Tattooing Fun and Advice

Read what the TattooSpacers are saying.

Compiled by www.TattooSpace.org

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Tattooing Yourself (1)

I don't know, if every one that is starting out as an artist tried tattooing on themselves. I did a very big trible on my leg. For same reason it is better when someone else is tattooing you than doing it yourself.

Brattney - I disagree...I tattooed my stomach--I didn't mind at all. Practice and I get to show off my artwork to everyone and tell them I did it myself...btw there is a picture of it in my profile on TattooSpace

brinix – I've done a koi on my calf, and a Japanese demon on my thigh, writing on my forearm.

Jason - I've done 4 on myself. - 2 of them I had no problem with; the other 2 were a pain in the ass. I guess it all depends on where on myself I'm tattooing and my mood for that day.

What kind of Tattoos Don't you like to see?

Everyone is asking what tattoos people like... so I was thinking, what are some tattoos that you don't like to see. Just trying to get more of an idea on the people on the site. Not saying any particular type of tattoo is wrong, just curious I guess.

Blackcherry - NAMES!!!,,, or childish,,,,, not your child, just childish,,,,,

Shadow66 - I'm going to stick my neck out on this one and say, this is personally, anything that is drug or hate related. I think those types of tattoos are what help give the negative impression of people who have very remarkable tattoos.

White Walls - I can't stand the little stickman mowing the pube lawn, and the fake moustache on the finger, if you know what I mean. Basically things that people laugh at a couple times, then r like oh no ...haha.

Mission Bill - I don't like to see tattoos on any guy's junk... just because I don't want to see any guy's junk!

Leyea Marie - Honestly, I hate any of the really cheesy tattoos that everyone else has.
I mean, tattoos are expression of self, correct? -Why do people always want to get something just because it's popular and simple? For instance...the ugly little hearts that say something stupid on a banner.... bleh.
Vomit in my mouth when I see those shitty things. LOL!
Crappy tattoos anger me - it's like... come on! -If you're going to get one- make it freaking count!

StormyEyez - personally I just detest seeing some beautiful piece of art on a body that obviously took a lot of blood, sweat and tears to endure or create and then the wearer doesn't even bother to take care of it. It doesn't take much time at all on a regular basis to do so and one should take great pride in their body art.

Who Finds Getting Ink a Turn On?

I totally love the feeling, the buzz, and the sound. It's such an addiction. My favourite is when I'm with a girl and she's watching lol!! Am I alone???

JenJen - Negative, not alone at all. I love getting ink by a man or with a man there. It's very arousing. I dated a guy and we'd get tattooed together. Then leave and go to bed and get at it like banchies from the hormones that were brought to life. I love it...every minute of it.

Jo amafairy - absolutely ..... I think that's why I have so many ... plus my tattooist is hot so that definitely helps.

Jules - yes I do, I love thinking about getting one, Get so excited and love the feeling, way too addictive

Neil (aka Mutley) - Pleasure and Pain...what a great combination!

Kaz - I love everything about getting tattooed the sound, the anticipation, the feeling, its very addictive. Me and my wandering mind love it hehe.

THE RING - I think it has something to do with when the adrenalin kicks in to fight the pain
But you cant move it has no release until the tat is finished and by then its adrenalin overload and endorphin chaos hence the feeling of elation and in some cases heightened sexual desire, that's my theory anyway.

Kieransgirl - Seeing I've only had one and it was painful, more so in certain areas than others and while I was having it done I'm thinking, breath girl, breath in, breath out, just like child birth classes!! Pains kind of like that, swear you'll never do it again but once its over with you're ready for another one, I didn't think I would be, but I am!!! Addictive, yeah I'd agree!!

Tattoo Machines

What kinds are the best, Coil, Rotary, Pneumatic? If coils, how many wraps are better 8 or 10.. Or is there a better set I don't know of. Who makes the BEST machines? What power unit do u believe to be considered the top of the line? And anything else about a machine that I might not have asked? If there's something u can think of post it.

THE RING - I'm trying to get some grips made at work using aluminum we tried aircraft grade but the grub screws threaded so we are going to try one of the z type alloys that contain zinc its used for Armour plate on tanks etc the problem is Carpguru wants a 10 mm shaft if possible with a 8 mm hole and this does not give a lot of material to obtain a thread for the grub screw any help would be appreciated.

1nonlyIllustratedMan - I think I already gave carp this web address; www.spaulding-rogers.com

They sell 7/16" grips with a single set screw (for 1piece tubes) but, not too hard to drill and tap for a second set screw if your using 2 piece tubes. As far as using aluminum, you may end up with corrosion (electrolysis) problems due to the two differing metals during auto-claving. The alloy with the zinc would be best...zinc stops the process of electrolysis. This, you may already know, if not I hope this info helps.

8 or 10 wrap coils...I haven't used 8 wrap in years...they seem to run hot due to the fact that I have to turn them up so the machine can keep up with me. (If I were to use 8's it would be on a liner, there in lies another

problem for me due to the fact that I like heavy machines...8 wrap liners are usually light weights.)
10 wrap coil machine are pretty good all around machines.... for larger pieces where I'm pushing large needle groupings I use a 12 wrap machine, (13 mag. to 27 mag.) and a 14 wrap machine with custom wrapped coils to push anything larger. (43 mag.)
You can pick up excellent coils from pulse, lucktysupply or Paco Rollins.
The best machine?
First off...you can get any machine to run great...it just needs a good set of coils and proper tuning. (I have a 1969 Paul Rogers, the original supreme, that'll will run with the best of them!)
For mass-produced; machines I would recommend pulse, technical, paolini.
For semi mass produced; Fowler, Sharpz, (bent steel frames), Next generation.
Now, for the customs (these are what I consider the best!) Paco Rollins, Seth Cefari, Aaron Caine, Dan Drigenberg, Kaco tattoo, Shagbuilt and Baltimore St.Irons (I just picked up a Damascus machine from them...excellent shader, barely hear it running but has enough punch to run up to a 13 curved mag.) There's too many to list, those were just some that I've dealt with. Customs machines are the best in my opinion due to the fact that they're designed and built by TATTOOIST"S! They know how to build and tune a machine for its intended purpose; they are more expensive but definitely worth the investment.
I hope this was helpful! Inks

THE RING - to tell the truth I hadn't even considered the issue of corrosion but now you mention it there will be a problem and not being a metallurgist it is one at the moment I can not solve thanks for the heads up you may have saved me a lot of time cheers
The Ring

Tattooing Yourself (2)

I would like to know how many of you tried tattooing on your own body. I think that it is the most painful thing to do, I mean, if someone else is tattooing you it seems much more bearable than doing it your self, Right????

Blackcherry - I've got quite a few, I've done, and will do many more! I don't think there's any difference.

DirTDeezl - Inking myself is so much better, I would've NEVER let someone else do my shins! I'm too busy concentrating on what I'm doing to worry full time about what it really feels like.

Shady - Well I can only answer there are some spots that are like unbearable. I've never had a tattoo from someone else but I can imagine lying there and just concentrating on not moving could be easier. I've had a few guys fall asleep on me. So Id imagine its way easier to get a tat from someone then tattoo yourself. I'm more worried about keeping lines straight.

Carpguru - all my tattoos I've done all big tattoos a dragon from wrist to nipple a koi 15 cherry blossom and a big tiger from belly button to just behind my hip jumping out of water you don't notice the pain after you start concentrating trying to get the right position of the line and colour.

Andre - Shady, I agree, the problem is keeping lines straight, and if not, then you have to do it all over again.

D - You can only get to certain areas... n there are times all I can do is laugh in order to get threw it I agree w/the can't reach areas. I've run into that a few times myself, the suck part is you can't always tell you can't do it until you're holding the tattoo machine there saying "what was I thinking' I can't do this myself!!" but you have to try!

Dunky101 - Once into it it's ok, but the first initial start of self-inflicting pain just rubs me the wrong way! lol

Cost of Tattoo Apprenticeships

Well here's where I kind of don't get it... most apprenticeships u either get paid a fraction of what the people doing the job do or you don't get paid at all. And the last one I was offered was $2000, but dealing with court I don't have the cash for it. But with tattooing, why does it cost to be an apprentice? What's the normal cost of this? Anyone know of one? , I'm still interested in losing my "Scratcher" status.

DirTDeezl - I have heard of apprenticeships costing as much $5,000. Can't understand why myself- but it's the nature of the beast anyway.

Blackcherry - here in Ohio, one can get you for 6,000 for a 12month run, I think its awful, and most of the time you're just cleaning up after them, sweeping, mopping. I'm well experience in that, but "they" say its learning… whatever…

Tree - I did two apprenticeships and didn't learn much from either. The first one was free. All I had to do was work on his friends. No money involved. My second one cost me a 76-caddy hearse and a 72-caddy limo plus a grand. What I got was camline shortstroke machine some really cheap ass inks and a whole lot of clean up detail. It sucked badly.

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Tattoo Tat2 - People think the more you pay for something the better it is...is that always true no.....people think quality... what do teachers want students some one to believe in someone the pass things down too... the best apprenticships are priceless! The lifestyle and the knowledge are endless... but I tell you how to get a FREE apprenticeship...find a shop...beg them to teach you.... and you do all the grunt work and shophelp as needed... and your mentor so to say.... you follow him ask questions and be his puppet... everything has it price and knowlege is power...

Buckshot Grez - I tried for years mate, about 4 different shops, most of them were just ego's, I recently went back to one of the good ones, I haven't been there for a few years, but I know a couple of the guys quite well, I showed them my artwork and a couple of tattoos that I've done and they asked me to go back to them in 6months, just keep going mate,

keep on trucking, you'll get what you want in the end, best of British luck to you mate.

Dunky101 - The one that I was at, granted he was a friend but he doesn't charge to do apprenticeships. He has been tattooing for over 30 years. He encourages people with the interest. This is in Ohio.

Should it mean something?

Should a tattoo mean something personal or should it be a piece of art to be looked at and admired and are these tats viewed by the owner with as much love as the piece I had done to celebrate the birth of my granddaughter. I look at bits of mine and it brings back memories of a time in my life I can see the attraction of art for arts sake but I feel it should mean something. But that's just my opinion.

DirTDeezl - Tattoos for many people in many walks of life have only been done because they mean something, they might tell a symbolic story or something similar. Then again, many more people have had them done simply because they like the way they look. I, for one, have symbolic tats AND tats that are just pieces of art. I'm fine with it either way.

Carpguru - I have tattooed people that know what they want and its normally for a reason but then there's the people that just want one as its the fashion I don't tattoo people under 21 as I don't think they have thought about it properly once its on its there for life so you have to love it or don't do it I always suggest if they find a design they like copy it about 5-6 times and put it up around the house i.e. side of the bed on a mirror the fridge places that you visit often then after a couple of weeks if you still want it then go ahead it took me ages to get my tattoos i ended up desighning them myself because the ones i wanted wernt right so yes i think they should have a meaning as they are for life as is the placement of a tattoo think of the future possible jobs you may go for some jobs dont want visable tattoos.

Jo amafairy - I think they should mean something .....because everyone of mine signifies a certain time or event in my life so means something to me & I remember every time I see said tat .....

Except my very first one & I got it because id always wanted a tat but the artist & I use the term loosely changed it without telling me so I hate it with a passion because it isn't what I wanted :(

Blackcherry - I feel if it's what you want, so be it, its art anyway you look at it, and it makes you happy, it's all that matters.

Have you ever been passed over for a job?

Have you ever been for a job interview and KNOW that person interviewing you has already made their mind up about you because they can see some of your ink??

Leyea Marie - Well.... first impressions do matter.
It is wrong of people to judge you, but you should know by now that you must be formal for job interviews and all ink should be covered unless it's completely impossible.
I have quite a large tattoo on my wrist and it's pretty hard to cover that up seeing as all of the jobs I qualify for are hands on...it's usually pretty visible.

Dunky101 - I agree with Leyea, Tattoos can act as a distraction, especially in the corporate world. It's simply just not professional, especially when your job entails interacting with clients. Your appearance not only represents you, it also represents the company's standards according to some employers. I think they should compromise with the growing world.

Dizzy - I work in accounts and to be honest I am surprised that as yet they have not asked me to cover up. I think a lot depends on the people who employ you. I am lucky that they accept that what I do, I do well and are therefore are happy to accept my tattoos. I also think one of my bosses, would have a couple if he could.

Shaughn - Tattoos have become rather popular with celebrities and sports stars. I watched the replay of the rugby league final last night and many of the star players had tattoos. Over time this issue will be less of a problem as tattoos are becoming more accepted.

SecondSkin - a long time ago I was turned down for a place to live because of tattoos. Another time the guy renting had more tattoos than me. So it comes and goes. I did surprise one guy who hired me when I wore short sleeves to work after wearing long ones for the first week of work. He did a double take but I still kept the job.

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