

Madam C. J. Walker

“Invented the Straightening Comb in 1905”

“Madam CJ Walker

The hot comb was first used by the Egyptians, and then became borrowed by French women in Europe during the mid-19th century. The hot comb would become the foundation of the Black beautician industry starting in the early 1900s.

Madam C.J. Walker, who discovered this tool, widened the teeth and was the first to improve the invention in the US in 1900. After slavery the hot comb was a very controversial invention because many debated on whether it was helpful or harmful to the Black community. After Madam C.J. Walker decided to widen the teeth on the hot comb to make it more useful for African Americans hair, she then made a patent for her idea.

Madam C.J. Walker, an entrepreneur and the first self-made African-American millionaire. Currently the "electric hot comb" is widely used also; Gold n' Hot Pressing Comb, and the Andis High Heat Pressing Comb are a couple of the best real gold plated straightening combs on the market.

Many African Americans that use the "electric pressing combs" knows that the pressing comb gets the roots of the hair better than a 'flat iron.'

A.K.A. - Pressing Comb or Straightening Comb

The "hot comb" was and is used by many Black girls' mothers and grandmothers to occasionally straighten their hair. Some Black

women remember as a child, the "hot comb" being used to style their hair; to show the length of the hair in straight mode. Our hair was easier to manage once it was straightened, although we also wore our hair in cute braids and beads. Hot combed hairstyles are more popular with African American women. Hot combing was and is an option for African American's hair, other than perming the hair.

And still today most women would rather press their hair with the hot comb, than to apply a chemical process with a perm. Hot combing the hair is a temporary way of styling the hair. This straight style can last for one week. But the hair cannot be pressed too often, due to potential heat damage. Hair shouldn't be pressed more than twice a month because it could eventually damage the hair. When using a hot comb on the stove or a hot comb-oven the temperature has to be medium heated, and tested on a white paper towel or tissue paper first before pressing the hair with it. Also the hot comb has been updated to an electric hot comb. Most electric hot combs are gold plated which means it's of good quality. Just plug it into the wall-socket and set the temperature to your desired setting from 1-10, and begin your straightening hairstyle.

People that have years of experience in hot combing hair, knows that there is a technique about using the back of the hot comb to actually p-r-e-s-s the hair. First, comb through the hair with the hot comb a few times, then as you hot comb through the hair, began to twist your wrist making the back of the hot comb 'press' the hair. You will notice a huge difference.

Avoid Chemical Hair Perms

Importantly, use a 'heat protectant serum' or lightly textured hair oil applied to the hair before pressing it. These days, "Hot Combed Hair Styles" are commonly used mainly for special occasions, unless you use heat protectant on the hair first. When wearing a hot-combed style the hair has to be protected from humidity and misty environments, so that the hair doesn't go back to its natural state unintentionally. Also to keep the hair pressed for a week long period, avoid hot showers; instead take warm showers to keep the hair from getting back kinky. Wearing pressed hair eliminates the need for chemical perms and texturizers, which can cause irreversible damage to the hair. Did you know that the same ingredients that are in chemical hair perms are in Liquid Drano also? Those perms ingredients are strong enough to unclog metal drain pipes. African Americans should now be conscious enough to know that chemical hair perms are damaging the hair and scalp.

Hot Comb Used for Different Races of People

All races of people use hot combs, hot curlers, flat irons, and any hair device that manipulates the hair. I was kind of surprised when I heard the Italian lady (Joy) on the TV show "The View" say that she and many women in her family uses the hot comb to straighten or style their hair. And I'm sure Barbara Walter wears her hair hot combed in some way, she is a Jewish woman. The hot comb is used for different races of people. Also some men use hot-combed hairstyles. It has become the most hip thing or a fashion statement that guys are wearing their hair flat pressed. I don't think the hot comb will ever be obsolete. The hot comb is an invention that will never go away; because it is a necessity to some degree. The "hot-combed hairstyle"

has got many women employment, sad but true. Namely Oprah, she started her Anchor career wearing her natural hair then she begin wearing chemical perms. But she has been mostly wearing a pressed hairstyle when she stopped wearing perm. Imagine Oprah coming to do her talk show with a natural hairstyle, she would probably lose more ratings daily.

Although I give huge props to Whoopi Goldberg (and others), she has not wavered in changing her natural hairstyle texture. That's the beauty of having natural hair choices, wearing it pressed one day, and wearing it natural some other days. Furthermore, chemical perms are of no use to conscious people that knows what it really does or has already done to the individuals that has used it. When hot combing the hair it can be warm-combed enough just to manage it better, or medium-combed where the hair is extremely straight for certain styling. The hot comb will always be a hairstyling tool in many homes.

Did you know that "Coconut Hair Oil" helps replace protein back into the hair? Many African American's lose protein in the hair by using certain shampoos. Loss of protein comes from stripping the hair when washing with certain shampoos that contain alcohol, which also weaken African Americans/Black peoples' hair. Coconut hair oil is natural and light on the hair and it locks in moisture."

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