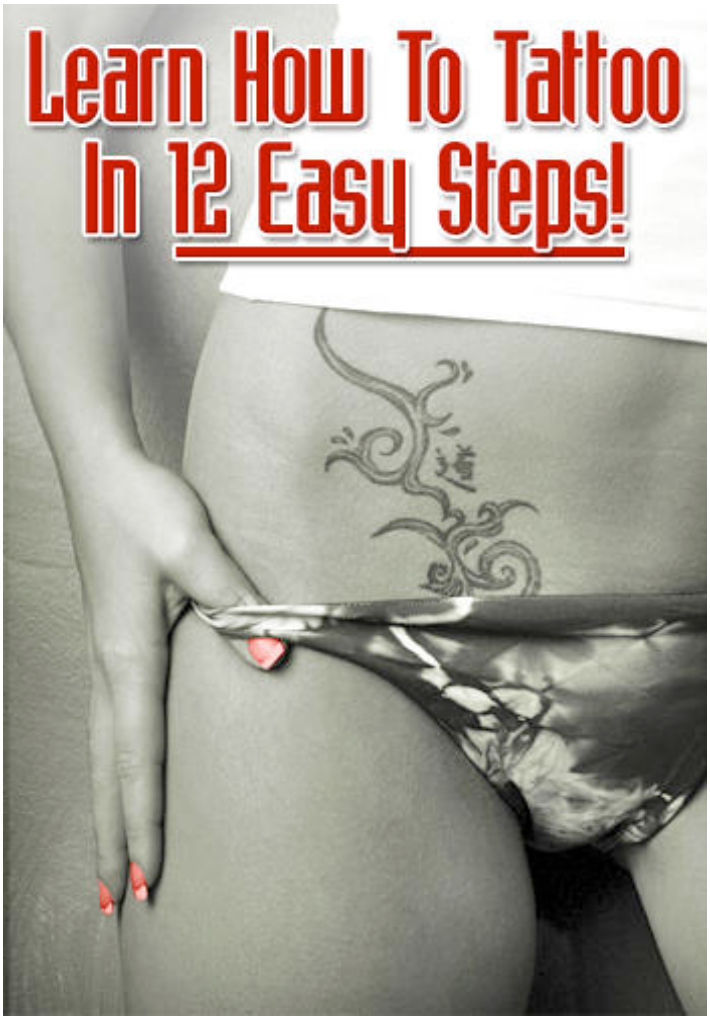


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By D Herren

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Important Warning: ***I cannot emphasize enough the importance of following a reputable and skilled artist who can work along with you when you begin to tattoo. This guide is meant as an enhancement to, not as a replacement of an in-shop apprenticeship. This guide is meant to give directions, tips and advice, and simply how to approach tattooing in this field.***

DISCLAIMER

While all attempts have been made to verify information provided in this book, neither the author nor the publisher assumes any responsibility for errors, inaccuracies or omissions. Additionally the publisher and author will not be responsible for any damages or harm incurred as a result of their advice regarding how to tattoo. Anyone who reads this book is at their own risk when tattooing and all proper and safe precautions should be taken before tattooing.

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Introduction

When learning how to tattoo it is imperative that you first learn the steps to tattoo the safe and right way. While expressing yourself on the ultimate canvas-the human body-can be a very rewarding, proper safety precautions are a must.

In this handbook, I will provide 12 easy steps in "how to" tattoo. Be sure to read through the entire handbook before attempting to get started. This will provide you with a good overview of what is involved in learning to tattoo, the proper tools and equipment you will need and very importantly, the right safety precautions to follow.

This handbook will provide you with 12 easy steps and the basics of what you need to get started on your own, BUT please do remember that it is not intended to be a substitute for the real hands on instruction of a certified and skilled tattoo artist. While I will show you the basics of tattooing, including the equipment and various techniques used in tattoo application, I strongly encourage you to locate a certified tattoo artist to work with as well.

Finally, don't forget that learning to become a top tattoo artist requires knowledge (which I provide in this starting guide) along with a lot of practice and patience. Unlike many similar guides, the information I provide in this guide is presented in a straightforward manner; no fluff and nonsense to waste your time. I am to give you the good stuff you want and need to get started tattooing.

I understand tattoos are a very personal choice and most tattoo artists have at least one tattoo, if not many. While some of those tattoos may stem from an initial practice at learning to tattoo and not meet the standard of perfection, it should be understood that through perseverance and a love for the art form of tattooing it is possible to greatly improve. Even though you may be just getting started at tattooing, you can become a

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great tattoo artist. The first step toward that goal is reading this guide and acquiring the necessary knowledge.

I do want to be straightforward with you. Most people who begin learning to tattoo won't stick with it. I said it takes practice and patience and I meant that. Unfortunately, many people simply quit before they acquire the finely honed skills they need to succeed. Many of these people may lack the proper guidance, knowledge and equipment. Others get frustrated and just throw in the towel.

The best advice I can give you is this…learning to become a top tattoo artist requires proper knowledge and skills as well as a focus on using quality equipment. I can't stress the importance of starting off on the right foot enough. Take the time to visit a local tattoo shop and observe one of the artists. Ask questions. This type of hands on observation will make the 12 steps outlined in the guide really come alive for you!

It is also imperative that you learn to develop good habits and do things the right way. I will stress this frequently in the following guide. Taking your time when learning to tattoo and learning to do everything the proper, and clean, way is extremely important. It is far better to start out slowly and do things the right way than to rush through things, pick up bad habits and regret it later. Not only will rushing and bad habits reflect in the quality of your work but it will also lend itself to your reputation and ultimately spell bad business.

Learning to tattoo the right way now will spell more business later on down the road. Develop a positive reputation now and people will naturally spread the word of what a good tattoo artist you. You can't do better than free advertising!

I hope this great tattoo handbook serves you well. Hopefully it will spark your interest in tattooing enough that you can really soar. **Best of luck on your road to becoming a REAL tattoo artist!**

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One last thing that is CRITICAL if you are interesting in learning all about tattooing, the tattoo industry, and the latest artists. What is it? It is THE most popular tattoo magazine on the planet...check into it here...
http://ultimate-tattoo-guide.com/tattoo-magazine.htm

Step 1: Understanding your Tools

The absolute first step in learning to tattoo is learning everything there is to know about the tools involved in tattooing. This step of the guide will go over the basic tools you will need to tattoo. I recommend you learning everything you can find regarding various tattoo tools available. In this step we're going to cover all of the essential tools you will need to begin tattooing right away.

First, I'm going to cover what I like to call the "quick and dirty checklist" of tattoo tools.

Tattoo Machines
If you'll note, I used the plural in this term because eventually you will use multiple machines for different applications during the process of tattooing. One machine is used for lining while another is used for black-and-white shading and yet another for color shading, etc.

Various Tattoo Parts-These consist of various parts that are associated with the tattooing equipment you might need in case of repairs, such as bands, for example.

Feeler Gauge-A feeler gauge is used for making adjustments for contact points.

Power Supply-Main Power Unit: This is your main power source to run your machines.

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Foot Switch-The foot switch is used to control your tattoo machine with your foot instead of your hand.

Clip Cords- The main contact connection between your power unit to your tattoo machine.

Tattoo Shop Furniture and Equipment

Tattoo Work Table-This consists of a linoleum or glass top table to hold all of your tattoo supplies or equipment while you tattoo. It is essential you use a table that isn't too large, yet small enough to work on and hold all your items.

Tattoo Artist Chair-Choose a comfortable chair that you can sit in for long periods of time. Look for one with wheels so you can move easily about.

Customer Chair-A comfortable chair for customers.

Weight Lift Bench (basic)-This is used for customers who are going to be getting tattoos on their back or legs.

Light Source (adjustable)-This is a free standing adjustable light source you can use at various angles.

Paper Towels, Dispenser, and Trash Can-Paper towels are used for all types of purposes while tattooing.

Needle Supplies

Regular Needle Bars-To hold the main needle group.

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Needle Jig and Needle Bar Jig-Used to make the right needle group and keep the placement of the groups with the bars.

Soldering Gun and Stainless Solder-Used to fuse or solder the needles together and to connect the needles to the bars.

Tweezers-Used to hold work.

Sterilization Equipment

Autoclave (Stericlave)-This is where most of your equipment is going to be sterilized. This device exposes the equipment to steam at a very high pressure in order to decontaminate it. **This is ESSENTIAL!**

Autoclave bags-This is a sterile bag where you store needles and other tattooing equipment after it has been sterilized in the autoclave. You should always open new needles from the autoclave bags, right in front of the customer.

Dri-Clave-Table top with sterilizer pouches to check sterilization.

Main Ultrasonic Cleaner and Solution

This is used to clean all the left-over residue from tattoo needles, tubes, etc.

Ultrasonic Tray and Machine Holder-This is a tray that can be submersed in the Ultrasonic Cleaner with the tools attached.

Tattoo Machine Rack-Simple rack to hold unused machines.

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Germicidal Solution-A solution that does not rust or sterilize, but keeps sterile equipment clean. Used in machine test tubes.

Medical Equipment

Needle Trays-These are stainless steel trays that will hold your tattoo needles.

Various Spray Bottles

One will hold a three parts water to one part soap mixture and the other will hold isopropyl alcohol.

Small Glass Jar-This will contain sterile ink caps.

Three Stainless Trays-These trays need to have sealing tops. One tray will only contain liner and needle bars. Make sure the 1's and 3's point in different directions. Another tray will contain shader needles. Make sure the 4's and 6's point in different directions. The last tray will have shader and liner needle tubes both pointing in opposite directions.

Vaseline (Carbolated)-Used for stencils and skin.

Various Antibiotic Ointments and Solutions-These are used to wipe down the skin for healing.

Green Soap-This is used for cleanup and preparation. Please note that this soap is NOT used for sterilization purposes.

Disposable Razors-Used for skin preparation. It's hard to do a tattoo on a hairy mess on the body. ALWAYS use a fresh razor for each customer.

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Various Handi Wrap, Bandages, and Hospital Tape-Used for safely covering tattoos.

Rubbing Alcohol and Pads-Used for disinfectant on cleanups. Please note that this is NOT used for sterilization purposes. Use to clean the skin before tattooing.

Tongue Depressors-Used for the application of various ointments.

Sharp Scissors-Stainless steel SHARP hospital scissors.

Latex Gloves-These are surgical latex gloves to be used when tattooing. You should NEVER perform any tattooing without the use of latex gloves. You are protecting yourself and you are protecting your customer. Make sure to check with your customer to make sure they are not allergic to latex. It is possible to buy gloves that are not coated in latex.

Art and Stencil Supplies

Various Colored Inks-A wide variety of colored inks including black ink.

Ink Cups-Used to hold inks. Each customer should have his or her own cups for their ink.

Ink Bottles-These are four ounce sized with a twist top.

Cup Holder-Used to keep all ink caps in place.

Flash-These are various sheets of flash tattoo designs.

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Watercolors and Pencils-Used to color flash sheets.

This should give you a very quick list of the essential items you will need to get started tattooing. It may seem as though it is an overwhelming amount of supplies and tools to get going but don't allow that to discourage you. Remember you can always slowly make additions to your collection and before you know it you will have a complete set of tattooing supplies.

I would recommend starting with the larger items first, or with what you can afford to purchase. Remember, it's always best to purchase the best even if that means you have to go a little slower.

Step 2: Learning the Tattoo Machine

The tattoo machine is where the entire process gets started. The ink flows through the machine and the designs you create will begin to take shape and form a work of art.

While the tattoo machine is an integral part of the process it is important to always remember it is not the machine that makes the tattoo but the tattoo artist. Understanding and learning to use the tattoo machine effectively is important but the machine can never take the place of the skill, time and patience required of the artist.

Because all of the action lies in the machine it is important to have a basic understanding of how the machine works. Tattoo machines can have a varied appearance but they all perform essentially the same task. Most tattoo machines have the same parts. These include standard contact points, a place where the needle goes through and power supply as well as other parts such as front and rear springs, contact caps, soldering lug, binding post, machine frame, needle tube, band hook and needle bar.

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All tattoo machines basically work by driving the needle in an up and down motion to slightly open the first layers of skin just enough so the ink can be driven into the skin. It is the job of the tattoo artist to steer the machine in an outline or a pre-drawn design to complete the tattoo.

Using Your Tattoo Machine

Now that you have an idea of how the tattoo machine works it's time to get started using it. It is extremely important to learn how to use the tattoo machine properly if you eventually want to become a great tattoo artist. As I said previously, the machine doesn't do the hard work; that's the job of the artist.

The first step is learning how to hold your tattoo machine. You don't want to just start buzzing away with it. Remember this is an art form. The size and weight of the tattoo machine can make a large difference in this regard, so it's important to make sure you choose a machine you're comfortable with.

When gripping the tattoo machine you need to actually grip it around the needle tube. To do this you will grab hold of the knurled grip much like you would hold a pencil. Be sure the open side of the needle tip is facing away from you. Be aware it may take some time to become comfortable with holding the machine as well as to develop the muscles necessary to comfortably hold the machine for long periods of time.

Once you have mastered the endurance required to tattoo and found a comfortable pencil grip you can begin testing your skills.

As described grab the knurled grip of the tattoo machine and place it comfortably in your hands, as in a pencil grip. Remember to have the bulk of the machine over top the back of your hand.

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The palm of your hand should be resting on the surface of the skin; much like the way you would do if you were writing on the customer's skin with a pen. This is known as the bridge by many tattoo artists. The palm of your hand can be used to swivel and turn the tattoo machine on the skin. Actually, learning to pivot and turn effectively is going to make your designs a whole lot easier to master.

You will need to tilt the tattoo machine at a 45-degree angle, with the butt of the machine dropping towards the skin. When you have the grip on the tattoo machine, naturally your palm is going to rest on the skin. This is completely normal. As I mentioned earlier, you will use the palm and heel to pivot, move and control the tattoo machine.

The Five Basic "P's" You Must Remember about Using your Tattoo Machine

1.) **Proper angle** – You need to be at a 45-degree angle in order to place the ink under the skin. If your angle is too straight up and down, the ink may come right back out of the puncture. If you are at too much of an angle, the design may end up a little bit 'off'.

2.) **Proper depth –** Too much depth, and you are going to cause pain to your subject, and there may be unnecessary bleeding. Too shallow and the ink won't stay (fading) and the arm may just end up being a scratched mess.

3.) **Proper set up –** This is going to eliminate a myriad of problems for you. Practice setting up and taking down your tattoo machine. You will need to sterilize the different parts, so knowing how everything goes back together properly is going to save you a lot of hassle.

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4.) **Palm placement –** Use your palm effectively to control and balance the tattoo machine. If you try to freehand without the support of the rest of your arm, you are going to end up with squiggly outlines and poor shading.

5.) **Practice, practice, practice –** Before you even set the needles upon someone else's skin, you should have plenty of practice. This means everything from practicing by drawing in the air and building up your dexterity and stamina, to practicing your design skills on practice skins. You can only be one of the top tattoo artists by learning everything you can about tattooing and the only way to apply that is by practicing.

The subject of needles is also extremely important when it comes to learning to tattoo successfully. In this step we're going to focus on needles, needle bars, the needle tube and inks.

Step 3: Understanding How to Properly Use Needles

Most tattoo artists will tell you needles are the most important piece of equipment. Usually tattoo artists will use a single needle only once or twice because to work effectively a needle should be arrow straight, flawless with no marks or scratches, sharp and in 'perfect' condition.

Tattoo needles are soldered onto needle bars. There are two types of needle bars. These are liners and shaders. The shader has a flat end where the needles are soldered and the liner bar is rounded on the end. Remember that liners are used to draw different thick outlines around objects or for creating borders for certain designs.

Needles also come in different sizes for the thickness of lines. For example: one needles, three needles, four needles, five needles, etc.

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Shaders are, of course, used for shading. They cover a large area with the ink. Like liners, shaders also come in different sizes, such as four needle group, six needle group, etc. The larger the number of needles, the larger area it will cover.

Getting the proper depth of the needles

One of the most important aspects of learning how to use the tattoo machine is learning to get the proper depth of the needles. This is critical because:

• You want to make sure the ink is in the proper place – this is going to ensure that the design and color are vibrant and not hidden over by skin.

• If you go too deep, you will get blood coming back up through the puncture marks. While there may be some bleeding, you can keep it to a minimum by making sure you are at the right depth.

• You can cause your subject an undue amount of pain and discomfort if you go too far into the skin. Practicing your depth is the best way to make sure you don't get too far into the skin.

• Shading and coloring is going to be much easier, and you will not be using excessive amounts of ink in order to make the color stand out.

Really, the only way to improve the depth of your perception when it comes to this subject is practice. It is just as important to practice depth as it is to practice handling your machine.

What is the right depth? Is probably one of the most common questions asked by beginner tattoo artists. Remember that the layers of the skin contribute largely to the right depth.

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A tattoo is seen through the outer layer of skin, or the epidermis. The ink actually lies in the second layer of skin, known as the dermis. This allows the ink of the tattoo to stay in place with only minor fading and dispersion so the person can have the tattoo for the rest of their life. It is important to note the layers of the epidermis will wear away over time and the body produces new layers of skin to cover the dermis. If you put ink into the hypodermis, you've gone too far and this will result in a great deal of pain for your customer.

Typically, you'll know you have the right depth for your needles if the color is vibrant, stable and not oozing back out of the hole in the skin. Be aware there may be some of this but there should really be very little ink coming back out of the punctures.

In addition, the customer should not be in any undue pain. You can be certain they will let you know if the pain is unbearable. While most people may wince at the needles as they enter the skin, you'll know something is definitely wrong if they begin screaming and jumping.

Another sign you are in too deep is excessive bleeding.

The right depth may actually vary from one person to the next because no person is exactly the same. Generally; however, the right depth should be about 1mm or between 1/16 and 1/32 of an inch. If you go too deep there will be excessive bleeding and more scarring than normal as well as the tattoo being painful to the touch.

On the other hand, going too shallow can result in scratched skin, color beginning to fade immediately, and the ink not staying underneath the skin.

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Tubes

You will also need a different tube for the different needle bars. They are constructed specifically to work with the type of needle bar and number of needles you intend to work with. For example, if you're working with a 4-needle shader, then you'll need a 4-needle shader tube on your tattoo machine.
Same for 5-needle shader, etc.

There are also two sub groups within these groups of tubes (shaders or liners): round tip and square tip. Each tip has different qualities. For example, the round tip has very little problem with ink splatter but you might end up with a wider line when turning a sharp corner if not careful. The square tip is limited in the amount of movement but corners are usually sharp and defined. With a square tip; however, everything has to be in perfect alignment.

Step 4: Learning about Tattoo Inks

Tattoo inks are also extremely important to the process. This is what gives the tattoo life and brings out the character and personality of the design. It is also what separates you from everyone else and creates the fantastic artistry and brilliant color.

It is important that you pay attention to the inks, particularly what they are made of and how you use them.

Most inks are simple dyes derived from metals. In fact, many people don't consider them inks as much as pigments that are injected into the skin. The pigments (made from a variety of metals and other ingredients) are then suspended in a carrier solution. The carrier solution keeps the pigments evenly mixed and it helps keep the mixture clean and applicable.

Here is a list of what certain colors are made of:

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BLACK - Made of iron oxides, carbon, or logwood.

BROWNS, FLESHTONES - Made of ochre.

RED - Made of cinnabar, cadmium red, iron oxide, or napthol.

ORANGE - Made of disazodiarylide, disazopyrazolone, or cadmium seleno-sulfide.

YELLOW - Made of cadmium yellow, ochres, curcuma yellow, chrome yellow, or disazodiarylide.

GREEN - Made of chromium oxide ("Casalis Green" or "Anadomis Green"), Malachite, Ferrocyanides, Ferricyanides, Lead chromate, Monoazo pigment, Cu/Al phthalocyanine, or Cu phthalocyanine.

BLUE - Made of azure blue, cobalt blue, or Cu-phtalocyanine.

VIOLET - Made of manganese violet (manganese ammonium pyrophosphate), quinacridone, dioxazine/carbazole, and various aluminum salts.

WHITE - Made of lead white (lead carbonate), titanium dioxide, barium sulfate, or zinc oxide.

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Step 5: Getting Organized

After you have collected all of your tattoo supplies, it is extremely important that you keep them in a well organized work area. Your work table will serve as an ideal location for this. Make sure you keep your table clean and also be sure it is sturdy and large enough to hold all of your work items.

In addition, be sure all of your work items can be easily reached. The last thing you want to do is run all over the place looking for items. Keep your tools and work items in reach and in an area that is easily accessible.

Basically, your work space should be clean and organized. You want to make sure you send the right message when your clients walk in the door and that message is that you are clean and professional as well as skilled. Make sure you are comfortable and everything you need can be reached. It is also important to make sure your customer is in a comfortable and workable position. This may mean you need to use some small pillows or perhaps have them lie down on a workout bench or some other position. The most important idea is to make sure you are able to work freely with your tools and that your customer is comfortable.

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Step 6: Working with Tattoo practice "skins"

Tattoo skins give the opportunity to work on something realistic without actually taking on a client just yet. They can be purchased from your local tattoo retailer or online at numerous locations. They usually measure 6" x 8", although they are available in larger sizes. Really, they are much like using real skin. Skins can also be attached to arms or legs of friends who are willing to volunteer and allow you to 'practice' on them without actually putting a tattoo on them.

Using tattoo skins can help you get the right depth of the needles, learn the proper handling and control as well as angle while practicing skills, designs and techniques.

Always remember the importance of practicing. I cannot stress that enough. The only way you are going to be successful in becoming a good tattoo artist is by practicing. If you do not want to be considered a hack, it is imperative you learn to do things the right way. The more practice the better.

Step 7: Preparing Yourself and the Client to Tattoo

When you're ready to get to work on an actual client, always remember to have your customer choose their design and come to terms regarding pricing first, then provide a receipt. It's also important to have them sign a disclaimer.

Before you prepare the client; however, you want to make sure you have prepared yourself. This is important because it protects not only you but the client as well. Other than the basic sanitizing prep steps I'll show you in just a moment, you should also take steps to keep yourself clean. This includes keep your hair either cut or pulled back so it won't contaminate the sterile environment. Your nails should also be kept short and clean. In addition, make sure you wear clean clothing; preferably clothing that is long. Avoid wearing jewelry when working.

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Do this by washing your hands using hospital grade soap such as green soap and a brush. It is important that you scrub all the way up to your elbows and pay close attention to your nails and wrinkles in your hands and knuckles. Rinse and dry. Then put on your latex gloves, go to your work area and assemble your machines.

Always make sure your work area is clean as well before working on a client. Keeping your work area as clean as possible does involve quite a bit of effort but it is well worth it. The area should be blocked off in such a way that it is accessible to only you and your client. Never allow friends or even just people who want to look on in this space. Try to avoid using carpet in the area because simply put, it only serves as a breeding ground for bacteria.

Keep your table covered in Formica or Micarta. This should furthermore be covered with a clear plastic tablecloth that has been coated with Scotchguard to protect the area from dust and dirt when not in use.

When you have assured that both you and your work area are clean, it's time to begin preparing your client.

This is done by wiping down the area to be tattooed with green soap and a sterile pad. Make sure you work in a circular pattern from the middle outward. Once this is complete, remember to remove any hair from the area. Be sure to use a disposable razor for this purpose. After you have shaved the area, you will need to clean the area twice more; once using an alcohol solution and a second time using a Betadine solution. Cover the area with new sterile pads until you're ready to begin work.

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Step 8: Making and Applying Tattoo Stencils

The next step is making and applying the stencil, which is basically your outline. A stencil is the best way to get started. You can either use a pre-made stencil or make your own on paper. If you're making your own it's best to make a copy in black and white first and then do one in full color with solid outlines in black. Once you have both copies of your stencil complete. It is time to transfer
your idea over to the skin.

Now, it's time to put your image on the tracing paper. You will need to moisten the skin and slowly apply the tracing paper onto the skin, making sure the ink is facing down. Next, slowly remove the paper from the skin. You'll notice there is a nice outline left on the skin where it has transferred. Let this dry before moving to the next step.

After the design has been transferred onto your customer and he/she is satisfied with the placement and location, you can begin the actual tattoo work.

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Step 9: Outlining

Before getting started with this part of the process always make sure both you and your client are positioned comfortably. You'll both be in that position for awhile so this is important.

Remember the outline is the foundation for building the rest of the tattoo. If the outline isn't good the rest of the tattoo won't be either. Always make sure to check over your machine first and make sure everything is in order before getting started.

Before getting started with the outline it's a good idea to keep a few guidelines in mind first.

Always tattoo forward or sideways with the machine. This ensures the needles always have a backward pressure so there will be a continual flow of ink in the machine tube.

Remember that tight skin is a must to creating a good tattoo. The hand that is not gripping the tattoo machine must be used to keep the skin pulled taut. If you do not do this and tattoo on loose and saggy skin the art of your tattoo will suffer in the end.

The first step in beginning your outline is to dip the machine tip into the outlining color, which is normally black. This should be done before the machine is ever even turned on. The reservoir should be filled with ink so you can continue for a little while and create the first few lines easily.

Begin your outlining from the bottom of the design and work your way up. After the first few initial lines are done, be sure to stop and see what they look like to ensure there are no problems such as faint lines, etc. After this you'll need to dip the tip into the ink several times to get the outline accomplished. Work to make your lines in one long motion. Remember to fill the tip every few seconds to avoid running dry. Avoid pressing too hard and always start at the top of a line.

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After the tattoo outline is complete you can step back and take a break. Be sure to check it to ensure there is no need for touchups. Now you're ready to continue with the rest of the tattoo, which is shading.

Step 10: Shadowing and Shading

Generally shading with black is known as shadowing. This type of work is very eye-catching and attractive. Unfortunately, if the black shading is not done correctly it can really be the downfall of the tattoo. There is definitely an art form to learning to shade correctly. Black is a very bold color and it is important to master the appropriate techniques of shading. Besides simply applying black on the skin, to learn to shade right you need to learn the idea behind light and shadow to create a realistic shadow. This requires practice and lots of it. It there is one area that you need to master this would be it. Always remember you can correct a wide variety of mistakes if you are able to shadow and shade with black. In fact, in the tattoo industry, artists are often judged by how well they can shade and shadow with black.

Basic Steps to Shading

Remember to use a 4 or 6 needle shader as well as the proper tube, with the needles sticking out 1/32 of an inch from the tip.

To start a shadow, begin with the blackest areas first and then work your way toward the lightest areas. Remember to work in circular motions but make sure you don't overwork it or you'll have black ink everywhere.

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A technique known as sweep shading is used for both color and black shading. The tip of the tattoo machine is moved forward. As you move forward you will need to flick your wrist upward. Remember the sweep shading method requires extensive practice to get it right. It is important to make sure you get this technique right because it is often used for larger tattoos that require a lot of color and intricate designs.

To set up for sweep shading you will need to set the needles further apart. Instead of setting them at 1/32" they will need to be set at 1/16". Increasing the depth will provide the depth needed for color.

To achieve a good color shading make sure you maintain constant, flowing and tight circles. Avoid shading an area more than once to avoid doing damage to the skin. Try not to press too hard on the needle tube as you move it over the area. When you complete an area, be sure to wipe it and then check to see if any touchups are required. Make sure you wipe away the excess ink so you can check the area that should be shaded.

Be aware you will need to follow a certain color sequence to achieve the best tattoo possible. Colors must be inserted in certain orders in order to avoid dulling, clouding and mixing of colors. Colors should be inserted in the following order:

Dark purple
Blues
Greens
Light Purple
Browns
Reds
Orange
Yellow
White

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Make sure you wait a few moments between colors before starting the next color. This allows the colors to set and reduces the chances of clouding.

Step 11: What You Need To Do After the Tattoo Session

After the tattoo session has been completed you will need to sterilize andyou're your tools away. This is very important because it ensure safety and organization. Be sure to place your machines in an Ultrasonic Cleaner for at least 30 minutes and wipe down everything handled during the procedure. The floor of the area should also be mopped and all trash taken out. Remember to close the bags and staple them.

After you remove the needle bars and glass tubes from the Cleaner they will need to scrubbed. After drying it off and then checking it to ensure there is no excessive wear it can be reused.

Sterilization should be your NUMBER ONE priority! If you don't, you can not only get in a lot of trouble and be put out of business, but you also run into many huge health issues.

Step 12: Setting up your Own Tattoo Shop

Beginners just learning the basics will more than likely be tattooing in their own room. At first, working at home can be ideal because it allows you to be confident and comfortable in your own space. It also saves a lot of money. A shop involves rental fees and other costs. Once you have obtained some skills, then you might consider moving to a better location to increase business. For now; however, working from home is a good idea.

When you do eventually set up your own shop, make sure you have enough space for a waiting room, restroom, private tattoo room and a work room to keep your equipment and tools.

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If you are serious about starting your OWN tattoo business, you will need a good tattoo business plan.

Check out: http://www.tattoo-business-plan.com

In regards to setting prices, remember that you will need to cover the cost of your equipment, supplies and if you have your own shop, utilities, advertising, etc. That's a lot of overhead so you will need to charge a reasonable amount to be sure you are covering your costs as well as making enough to make a living. At the same time prices should be consistent and fair or you'll be sure to fail. Get an idea of what the local competition is charging. Many shops find it handy to create price specific categories, usually according to the size of the tattoo.

In addition, don't forget to make sure you are following all local and state ordinances in detail before you start your business. This includes zoning, permits and licenses. Finally, be sure to keep your books up to date and handle the tracking of your income and expenses precisely for tax purposes.

Still want to learn all the DETAILS on how to tattoo?

Be sure to check out the next page below….

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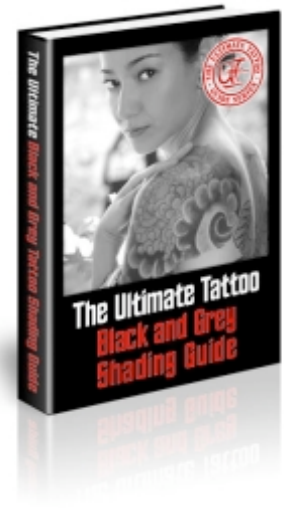


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The Ultimate Tattoo Artist Business Plan
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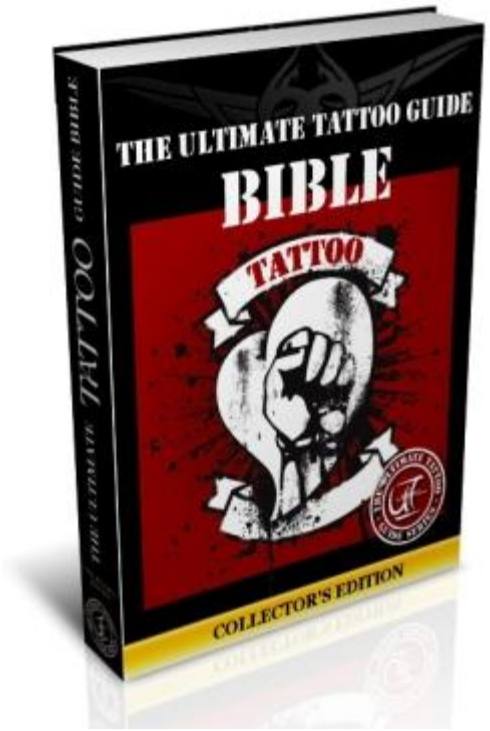
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