

PONYTAIL HAIRPIECE

On your behalf, O dearest of all my readers, I have attempted to extend my locks using an expensive pack of clip-in hairpieces of various widths and lengths. I am saddened to say my experiment was not successful... I managed to create the appearance of a lady with chocolate-coloured, Farrah-style-flicky, full, big hair (impressive though also slightly frightening) – but one of the things fell out during dinner, and the other got stuck in the door of a taxi on the way home. This mini fake-hair gadget is way easier. It clips onto your ponytail, giving the look of someone who has a great deal of lovely, bouncy, girly hair but can't quite be arsed to brush it all, so has to wear it up for ease and convenience.

Vicki Ullah Claw
Clip hairpiece, £70.50 at urbanretreat.co.uk



GHD STRAIGHTENERS

The first time I heard about ghd was on *Love Actually*, when the make-up artist used them on Emma Thompson's shaggy-pixie crop. Back then, straighteners existed, but were shite and cost about £20. These were smoothing, en-shining metal miracles and cost around £80. I dropped a LOT of hints and thought that the script editor/kissing consultant (check the credits) might end up with a freebie in her locker at the end but, nah, just a horrid crew jacket. So I bought the buggers myself. They've travelled the world with me, as they stay hot whatever the local voltage, and now they're gloriously multi-coloured. What's not to adore? **ghd Bird of Paradise collection, £135 at ghdhair.com**



QUIET HAIRDRYER

Dyson is AT THIS MOMENT working on the first fully silent hairdryer. In the meantime, this one is way quieter than yours. Most hairdryers come in at around 85 decibels (don't you love it when I talk scientific, like I know what I'm doing?) but this performs at around 70. The downside is that you can HEAR your children shouting for you to help them with their homework while you're drying your hair, which is not necessarily a good thing. PS, excellent blowdrying tip FOR FREE (I don't even write the tips column, I'm just giving you this because I love you) – blowdry your hair while hanging upside down for volume AND a big hamstring stretch at the same time. I KNOW! **Cricket Centrix Q-Zone Professional Hair Dryer, £155.55 at originalstyleboutique.com**



Gadgets

Gadgets to make your hair bigger, drier, thicker, straighter, longer and quieter. But not all at once. By Emma Freud



HAIR-GROWTH HELMET

I can't pretend I've done a rigorous testing of this helmet for you, as it takes four to six months before you see the full results and I only got the tester gadget on Monday. But I can tell you that if you were to do as it says in the manual and wear it for at least 20 minutes a day, three times a week – so that the 51 laser and LED lights shone onto your balding pate to encourage the regrowth in your hair follicles while you listened to some gentle vibes on the built-in earphones – you would look like an absolute knob. Let me know how it goes.

igrow Hair Growth System, £485 at igrowlaser.co.uk



HANDS-FREE DRYER

How is it possible that almost 50 years ago we managed to put some Americans on the moon, but only now does someone come up with the hands-free hairdryer? Anyway – it's arrived. You stand it on your dressing table and it blows the air up, or sideways, while you fiddle around with your hair using a big curly brush and both your hands. About as obvious as baking cheese inside the pizza crust but it took Pizza Hut bloody ages to figure that one out too. Doh. Sorry – I've had a bad (hair) day. **Vexpro Airphysics hands-free hairdryer, £180 at hammacher.com**



ROOT BOOSTER

Just in case you didn't know, here's what happens when you get older. Your waist gets thicker, your cheeks get pinker, your breasts get bigger (well, mine did), your mind gets wiser, your friends get better, your parties get wilder, your heart gets stronger, your clothes get worse, your heels get lower, your bag gets bigger, your food gets duller and your hair gets thinner. I have no advice on any of the above except the hair bit. This little darling tightly crimps the root of your hair so that it suddenly goes all massive again.

V easy to do and better than a wig. Good luck with the rest. **Babyliss Root Boost, £20 at babyliss.co.uk**

