There are good reasons to go to a stylist trained in henna when you first dye your hair. A stylist can reach and see behind you more easily. A stylist who works with henna may be more experienced and confident. If you want to henna your own hair, do exactly what a stylist would; you’ll just be reaching around your own head. It is very helpful to have two mirrors to the back. Begin by sectioning your hair. Jiji’s hair is very long, so she twists the sections into knots.
Jiji has nearly black hair which she tried to dye with a chemical red dye. The results were not what she hoped for. She mixes 500g of Ancient Sunrise® henna with cranberry juice and lets it sit overnight.

When she’s ready to henna, she sections her hair into four big twisted knots and secures them with clips. She begins to apply the henna paste to the first section, pushing the paste down to the roots with a heavy tinting brush. She may apply the paste with her own gloved hands or with a brush, whichever seems more convenient.
Next, Jiji sections her hair ¼” from where she first applied the Ancient Sunrise® henna paste.

Jiji brushes in paste on the other side of the section and pulls it into her hair.
Jiji strokes in additional paste and pulls paste all the way to the ends of her hair. Then, she twists that lock of hair back and out of the way.
One lock at a time, Jiji covers all of her hair with Ancient Sunrise® henna paste from the roots to the tips. She repeats the process of separating out a lock, applying henna to the roots of both sides of the section, then pulling more paste clear out to the ends of the lock. She can be certain that she’s covered all of her hair evenly because she separates out and twists up every lock, one at a time.
Finally, the job is all done, and Jiji has hennaed all of her hair.

She wraps her hair with plastic wrap to keep it warm and moist for a few hours.
Jiji’s hair is nearly black, but henna’s translucent stain has made a vivid red shimmer over her hair, and made it sleek and lustrous. Jiji decides that she loves the glossy, shining heaviness henna gives her hair and she thinks that she’d like even more red in her black hair. She asks Maria to bleach some highlights into her hennaed hair. The result is vivid firelight streaks against her shining dark hair!

In Chapter 10 you can learn more techniques of bleaching into hennaed hair.