)

Step by Step Instructions:

1. Follow the manufactures directions for mixing the dye.
2. Add salt OR vinegar to the dye bath.
   a. Salt or vinegar makes the dye bath more acidic which helps with color adhesion
3. Microwave the dye bath for 45 seconds ONLY
   a. Just get the mixture very hot to the touch, but NOT boiling.
4. Once you have your dye bath, you should soak the closure in it for about 10 minutes
5. Take the closure out, and squeeze out the excess dye back into the bowl
6. Blow dry the silk to see the actual color (the color will look darker when wet)
   a. If necessary repeat steps 3-6 to achieve desired tone.
7. Rinse with cold water (to help set the stain)
8. Let dry completely before installing.
How to Color the Hair on a Closure (Lace or Silk-based)

Coloring the hair on a closure is only slightly different from coloring hair on a weft. It only takes a few minutes as there is much less hair to color.

Darkening the Hair (Jet Black, Browns)

*Products Needed: per closure*

- 1oz- ION Crème or Liquid Color (double for lengths longer than 18”)
- 1oz- ION 10 or 20 volume developer (double for lengths longer than 18”))
- Silk Elements Color Care Shampoo (Sulfate Free)
- Silk Elements Conditioner (Color Seal) OR
  - Brazilian Tech Keratin Deep Conditioner (highly recommend to restore hair)
- ION Color Care Leave In Spray (Pink Writing)
- Colorist Gloves (black)
- Coloring Bottle(s)- will need more than one depending on how much hair you are coloring
- Comb
- Color Application Brush
- Towels
- Aluminum Foil
- Table Cloth

*Area Preparation:*

- Ensure coloring area is properly covered using a black table cloth or aluminum foil.
- Make sure you have your gloves, color bottle(s) or color bowl(s), comb, color brush, and towels readily available.
- Additionally, take 1 sheet of aluminum foil (double the size of the closure width [usually 12-18” wide])
- Lay it on your covered coloring area so it matches the length of the hair. You will need it to cover the hair for processing.

*Mixing the Color:*

1. Put on your colorist gloves.
2. In your coloring bottle, mix 1oz of crème or liquid color to 1oz of crème developer.
3. Place your index finder over the tip of the coloring bottle.
4. Shake Well until you see uniformity of color.
   a. Note: Color may change after sitting for a while, this is normal.
Step by Step Application:

Use this method when color is close to or deeper than the natural level of hair color.

1. Apply to dry hair. From one end of the weft to the other, begin application about ¼” away from the top (be careful not to dye the lace or silk area of the closure) area, working color all the way down to the ends immediately.
   a. Apply generously with applicator bottle, making sure hair is thoroughly saturated.
   b. Note: If ends are porous or damaged, apply the mixture only to three-quarters of the strand first. Allow mixture to develop for about 15 minutes, and then work through to the ends.
2. Fold the foil over the hair (leaving the closure base exposed) and set aside (lace side up so color does not drip into lace) for processing. Normal processing time is approximately 30 minutes, but for maximum gray coverage allow complete development time of 45 minutes.
3. When desired color is achieved, apply some water and work into lather at the sink and/or shampoo bowl.
4. Rinse thoroughly.
5. Shampoo and rinse until water runs clear.
6. Apply hair conditioner and place hair into a plastic baggie for maximum deep conditioning. Let conditioner sit for at least 30 minutes (1-2 hours is recommended).
7. Rinse conditioner out thoroughly.
8. Apply ION Leave-In Conditioning Spray to add a light protection.
9. Comb through and hang to dry (may want to place towel under to catch excess water)
Lightening the Hair (Blondes, Reds, etc)

Products Needed: per unit

- 1oz- ION Lightener Powder (Step 1)
- 2oz- ION 30 volume developer (Step 1)
- 1oz- ION Crème or Liquid Color (can be found at Sally’s) (Step 2)
- 1oz- ION 20 volume developer (Step 2)
- Silk Elements Neutralizing Shampoo
- Silk Elements Color Care Shampoo (Sulfate Free)
- Silk Elements Conditioner (Color Seal) OR
- Brazilian Tech Keratin Deep Conditioner (highly recommend to restore hair)
- ION Color Care Leave In Spray (Pink Writing)
- Colorist Gloves (black)
- Color Mixing Bowl
- Coloring Bottle(s)- will need more than one depending on how much hair you are coloring
- Comb
- Color Application Brush
- Towels
- Aluminum Foil
- Table Cloth

Area Preparation:

- Ensure coloring area is properly covered using a black table cloth or aluminum foil.
- Make sure you have your gloves, color bottle(s) or color bowl(s), comb, color brush, and towels readily available.
- Additionally, take 2 sheets of aluminum foil (about the size of the folded hair weft [usually 12-18” wide]). You will need an additional sheet for Step 2 of the process.
- Lay one sheet on your covered coloring area so they match the length of the hair. You will need it to cover the hair for processing. Lay additional sheet aside for Step 2.

STEP ONE: Lightening Process

Mixing the Lightener:

1. Put on your colorist gloves.
2. In your mixing bowl, mix 1oz of powder to 2oz of the 30 developer.
3. Stir Well until you see uniformity of color.

**Step by Step Application:**

Use this method when color is close to or deeper than the natural Level of hair color.

1. Apply to dry hair using application brush.
2. Lay the closure flat on the foil.
3. From one end of the weft to the other, begin application at top (root) area, working lightener all the way down to the ends.
   a. Apply generously with applicator brush, making sure hair is thoroughly covered.
   b. You may flip weft over to other side to ensure both sides are completely covered for even lightening.
   c. If using a lace closure, you may wish to bleach the knots at this time.
      i. Let hair on closure process for about 10 minutes.
      ii. Flip closure over and generously apply lightening crème to the bottom side of the lace closure.
4. Fold the foil over the hair and set aside for processing. Total processing time is approximately 30-35 minutes, but for maximum lightening and/or gray coverage allow complete development time of 40 minutes.) DO NOT LEAVE ON LONGER THAN 50 MINUTES!!!
   a. You may begin working on other hair at this time.
5. When desired level is achieved, rinse closure thoroughly.
6. Apply Neutralizing Shampoo and bring to lather. Rinse thoroughly.
7. Squeeze out excess water, comb through and hang to dry (may want to place towel under to catch excess water)

**STEP TWO:**

**Mixing the Color:**

1. Once hair has completely dried from Step One.
2. Put on your colorist gloves.
3. In your coloring bottle, mix 1oz of crème or liquid color to 1oz of crème developer.
4. Place your index finder over the tip of the coloring bottle.
5. Shake Well until you see uniformity of color.
   a. Note: Color may change after sitting for a while, this is normal.

**Step by Step Application:**
Use this method when you wish to change the color of the lightened closure to a risher blonde or red color.

1. Apply to dry hair. From one end of the weft to the other, begin application at top area (be careful not to get too close to the base of the closure or you will have to recolor/rebleach the knots/silk).
2. Work color all the way down to the ends immediately.
   a. Apply generously with applicator bottle or brush, making sure hair is thoroughly saturated.
   b. Note: If ends are porous or damaged, apply the mixture only to three-quarters of the strand first. Allow mixture to develop for about 10 minutes, and then work through to the ends.
3. Fold the foil over the hair (leaving the base of the closure exposed) and set aside (base facing up so coloring does not drip down) for processing. Normal processing time is approximately 25 minutes.
   a. You may begin working on other hair wefts at this time.
4. When desired color is achieved, apply some water and work into lather at the sink and/or shampoo bowl.
5. Rinse thoroughly.
6. Shampoo and rinse until water runs clear.
7. Apply hair conditioner and place hair into a plastic baggie for maximum deep conditioning. Let conditioner sit for at least 30 minutes (1-2 hours is recommended).
8. Rinse conditioner out thoroughly.
9. Apply ION Leave-In Conditioning Spray to add a light protection.
10. Comb through and hang to dry (may want to place towel under to catch excess water)
How to Install a Silk-based Closure

There are many different methods for installing a silk-based closure piece. But there are only a few that ensure the natural appearance and longevity of your valuable investment.

Step by Step Process

1. Co-wash hair with a moisturizing conditioner. (i.e. Giovanni smooth as Silk line and leave in (preferred) Suave Moroccan, Brazilian Tech Keratin, or Herbal Essences Hello Hydration)
2. Let hair air dry completely.
   a. After hair is dry, you may wish to seal the knots with Clear Acrylic Sealer (this allow the lace to last longer, it keep the hair in place longer). You can pick up the sealer from any craft store (i.e. Michaels, Hobby Lobby, etc.).
      i. Spray sealer on the backside of lace closure (only apply sealer the areas of the lace with hair attached). Do not apply sealer past the stitching or you will not be able to properly apply the closure.
      ii. Let it dry (allow 15 minutes), repeat this step again.
3. Cut the lace surrounding the hair area, but leave about 1" of lace attached to the closure.
   a. DO NOT cut past the stitched area of the lace. You w
4. Sew the hair on the closure onto braid.
5. Measure your closure again your scalp. Make sure the lace is right above your hairline.
   a. You want to make sure that the start of the lace is as close to your hairline as possible (this allow a natural look).
6. Begin sewing the closure onto the first side. While you are sewing your silk-base closure onto your braid make sure you keep it flat as possible.
   a. To avoid forming any humps and make your closure look as natural as possible, once you have sewn the closure for about 1 inch, stretch the closure flatly across to the other side of the area and sew for one inch.
   b. You may then keep sewing the closure around until the closure is completely secure.
7. For a more secure fitting you may apply lace adhesive to your hairline.
   a. Prepare the edge of your hairline for the adhesive glue by applying scalp protector above your hairline (where the adhesive glue will be applied)
   b. Apply adhesive glue (we used ultra hold) right above the edge of your hairline. Allow the glue to completely dry which is normally 25-30 minutes.
   c. When the glue is completely dry attach the front of the lace to the glue.
8. Style your hair as desired.