



STYLE

29 April 2018

INDIA KNIGHT



Fixing your **GREY**

Finally, an at-home colour kit that is easy to follow and delivers professional results

If you look at my byline picture, you'll see that I am "bronde" in it. This is because the picture was taken midway to my embracing the grey. It was weird, as in monumentally counterintuitive, being bronde — I am half Pakistani and my natural hair colour is black — but I liked it. The idea was to go lighter and lighter until the grey melded with the blonde, at which point, ta-da! Seamless transition. I was down with this. The lighter colour was flattering to my skin tone and the whole thing felt rejuvenating, oxymoronic enough.

And then, suddenly, my hair grew by about a foot and, eff me, it was *really* effing grey. My ex-husband said I looked "distinguished". I've never been called distinguished in my life and I'm not about to start being called it now. Plus, some of the hair was silver, some of it was white, and great big chunks of it were salt'n'pepper (weakest of looks, only really suited to male catalogue models of a certain vintage). So now I had brown, blonde, silver, white and salt'n'pepper hair — not to mention the fact that this was all happening at the front. My hair remains black at the back. Too much going on for one head, I think we'd all agree.

I had decided to embrace the grey because I could no longer be fagged with either the effort or the expense of going to salons all the time, but when push came to shove, I could also not be fagged with having really grey hair. Also, I missed my hair-self. I am a light-brown person with dark hair. It's how I see myself. I've been that person since I was a baby. It turns out I can't give that person up easily — it makes me feel somehow untethered from myself.

Then I hit on the solution. Josh Wood, who colours my hair when I can be arsed to go to London, which is about three times a year (it really needs doing every four weeks), had in the meantime brought out his own range of at-home hair dye. I knew it was brilliant because lots of my friends use it. So then, and I do think

this is clever of me, I went to his salon and got him to put it on my head — the contents of the box rather than the fancy (and brilliant) compositions he usually uses on me. It was like a hair-colour version of putting his money where his mouth is. And guess what? It looked fantastic. I was restored to my old self. I was so pleased.

This morning I have just coloured it myself — I meant to touch up only the roots, but then thought it wouldn't really be a full review if I left it at that. It is a piece of cake and took half an hour, though I had a friend help me do the back. It looks ace and I love it: rich and tonal, rather than flat and wiggly. Very important: don't go too dark even if you are dark — it is not flattering to middle-aged skin. The clever thing about Josh Wood Colour is that it has an algorithm: you go to Joshwoodcolour.com and have an online consultation, answering questions about what you're trying to achieve, and — ping! — it suggests the perfect colour for you.

The packaging is absolutely brilliant, by the way: nothing requires reading glasses or squinting. The number of dye colours is huge; the instructions are easy to read and understand; the gloves that come with the kit are proper gloves, not stupid bits of plastic; you get a generous sachet of barrier cream; and the conditioner you apply afterwards makes your hair shiny and supple. You can also buy various root concealers that work like a dream, tinted dry shampoo, shade shots to make your colour cooler if you're a blonde or warmer if you're a brunette, shampoo, conditioner and an especially brilliant one-size-fits-all hair mask. ■

IT LOOKS ACE AND I LOVE IT: RICH AND TONAL, RATHER THAN FLAT AND WIGGY



JOSH WOOD COLOUR PERMANENT COLOUR, £10; BOOTS.COM

VICTORIA ADAMSON

@INDIAKNIGHT