



BASIC GUIDELINES FOR GETTING A TATTOO

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PICKING A DESIGN

Choose what **you** like! You have to live with your tattoo for the rest of your life.

Discuss size & color with your artist to achieve the look you want. Sometimes it is better to leave artistic aspects of your tattoo up to the wisdom and experience of your chosen artist.

PLACEMENT OF DESIGN

Give the location of your tattoo considerable thought. It is there forever. If your concerns are for the sensation and level of discomfort involved, your artist should be happy to discuss these aspects with you.

CHOICE OF ARTIST

This subject is probably the most personal of all aspects of receiving a tattoo. If you're considering a tattoo, find the artist that fulfills your needs art-wise as well as in professionalism, price and last but not least, personality. All should make you feel comfortable.

PAYING THE PRICE!

Absolutely don't shop around for "the best price". This is a trade in which you should see examples of the artist's work and question their knowledge. This is not a trade to be bartered with, you pay an hourly rate for time & expertise!

TATTOO SAFETY ADVICE

With the advent of many communicable diseases, some fatal, it has become necessary to institute certain isolation and sterilization procedures in the tattoo process to assure the public of a safe, risk-free tattoo. The following advice has been prepared by professional tattooists working with local, state and national health authorities.

1. Always insist that you see your tattooist remove a new needle & tube set-up from a sealed envelope immediately prior to your tattoo.
2. Be certain you see your tattooist pour a new ink supply into a new disposable container.
3. Make sure your artist puts on a new pair of disposable gloves before setting up tubes, needles and ink supplies.
4. Satisfy yourself that the shop furnishings & tattooist are clean & orderly in appearance; much like a medical facility.
5. Feel free to question the tattooist as to any of his sterile procedures & isolation techniques. Take time to observe them at work & do not hesitate to inquire about their experience & qualifications in the tattoo field.
6. If the tattooist is qualified professional, they will have no problem complying with standards above & beyond these simple guidelines.
7. If the artist or studio does not appear up to these standards or if they become evasive when questioned, seek out a professional tattooist.

ONE WORD ABOUT A.P.T.

"**APT**" or the Alliance of Professional Tattooist is a non profit educational organization that promotes health and safety in the tattoo business. Our interest (and yours!) is to keep ahead of changes occurring in our business field so we can continue to create works of **ART**, albeit in a safe manner! It's that simple.

Read on to find out more!

Officially incorporated June 29, 1992, the Alliance began accepting membership applications. Many had already sent funds to activate **APT** and set the ship in motion...here we are years later, with a successful education program. Over 1400 artists have participated with more to come in the near future! We offer an **insurance program** as a benefit, previously unheard of in the tattoo business.

"What? Insure a tattoo studio? CLICK!" We heard many "clicks" until Ray Pearson of the O.S.

Bruner Agency and APT found each other. We signed a risk purchasing agreement in 1993 and have been able to insure many studios at a reduced rate. People from all walks of life have inquired about the Alliance. We log an average of fifteen to twenty calls per day! Most are from tattooists and fans, but we receive calls from health departments who have heard about our program of continuing education and how this benefits both the tattooist and the community. We also receive calls from **legislators** (Senators and Congressmen / women, and Representatives) who are interested in what **APT** is doing. We have provided many artists with the tools necessary to deal effectively with health department officials, legislators, zoning department officials and public hearings on issues that affect their business practices. Through our seminars we can help artists with difficult times. Our widely known and regarded "*Preventing Disease Transmission in Tattooing*" has helped many artists understand why infection control and the implementation of set, professional standards is preferable to being in the dark about disease transmission.

Membership Categories

Professional (P): an artist with 3 or more years experience tattooing in a fixed location, as full time career. References required. \$150.00

Cosmetic Tattooist (CT): same as (P). \$125

Associate Tattooist (AT): an artist with fewer than 3 years experience tattooing, or serving an apprenticeship. References & Sponsor required. \$100.00

Associate (A): anyone closely allied with the tattoo business but not an artist (ie, a receptionist or studio personnel). Must provide name of studio affiliation or sponsor. \$75.00

Supporting (S): one who has concern for the promotion of tattooing as a professional business (ie a collector of tattoos, a member in an academic research field). \$50.00

Patron (PT): anyone who supports the goals of the APT (ie your Mom, brother, or curious observer!) \$20.00