

TEST DRIVE

Doobie 'Do

A Dominican hair technique that smoothes sans chemicals

By CHANDRA R. THOMAS

TO ME, "CAN YOU GET ME BODIED?" is not just a lyric to a popular Beyoncé song—it's more like a personal plea from my chemically straightened but still perpetually flat hair. After years of hearing my girlfriends buzz about a "doobie," a Dominican hairstyling technique that's great for really frizzy hair, I finally decided to give it a try.

Though Jimmy Carter Boulevard is known as a hotbed of these Dominican salons, including the popular Lilly's, I decided to follow up on a referral to SALON DE BELLEZA in Norcross (6070 Norcross Tucker Road, Suite B, 678-205-5572). Most of the cozy shop's staff spoke limited English, but I had no need to worry: The common language of hair prevailed.

HOW IT WORKS First, my hair was thoroughly shampooed, then slathered with conditioner from root to tip. I was placed under the dryer with a plastic cap for fifteen minutes, which allowed the conditioner to penetrate every strand. Afterward, my hair was set on big rollers, and I was sent back to the dryer. Once the rollers were removed, the stylist divided my hair into sections and used a blow-dryer to straighten my roots with a round brush.



THE VERDICT The heat from the blow-dryer can be a bit intense, but it's like they say: "If you can't take the heat, get out of the Dominican salon!" When the stylist spun my chair around, I was amazed to see my usually humdrum hair smooth, straight, and bouncy—without the use of chemicals. Now, for around two weeks (and a mere \$35), I can shake my hair around just like Beyoncé! ■

ONLINE EXTRA Visit atlantamagazine.com for a list of more local Dominican hair salons.

INDO PURI: COURTESY OF INDO PURI; EARRINGS: WAYNE WARE; SHAVING GALLERY: NICOLE AKSTEIN

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OF GREAT IMPORT

Hometown style from offshore talents. By SALLY SUMMERSON

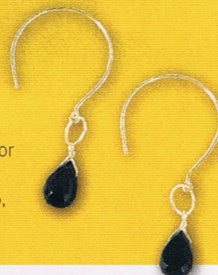
**MUTIARA TAN
INDO PURI**

In homage to her roots and out of love for her country, Mutiara Tan uses Indonesian elements to create handmade pieces for Indo Puri, her Atlanta-based furniture company, opened in 2003. "Our focus is a modern, clean design using natural materials," Tan says. Those materials include coconut shells, cinnamon bark, and seashells, while woven pieces are made of rattan, banana bark, and rawhide. Prices range from \$300 to \$1,000 for a table. [240 Peachtree Street, 404-749-5001, indopuri.com]



**MINNA HONG
DESIGNS BY MINNA**

Minna Hong, the South Korean-born owner of Designs by Minna, turned a personal setback into a creative endeavor: beautiful handmade jewelry. "I want people to have something that is affordable and handmade with love," Hong says. After a car accident left her in a wheelchair in 1999, she began stringing pearls as therapy. Now her jewelry is sold in more than 500 retail stores, including Beehive Co-op. Her silver or gold pieces, often accented with semiprecious stones, range in price from \$35 for earrings to \$145 for a necklace. [678-462-2246, designsbyminna.com]



**MICHAEL W. WEBER AND LAUREN S. CROSS
THE SHAVING GALLERY**

German-born Michael W. Weber and New Zealand native Lauren S. Cross co-own The Shaving Gallery, a specialty skin care and shaving service spot. "We offer simple, affordable, high-quality products for men while educating them on the importance of using nontoxic ingredients and proper shaving techniques," Weber says. The products include the Pre Shave, After Shave, Head to Toe Body Wash, and Booster Serum—all developed by Cross from all-natural ingredients and essential oils and containing no dyes, isopropyl alcohol, or synthetic preservatives. [3466 Cobb Parkway, 770-975-9998, shavinggallery.com]

