

Your Passport
to finding and
buying the
perfect flat iron

The Most Fabulous Flat Iron Guide This Side Of France



Angela Johnson aka Bobi

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This Side of France

Your Passport To Finding The Perfect Flat Iron

By Angela Johnson aka Bobi

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Dear Readers,

This book was inspired by my years of buying flat irons that would not straighten my 4a/4b hair. My hair would just mock most flat irons and after a two and a half hour wrestling match, the flat iron would just give up and walk away in defeat.

You see, I didn't know what ceramic, tourmaline, or ionic meant and many flat irons ago, I ago, I thought any flat iron that merely mentioned these terms must be good. Saying that I was wrong is an understatement.

Now I know that all flat irons are not the same and after reading this book, so will you. The purpose of this book is to save you money, time, and keep you from buying a million flat irons in your lifetime. I want you to buy the perfect flat iron the very first time.

To all my readers, subscribers, and potential subscribers, I hope this book is not only informative but a bit entertaining. I wanted it to be fun for you to read. I wish you much success in your flat iron finding journey.

Love,

Bobi ☺

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The Most Fabulous Flat Iron Guide This Side of France

"Bonjour, mon amie", he says in that deep throaty French accent of his. You turn around and are greeted by the warm smile of Philippe. You only met him yesterday but you can barely catch your breath as he kisses both of your cheeks. The smell of his cologne transports you into a world where only the two of you exist. Then he gently brushes a strand of your hair from your face that has blown in the wind. "Your hair looks so soft and beautiful today" he whispers in your ear. "It was beautiful yesterday, when it was curly but I love this look too". And while there is very little oxygen going to your brain at the moment, there's still enough cerebral activity for you to say a quick prayer to the hair gods for helping you find the perfect flat iron before you took your trip to Paris.

Okay admit it. Since you were a little girl, you've had dreams of going to Paris, meeting a man like Philippe, walking hand in hand with him down the Champs Elysees with your perfectly coiffed hair blowing in the wind as he whispers French nothings into your ear.

Before you get that perfectly coiffed hair, however, you have to have the right tools...unless you were born with awesome hair (lucky you ☺). But for the rest of us, there is ***The Most Fabulous Flat Iron Guide This Side of France***. Sure, you can rock your natural hair on the trip but you want to have options. This guide is your passport into a world of everything flat iron.

Prepare for takeoff...

The Anatomy of the Flat Iron

Wait! Before your eyes start to glaze over from the seemingly academic heading, hear me out. It is a necessity for you to know the anatomy of a flat iron before you can buy the perfect one. Why? Because if you don't, you can easily bamboozled and dazzled by terms like nano-silver and far infrared lasers. This next section will tell you what terms should impress you and which terms are all hype.



Flat Iron Plates

Metal Plates

Flat irons have come a long way since it was first patented in the early 1900s. Not to mention how far they've come since the 90s. They were so big and clunky. And the plates were metal. Aluminum, actually, and usually coated "gold" as to disguise what was really hiding underneath. Unfortunately, even with all the technology and improvements made since then, there are still some flat irons that are made out of metal.

Please avoid any flat irons that don't at least say they are ceramic or ionic. These are the lowest vilest forms of flat irons. They are the most damaging type of flat iron because the aluminum plates do not have the technology to make sure the flat iron stays at an even temperature like a ceramic/tourmaline iron. And if that wasn't bad enough, they can have the tendency to snag the hair which leads to hair breakage. Please, if you happen across one of these in the store, run the other way. Your hair will thank you.

Quick Metal Plate Facts

- ✓ Made of Aluminum
- ✓ Usually coated with Gold
- ✓ Least Healthy for hair (most damaging)
- ✓ Cheapest material used for flat iron plates
- ✓ Cheapest type of flat iron (or should be...if it's not your being ripped off)
- ✓ Least smooth plates
- ✓ Can snag hair because of its low/cheap quality

Ceramic Plates

If you are even remotely interested in hair styling tools and flat irons (which I assume you are), then you have indeed heard the word ceramic used in conjunction with them. So what exactly is the big deal about this ceramic material that seemingly 95% (totally made that up) of all flat irons mention it somewhere in its description?

Here is the “science” behind ceramic flat irons. Your hair naturally produces positive ions and the ceramic material produces negative ions and when they collide they create all sorts of benefits like:

- ✓ Softer Hair
- ✓ Sleeker Hair
- ✓ Shinier Hair
- ✓ More evenly heated plates (with no hot spots)
- ✓ Reduced static in the hair
- ✓ Moisture is sealed into the hair
- ✓ Seal Hair Cuticle

Obviously these are all incredible benefits for your hair. However (you knew there was a catch right?), not all ceramic flat irons are created equally. I’m sure you probably knew this but do you know why they aren’t all equal or why some cost more than others? While there are many reasons why some flat irons cost more than others, the reason why all ceramic flat irons aren’t equal is based on how thick the layers of ceramic coating are.

For example, have you ever gotten one of those \$20 flat irons and after about 6 months of use, the plates start to chip? That’s because those less expensive flat irons only have a thin coating of ceramic. See, the plates are not ceramic but ceramic coated aluminum plates which are the worst material flat irons can be made of.

The more expensive the iron, the thicker the layers of ceramic coating should be. There are even a few flat irons that claim to have solid ceramic plates, like:

- ✓ [FHI Runway](#)
- ✓ [Amika 1.5"](#)
- ✓ [Nume Vintage Purple 1.25" Ceramic Ionized Flat Iron](#)

If you notice I said claim to have solid ceramic plates. That’s because ceramic is a nonmetallic, inorganic clay type material and there is controversy that a flat iron plate could truly be made of 100% ceramic because the material would be too soft to be effective for hair straightening. Personally, I don’t have a clue which one is true. This is what I do know. The more layers of ceramic the flat iron has, the less damage your hair will incur.

Tourmaline Plates

Tourmaline is a tricky one. You may have noticed that when you read the description of a certain flat iron, it would say that it is a ceramic tourmaline ionic 1.5" flat iron. It's like they think if they put a million adjectives in the title we will be blown away by how technologically advanced that flat iron is. But I digress.

Here's the deal with tourmaline. It is semi-precious gemstone or crystal and it supposedly produces 6 times the negative ions than ceramic does. This means that all the benefits that I mentioned ceramic has, tourmaline provides them 6 fold.

But here is why it is tricky. Tourmaline is usually used in conjunction with ceramic and is actually ground into the ceramic, therefore enhancing the benefits of the ceramic. However, I could only find one that claimed to have true tourmaline plates the [Babyliss Pro TT](#) which is why I didn't know exactly what category to place tourmaline.

One drawback to flat irons with tourmaline plates (if you can find one) is that tourmaline wears down faster titanium plates, which is what we are going to talk about next.

Titanium Plates

Titanium is a lightweight metal that comes from igneous rock and is the strongest flat iron material out of all the ones we've discussed because it is as strong as steel. It holds up well against corrosion and heats quickly and evenly to decrease heat damage to your hair. Flat irons with titanium plates can be 100% solid. They can then be coated or infused with ceramic, ceramic infused with tourmaline, or the plates could be ceramic with particles of titanium infused into it. This is called nano-titanium, but more about that later.

For me personally, no flat iron has straightened my natural 4a/4b hair as well as a [titanium plate flat iron](#). Based on the research I've done, many black women with coarse hair have had similar experiences with their titanium flat irons

Sizes



Flat irons come in a variety of sizes. The smallest size for a flat iron that I have ever seen was 0.5" and the largest was 3". If you are unsure which size flat iron you want, then you must first figure out what you actually want from your flat iron.

If you want a flat iron that you can easily travel with then you might want to invest in a 1" or a travel flat iron (*Keep in mind that many travel flat irons have fixed temperature settings*). These are also best for those with shorter hair. If you want a flat iron that can get your hair straight faster, then you might want to get one that is 1.5 inches or larger.

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The larger flat irons are able to straighten larger sections of hair at a time. I know for me, it took a lot longer to do my hair with a 1" flat iron than it did with 1.5". Larger sizes are also good for those with long hair.

Temperature Settings

The temperatures on flat iron can range from 150 degrees all the way up to 500 degree. However, keep in mind that some flat irons, like the original Chi flat iron, have a fixed temperature setting so no matter what texture of hair you have, you will not have the option of turning the temperature up or down. Many people do swear by the Chi but that is something to consider.

Also, if you are looking for a flat iron to do Brazilian Keratin Treatments with, it is recommended that you use one that goes up to 450 degrees like [The Croc 1 Titanium flat iron](#).

Oh and one more thing. You might want to get a flat iron that has automatic shut off because regardless of the temperature, if you leave it on, you could burn your house down. Not good!



Cord

Something you may not really think about but is nevertheless important is the cord. It is very useful to have a cord that swivels because when you start straightening and flipping and curling your hair with your flat iron, it will be a lot easier to do if the cord works *with* you and not against you.



And nothing is worse than having cord so short that you have to be two inches from the electrical outlet just to use it.

Other Things To Consider

- ✓ Does it have an ergonomic design? Is it comfortable to use? Is it heavy? These things are important, especially if you have a lot of hair to straighten.
- ✓ Does it work on wet and dry hair or only dry? Having this option can save you from having to blow dry your hair which is a major time saver, if you don't have qualms about using direct heat on damp hair.
- ✓ Does it have a steaming option? I have a steam flat iron and have found that the steam, in conjunction with the titanium plates have gotten my hair straighter than any other flat iron.



New Flat Iron Technologies

Now that you know all about the different parts of the flat iron, I will briefly discuss just a few of the newest flat iron technologies that you need to know.

Nano Technology

Ever notice how everything to do with technology is getting smaller? The newest Cell Phones, Computers, MP3 players are slimmer and smaller than its predecessor. Well, it is no different with flat iron technology. Perhaps you've seen nano attached to just about every adjective used to describe a flat iron. But what does it mean?

It is just a fancy, "scientific" sounding way to say small. So when you see nano-tourmaline, it means that the crystal has been pulverized or micronized into tiny particles and infused into the plates of the flat iron.

The most common types of nano technology and their benefits are:

- ✓ **Nano-Titanium**: Super smoothing, great heat conduction, straighten hair fast, good for coarse hair, adds shine, inhibits chemical build up that cause bad smells in hair
- ✓ **Nano-Silver**: Eliminates bacteria and fungus from the hair and increases volume. Also sometimes used to keep the temperature of the flat iron level. Please don't pay extra money to have this feature. I highly doubt it is worth it.
- ✓ **Nano-Tourmaline**: Produces more negative ions than ceramic alone, good smoothing
- ✓ **Nano-Ceramic**: When you see this in the description of a flat iron pay close attention. Some flat irons will say that their plates are ceramic but then at the same time say they are nano but how can their plates truly be ceramic when they at the same time claim to be micronized ceramic. You can't really make a flat iron plate out of tiny particles of clay like material. Just be aware of this terminology.
- ✓ **Nano Fuzeion**: This is a term that seems to be conceived by the minds at FHI. Nano Fuzeion is the combination of 3 different elements: Titanium, Titanium Oxide, and Silver that have been micronized and infused into the plates of the flat iron. The titanium enhances the ion production of the ceramic. The titanium oxide has deodorizing properties which helps keep the hair smelling fresh. The silver has the bacteria killing ability, like we discussed early. Sounds like a good combination.

Far Infrared Technology

Far infrared is another recent technological development in the world of flat ironing. The idea behind far infrared heat or rays is that the invisible electro-magnetic waves go beyond the hair shaft and dries the hair from the inside out, resulting in more moisture being sealed into the hair shaft and less damage being done to the hair.

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Now this is the *idea* behind far infrared heat. Is there any proof that this is true? I don't really think so but hey if you use a flat iron with this technology and it works for you, that's all that matters. However, I wouldn't necessarily pay extra for a flat iron just to get that feature.

Wireless Technology

So this is something that I just found out about and it made me super excited. A wireless flat iron! I don't know how many times I've struggled to find an electrical outlet to do my hair in another room besides the bathroom. But if you have a cordless flat iron, you don't have to worry about that. These flat irons run on lithium ion technology, go up to 400° can last up to 45 minutes. These are great flat irons to use to take on vacation, to go to the gym, or for work. I absolutely love the concept.

[Straight-Away Pro Personal Stylist-ceramic cordless flat iron](#) and the [GSI Cordless Flat Style Hair Iron](#) are both highly rated so I would give either one of these a try.

The 5 Most Popular Flat Irons

I suspect this is what you've been waiting for (and maybe skipped ahead to read). These are the most popular flat iron brands, according to Google, and what their users really think of them. I've looked beyond the reviews and separated the claims of the flat iron to its realities. I'll tell you which one to pack with you on your trip to Paris and which one to leave at home (or at the store). Let the countdown begin...

→→→→→ = D'excellence (Definitely Pack)

→→→→ = Ohh La La (Put it on the Packing List)

→→→ = Circonspect (Middle of the Road...not good, not terrible)

→→ = Beurk (Only pack if you are leaving tonight and all the stores are closed)

→ = Atroce (Do not take with you under any circumstances)

No.5...The Andis

Andis Flat Irons are the fifth most popular flat iron brand so I decided to choose the [Andis 67095 1" Ceramic Clamp Flat Iron](#) to review because of its popularity on Amazon and Folica.

This flat iron costs a whopping \$16.77 but surprisingly gets 4 and 5 star reviews from its users. Let's see if it lives up to its claim.

The Claims:

- ✓ Ceramic Plates preserves moisture thereby creating luster and shine in the hair
- ✓ Straightens thick or fine hair
- ✓ 20 heat settings with the highest being 375°
- ✓ Flat Iron clamp holds hair for quick results

What the users say:

Pros ☺

- ✓ Creates long lasting straight hair styles even in the rain

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- ✓ Makes great, long lasting, and bouncy curls
- ✓ Makes hair soft, smooth, and shiny

Cons ☹️

- ✓ Plates pulled hair, causing breakage (eek!)
- ✓ The plates are not flexible which is a feature that helps curl and straighten your roots
- ✓ Overheats
- ✓ Ceramic Coating came off....onto user's hair! (Ummm, no....)
- ✓ One claimed it broke in a week (not good).
- ✓ No swivel cord

My overall rating: →→→

If you are on a really tight budget, this is the flat iron to get...as long as you don't expect it to work forever and ever. For the price, this is probably the best of the best in terms of flat irons. I took off one plane because I think there is a flat iron better but still in the same price range. However, if you want a high quality, enduring, superior flat iron then I would hold out and save money for a different kind.

Alternative Flat Iron: Cortex Flat Iron →→→→

The Andis isn't a bad flat iron but if you have a little more to spend the [Cortex Platinum Flat Iron](#) might be worth the extra money. It has the swivel cord and the flexible plates. Plus it has a higher temperature setting than the Andis and is still under \$30. I give it 4 planes compared to other flat irons in this price range.

No.4...The Remington

Remington is the fourth most searched for brand of flat iron. So I choose the highly popular [Remington Wet 2 Straight Flat Iron](#) to review. It is also very inexpensive, coming in at \$22.89.

The Claims:

- ✓ -Eliminates blow drying
- ✓ dries and straightens hair in one step
- ✓ -steam vent releases excess moisture as hair is straightened
- ✓ digital controls with 30 heat settings

Pros 😊

- ✓ Gives soft smooth, silky, straight hair (got good reviews from a relaxed user)

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- ✓ Dries hair in one swipe
- ✓ Some claimed it to be better than the Solia flat iron which is more than twice its price
- ✓ Flat iron works for years

Cons ☹️

- ✓ Ceramic coating starts to chip after multiple uses
- ✓ Straight hair results did not last very long
- ✓ Gives split ends
- ✓ Damages hair
- ✓ Doesn't really straighten wet hair (*These flat irons that say they work on wet hair are a bit misleading. In all actuality, you should not use it on really wet hair but more on damp hair...however, Damp to Straight flat iron does not have the same ring to it 😊)
- ✓ Made hair feel dry
- ✓ At least one user complained that it broke their hair

My Overall Rating: → →

Please run and don't walk, away from this flat iron. Why? I know it got good reviews but the ceramic coating chipping off always concerns me. Once that ceramic coating has come off, what is your hair being exposed to then? Metal? Another ceramic layer? Somehow I think it is the former and that is not good. It is highly unlikely that a flat iron that cheap has layer upon layer of ceramic baked into its base. And swiping that metal plate over your "wet" hair is a recipe for hair damage, which I so don't want you to get. I have a sneaking suspicion a lot of those users have damaged hair laying under the surface and when they stop flat ironing for any length of time, it will start to show.

Alternative Flat Iron: Turboion Croc → → → →

A better alternative would be the [Turboion Croc TITANIUM WET TO DRY](#) because it has titanium plates which has not been known to chip plus it has nano-ceramic baked into the plates. The users had nothing much bad to say about it and a lot of good to say. The only bad I saw was that there was no 1 year warranty if you buy it from Amazon but sometimes if you contact Amazon they won't leave you hanging. I took one star off just because I am still wary of using direct heat on wet hair but that's just me.

No.3...The Solia

The third most popular flat iron brand is the Solia so I chose the [Solia Tourmaline Ceramic 1" flat iron](#) to review.

The Claims:

- ✓ Plates give shiner and silkier results in less time

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- ✓ Works with damp and dry hair (they are being honest)
- ✓ Wide enough for short, medium, and long hair but still narrow enough to straighten your bangs
- ✓ Has the dynamic Alignment System which is where the ionic ceramic plates are self-adjusting in order to provide perfect control between hair and plates. This eliminates hot spots that damage hair and deliver even heat distribution.

Pros 😊

- ✓ Seems to be one of the least damaging flat irons to the hair
- ✓ Leaves hair silky, smooth with no frizz
- ✓ Some use it daily with little apparent heat damage
- ✓ Creates great curls
- ✓ Gets natural hair bone straight
- ✓ Doesn't pull or snags hair which decreases breakage
- ✓ Worked for people who usually have puffy hair after flat ironing
- ✓ A woman with natural hair walked 2 miles in sun and no frizz (yea!)
- ✓ Leaves hair glossy and shiny
- ✓ Glides smoothly over hair
- ✓ Doesn't give hair funky burnt smell (eeeewww!)
- ✓ Heats quickly

Cons 😊

- ✓ Causes a bit a static in the hair
- ✓ Some say it does pull/tug the ends of their hair
- ✓ Some people didn't think it got their hair straight
- ✓ For some people it did not work at all
- ✓ Burned hair/damaged hair for some people
- ✓ Stopped working/fell apart
- ✓ Made hair feel dry
- ✓ Made hair dull

My Overall Rating: →→→→

This is a good flat iron. Is it a great flat iron? I'm on the fence. It did give some people heat damage but that is a risk you run into with any flat iron, especially those that are on the lower end of the price scale. The sheer number of good reviews made me give it four planes but for some reason, I'm still not convinced it would work for my hair because I don't know how good it is for coarse hair. But chances are you would not be disappointed by it.

Alternative Flat Iron: Sedu →→→→→

The main alternative that I can think of for this iron is the [Sedu Ionic Ceramic Hair Straightener](#) which is often compared to the Solia. They have a bit of a flat iron rivalry going on. The Sedu does cost more but the before and

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after pictures did look quite awesome so if you did have the extra money lying around I would splurge and get one. I wouldn't really have any qualms about buying it, which is why I gave it 5 stars.

No.2...FHI

The 2nd most searched for brand of flat iron is the FHI.

FHI has three main flat irons: The Technique, The Platform, and the Runway. I will go over each of these flat irons in order of least expensive to most expensive.

The FHI Technique- \$62.18

The Claims:

- ✓ Tourmaline plates that absorb moisture and reduce static
- ✓ Advanced PTC heater/heats quickly and evenly
- ✓ Auto sense control calibrates to heat to your texture
- ✓ Beveled ceramic plates to curl and flip hair
- ✓ Proprietary nano-fuzeion technology for "unmatched" conditioning and shine
- ✓ Far infrared heat gentle on hair
- ✓ Low electromagnetic field 1" plates
- ✓ Swivel cord
- ✓ Max temp 410°

Pros ☺

- ✓ Makes hair soft, for naturals
- ✓ Good for thick hair
- ✓ Seems to last a long time
- ✓ Makes hair silky
- ✓ Good to curl hair

Cons ☹

- ✓ Didn't work well
- ✓ Fixed temp
- ✓ gets too hot for some hair types and temp is not adjustable
- ✓ customer service not so great
- ✓ damaging to the hair over time

My Overall Rating: →→→

This is an okay flat iron but I really hate fixed temperature settings. You want to have control of how hot the flat iron gets, period. Now, there may be some of the Techniques that have variable settings. I think maybe the newer ones have this feature but make sure you check first. This is not a flat iron I would get. It seems to be worth the money to get the FHI Platform.

FHI Platform- \$80

Claims:

- ✓ 3 layers of baked ceramic plates
- ✓ Variable heat settings
- ✓ Can be used on damp or dry hair
- ✓ Floating plates
- ✓ Protects color and fading
- ✓ Heats up to 450°
- ✓ Nano-Fuzeion

Pros 😊

- ✓ Last a long time
- ✓ Smoothes hair
- ✓ Makes hair feel silky
- ✓ Flat iron is durable
- ✓ Makes hair healthier
- ✓ Takes away frizz
- ✓ Makes hair swing
- ✓ Gets compliments after styling
- ✓ 10 year warranty
- ✓ Not one bad review on Folica.com
- ✓ Salon Results
- ✓ Lightweight
- ✓ Takes less time to straighten than other irons

Cons 😞

- ✓ Burns scalp if you get too close
- ✓ Snags hair for some people

My Overall Rating: →→→→→

Take a long look at the looong list of superlatives this flat iron got and the very short list of cons this flat iron got. Need I say more?

FHI Runway-\$379

Claim:

- ✓ “Patented I.C.H.S. Technology (Integrated Ceramic Heating System) with Instantaneous heat recovery system “
- ✓ “Wide temperature ranges adjusts from 140° to 450°”
- ✓ “Tourmaline treated plates produce maximum shine and conditioning of the hair”
- ✓ “Solid beveled ceramic plates with 3 baked layers that can flip, twist, straighten and curl”
- ✓ “Damp to dry versatility. Protects hair color and retards color fading”

Pros 😊

- ✓ Gives straightening results similar to those of Japanese thermal reconditioning without the chemicals
- ✓ Salon results
- ✓ Makes natural hair look relaxed
- ✓ Doesn't give many split ends
- ✓ Bouncy hair
- ✓ Presses could last for two weeks or longer as opposed to 4 days with other irons
- ✓ Many only needed one pass to get hair straight
- ✓ Shortens straightening time
- ✓ Makes hair look healthy
- ✓ In long run can save you money from going to the hair dresser

Cons 😞

- ✓ Fragile
- ✓ Not very durable for price
- ✓ Quits working for some
- ✓ The white plates stain easily

My overall rating: → → → →

This is a great flat iron. It really is. But I took off one star because of the price. Saying that it costs \$379 is being conservative. If you want to get it with a valid warranty (and trust me you do) it could cost \$450. And to pay \$450 for a flat iron (in addition to your plane ticket) it, to borrow a phrase from the South, needs to be might near perfect. And

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it's not. So I wouldn't really recommend it even though it is a great flat iron. You can find a flat iron for a lower price that is probably as good as this.

Alternative to the Runway: GHD → → → → →

There are several flat irons that are excellent such the [KQC](#) and the [Amika](#) but I chose GHD because the users love it, it is a high quality product, and, with its' universal voltage, can be used in many different countries. Perfect for the trip of a lifetime.

No.1...The Chi

So what's the most searched for brand of flat iron? You may have already guessed it. It's the Chi

The Claims

- ✓ Straighten, curl, flip, and style your hair
- ✓ Ergonomic design
- ✓ 10 foot cord
- ✓ Lightweight
- ✓ Heats quickly
- ✓ Gives silky and shinier results
- ✓ Lock in color and prevent color from fading
- ✓ Fixed temperatures on some models
- ✓ Ceramic plates and coils

Pros 😊

- ✓ Smoothes thick, curly, and frizzy hair
- ✓ Long lasting styles
- ✓ Heats quickly
- ✓ Straightens hair quickly

Cons 😞

- ✓ Cannot be used with a converter overseas (which would leave trying to travel with it to France 😞)
- ✓ The plates start to chip
- ✓ One user said it turned her black hair brown (heat damage anyone?)
- ✓ Others also claimed it gave them heat damage because their hair was losing its curl
- ✓ Some claim the Chi gave split ends
- ✓ Amazon not a guaranteed seller (but might replace if broken)
- ✓ Some people said the Chi they received was fake
- ✓ Some flat out said it just didn't straighten their hair
- ✓ Customer service not great
- ✓ Fixed Temperature on some models

My Overall Rating: →→

Okay, I know some people swear by the Chi. But here are my issues with it. Bad customer service. Fake Flat Irons floating around. Fixed Temperature settings. It's just doing my head in. And as a side note, if the generic Chi from Sally Beauty Supply is anything like the real Chi, it does nothing for my natural hair. And anything straightness that it did give is pretty much gone in a few days. I honestly would never get a Chi, real or fake. Just keep in mind that some people completely disagree with me so continue to do research on the issue.

Alternative to the Chi: The Amika 1.5"

The [Amika](#) has everything the Chi doesn't...Tourmaline plates..Solid Ceramic Plates...No rumored fakes or phonies...Variable heat settings. This is an iron I would feel comfortable buying.

How to choose a Flat Iron

Now that we know all about flat irons, let's use knowledge to figure out which one to buy and take on our trip.

To find the perfect flat iron, ask yourself these four questions *write down your answers*:

1) What is your hair type?

Find your hair type on this website <http://www.oldejamaicabeautyproducts.com/anwahaclsy.html>.

2) What do you need your flat iron to do?

For instance, you want to straighten and curl your hair with the flat iron

3) What is your hair length? Short, long, medium

4) What is your hair texture? Coarse, Frizzy, Fine

Now look at your answers and the information given in the previous sections.

Let's use me as an example.

1) I have 4a/4b hair

2) I want an iron that straightens and curls and can do waves. And I want it do it quickly

3) My hair is short when it is in its natural state and medium length when straight.

4) My hair texture is coarse, frizzy.

Taking this information, I would come to the following conclusions

I need a flat iron no larger than 1.5" that has titanium plates with some form of tourmaline and/or ceramic infused into the plate and has variable temperature settings. Why? Since my hair is so coarse and coily, I need an iron that is very powerful and can be turned as high or as low as I need it.

I need a flat iron that has solid plates with lots of ion production and the combination of titanium and ceramic or tourmaline (or both) together gives me plenty of ionic action. Plus titanium plates are known for straightening coarse hair very well.

And because I want to curl and flip/curl my hair, I don't want it to be too big because my hair is not that long. Which is why I don't want a flat iron larger than 1.5"

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See how I did that? Let me break it down even further:

1) Hair texture + hair type = Plate type

The texture and type of hair you have will determine what you want your flat iron plates to be made of. If you have fine straight hair, you don't really need a titanium flat iron. A ceramic flat iron will probably work well for you.

2) Length of hair + need = Flat Iron Size

The length of your hair and what you need it to do will determine what size you want your flat iron to be. If you have medium length hair and you want to curl it with the flat iron, then you need to get a flat iron that is 1.5 or smaller. If you have long hair that you want to get straight fast then you need a flat iron that is 1.5" or bigger.

3) Hair texture = type of heat setting

If you have straight, fine hair then you don't want to get a flat iron with a fixed temperature. Likewise, if you have coarse hair, you don't want to have a fixed temp iron. For straight hair, the set temperature may be too high and for coarse hair it may not be high enough. Although I don't recommend those for anyone, I especially don't for them.

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There's no way I could cover every hair type because within each and every hair type there are certain characteristics that each person's hair has that is unique to them. But you can use this table to help you a little bit more:

Hair Type	Straight Hair 1a-1c	Wavy Hair 2a-2c	Curly Hair 3a-3c	Coily Hair 4a-4c
Plate Type	Ceramic Tourmaline	Ceramic Tourmaline	Titanium, Ceramic, Tourmaline	Titanium, Ceramic, Tourmaline
Temperature Settings	Variable Temp up to 360°	Variable Temp of up to 390°	Variable Temp of up to 400°	Variable Temp of up to 430° (use with caution)
Size	Any*	Any*	Any*	Any*
Recommendations	Sedu Ionic Ceramic Flat Iron *	Solia Pink Flat Iron		Turboion Croc Classic Titanium Straightener 1.5"

Additional Tips

✓ Ceramic and Titanium plates are good for any hair types. There are no hard and fast rules. A customer who claims to have "the nappiest hair in the world" used the [Sedu Ionic Ceramic Flat Iron](#) and it got her hair very www.topratedflatironreviews.com

straight. You have to take the knowledge you have and relate it to your past experiences with your hair to find the right flat iron for you.

- ✓ For Straight Hair (type 1a-1c): Your hair is already straight or has very little curl to it and it may be very damaging to have a flat iron that stays on 410° when you are only using the flat iron to get rid of frizz or make your hair sleeker. It is overkill to have a flat iron with a high temp when you only for sleekening and not really straightening.
- ✓ Curly and Coily Hair (type 3a-4b) hair: despite how it looks, is perhaps the most fragile of all hair types and special care needs to be taken to prevent heat damage. Variable temperature settings will make this easier
- ✓ If you are natural, sometimes you may only need to straighten your hair to trim it and it won't be necessary to have the flat iron at a fixed temp of 400°.
- ✓ You may want a straight hair look but not a bone straight look but more of a Diana Ross in the 70s straight hair and that would be hard to achieve when you can't control the settings
- ✓ If you need a flat iron to travel with, then a travel size iron like [Turboion Baby Croc Mini Travel Flat Iron 5/8 Inch](#) or a 1" flat iron like the [BaByliss Pro Nano Titanium Mini Flat Iron](#)
- ✓ If you want a flat iron that can not only straighten but also curl and flip your hair then you will want to go with a 1" flat iron like [BaByliss Pro Nano Titanium-Plated Straightening Iron](#) because it is easier to wrap your hair around a 1" barrel than it is to wrap it around a 1.5" or larger.

Flat Ironing Tips

So now that you've chosen and bought your flat iron, you want to know how to use it so you can get the sleekest, chickest hair possible. Here are some of my tips for how to get a great flat iron press.

Use the Best Flat Irons on the Market

We've already been over a lot of different kinds of flat irons but here are my picks for some of the best flat irons, according to user reviews, by price range:

Best lower priced flat irons \$0-50

[Remington Shine Therapy Frizz Control Flat Iron](#)

[Conair Flat Iron](#)

[Andis Ceramic Clamp Flat Iron](#)

Best mid-priced flat irons \$50-\$100

[HAI Classic 1265 Convertible Flat Iron, 1 1/4](#)

[Solia Pink Flat Iron](#)

[Amika Ceramic Black Flat Iron](#)

Best high priced flat irons \$100-sky

[FHI Heat Runway Professional Ceramic Tourmaline Styling Iron](#)

[Sedu Ionic Ceramic Tourmaline Straightener](#)

[ghd Professional Advanced Ceramic Flat Iron](#)

Use the Best Straightening Products and Heat Protectants

Using a good quality flat iron is very important but it's also important to use products that can protect your hair from heat damage, make your hair straighter and sleeker, and protect it from humidity and other elements of the weather. Check these products out.

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Moisture Block Product

[Sabino Lok and Blok](#)

Heat Protectant

[FHI Heat Hot Sauce](#)

Straighter Hair Product

[CHI Straight Guard Smoothing Styling Cream 8.5 oz](#)

Use the Best Techniques and Tips

1) Don't use too much product.

It is better to use a little product than use too much. You can always use more but it is hard to take product off of your hair once it is there. The reason why you don't want to use so much product is because it will weigh your hair down and your hair won't swing or "swang" like you want it to. If you are using a crème, start off using a dime sized amount. If you are using spray, just lightly spray each larger section of your hair once. It'll get the job done

2) Use the chase method

I have some of the hardest hair to straighten known to man but I got my best presses using the chase method. The chase method is when you comb or brush through your hair first and then immediately follow through with the flat iron. The brush I used for this method is exactly like this brush: [Conair Go Straight Hair Brush](#)

3) Use small sections

Using small sections of hair will ensure that you get all of your hair straight. When I would use larger sections of hair I would find lots of sections of my hair that would still be wavy because the flat iron wouldn't be able to heat and straighten every strand of hair. Not what you want after a two hour flat iron session.

4) Get down to the roots

When you think about it, movement in your hair starts at the root. The ends of your hair can be bone straight but if you don't straighten the roots of your hair, you will not have that swing and bounce like you want. Just be careful to not burn yourself. Get as close to your scalp as possible without touching the scalp. Trust me on this...you don't want to burn your scalp.

5) Have patience

Because I have so much hair, it would take me forever (if forever can be considered two hours or less) to flat iron my hair. By the second hour, I would get so tired and frustrated that I would start to forget the techniques that had started doing in the beginning. Don't give up. You don't want one half of your hair to be fly and the other half to be tragic. If you don't have somewhere pressing to go, take a break for a while and then come back to it. In the end you'll be glad you took the time to do it right.

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So remember, if you use just a little product, apply some tension on small sections, starting at the roots

So remember, if you are patient, only use a little product, and apply some tension to small sections of your hair starting at the roots you should have the sleekest and straightest hair possible

Thank You

I just want to take this moment to thank you for taking the time to read this book. I put a lot of love, time and thought into it because I wanted you to avoid the same mistakes I made when looking for a flat iron. If you're anything like me, you've been through many flat irons and many disappointments. Usually the disappointments come from not knowing what all the terminology is and what features you need to look at in order to find the right flat iron for your particular needs. This guide sought to address these issues and a whole lot more.

I'm hoping this "passport" will give you everything you need to be able to find and use a flat iron so that wherever you go, you will show up looking your best.

Au Revoir 😊

