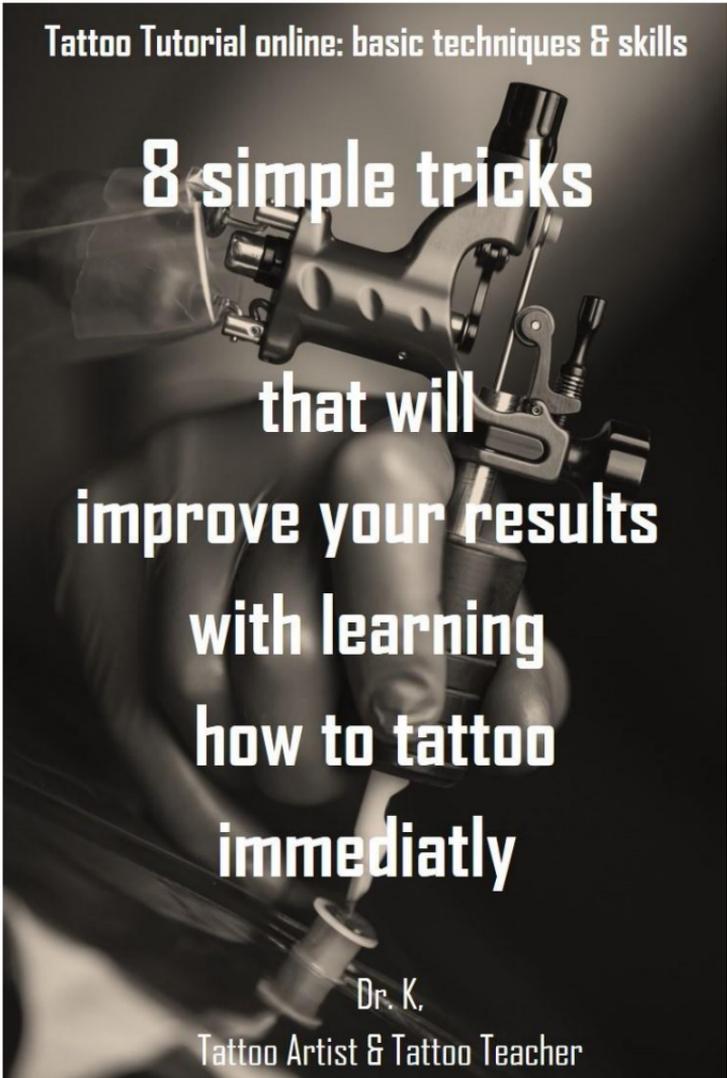


Tattoo Tutorial online: basic techniques & skills



8 simple tricks
that will
improve your results
with learning
how to tattoo
immediatly

Dr. K.
Tattoo Artist & Tattoo Teacher

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. K introduces himself.

My name is Roland, and I am a Tattoo Artist, located in Germany, Europe. In the tattoo business they call me "Dr. Kranzenstein" or just "Dr.K" .

(As I am a german guy, I hope you forgive me if my English isn't always 100% perfect)

I am 38 and have been tattooing for about 7 years. Before I started tattooing , I had a really serious job in the field of Finance & Controlling. Because I didn't know what to do after school, I had studied business administration. And then I spent years torturing myself with jobs that had nothing to do with fun and creativity.

But life is too short to do something you don't enjoy 40 hours a week!

And so, after years of struggle, I took the courage to try something completely new as a profession.

And why tattooing?

At that time I was neither totally talented in drawing nor was I heavily tattooed (to be honest I was not tattooed at all).

But: I wanted to do something creative. Preferably short projects, where you can take a sense of achievement home with you every day. Ideally something to make people a little happy with. Independence was also

important to me, because I just didn't want to have to sit in front of a despotic boss anymore. And of course it had to be something with which you can earn money relatively quickly. I simply could not have afforded a second degree or training.

So I quickly realized that I wanted to learn how to tattoo.

But how do you get started? I had a hard time browsing the internet for weeks, reading through various online forums...

What would I have given to know a tattoo professional who would explain the possibilities and maybe even have some tips on how to do it best.

That's why I decided to write this little ebook.

Because learning to tattoo was one of the best decisions of my life.

To have a job that you enjoy, in a creative but relaxed environment - that is pure quality of life!

And therefore I think that everyone who seriously wants to learn tattooing should also get a chance to do so. That is why I am developing a comprehensive online video tutorial at the moment.

Because with my current knowledge, I am certain that learning to tattoo is first and foremost a matter of practice and routine. So - don't let yourself be discouraged or distracted from your path - you owe it to yourself.

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INTRODUCTION

The tattoo industry is booming.

Being tattooed has arrived in the middle of society. Gone are the days in which tattoos were reserved for criminals and sailors.

Tattoos have become a modern expression of personality, it no longer is a matter of the subversive meaning of tattoos, but of their aesthetics.

Tattoos are regularly broadcast on television, so you can be sure that the tattoo boom will not slow down in the next few years, but rather intensify.

A good tattoo artist can often be recognized by his waiting list for tattoo appointments, which can range from several months to years - even though tattooing is an expensive passion.

A well-trained tattoo artist in Germany charges an average of 100 to 150 euros per hour. Very popular tattoo artists however, take significantly higher hourly rates.

No surprise that more and more people are interested in learning how to tattoo and become a tattoo artist.

If you take a look at the job pages of the most popular tattoo magazines, you immediately see that the pages are full of job offers or shops that are desperately looking for good tattoo artists. In contrast, there are very few (maybe 1:5) job requests from tattoo artists.

So why is the need for good tattoo artists greater than the availability, even though there are many people who would like to learn the profession?

The answer is very simple: because it is so DIFFICULT to find your way in!

This little book is intended to help you find your way around.

And for all who have already made the beginning, but still need a little support, I give away 8 simple tricks, which immediately improve the results while learning how to tattoo!.

CHAPTER 1

8 simple tricks that will improve your tattoo results immediately.

The tricks, which I will pass on to you in the following, are according to my experience exactly the "little things", which decide whether you can really master a tattoo, or not.

However, these tricks have nothing to do with the actual tattoo techniques. Because those are very difficult to explain with text only.

In order to explain all tattoo techniques in detail and step by step, I am creating a comprehensive video tutorial at the moment. There you will be able to watch me in over 100 video lessons and look through my eyes while tattooing, as I explain everything I do and how I do it at the same time.

I will launch this video tutorial within the next few days. If you already signed up for my tutorial newsletter, you will be updated on this automatically. If you are not on my eMail list already, you can sign up [here](#).

The tricks I provide for you in the next chapters are rather tricks concerning the "sideshow" of tattooing.

Nevertheless, the implementation of these tips is very important for the tattoo result, even if they may seem unimportant or trivial to you.

In my career as a tattoo teacher, I have taught dozens of

people the techniques during an apprenticeship in my tattoo shop in Düsseldorf, Germany. There were some apprentices who took these tips very seriously. These were the ones who improved their technique very quickly.

And those who didn't take these tips seriously, and didn't apply them because they seemed too trivial to them, were also the ones who ended up delivering faulty tattoo work over and over again.

That's why I tell you: In tattooing the little things go a long way. Because the little details make up the whole. And if a tattoo artist puts less than 100 percent of his effort and love into half of the small things, you can definitely notice that in the overall picture of the tattoo.

TRICK NO. 1

Pay attention to
perfect size, alignment and placement.

In order to clarify these three issues with the customer prior to the tattooing process, you should take your time. In order to determine the right size, I use a flexible ruler to measure the body area of the customer. Then I print out the design, which I have adjusted to the exact size before, and cut it out to attach it to the body part to take a look. This is the only way I can judge whether the design will really look good in that certain size. If not, I will try out other sizes.

As i have seen all too often, inappropriate size can ruin the whole tattoo.

If you have animals or people as a design, their gaze should always go in the customers walking direction !

The question, whether the design should be placed facing the right way (or upside down) for the viewer, or for the person to be tattooed himself, is a controversial question between tattoo artist and customer. Especially with first-time customers, this question arises again and again ("but I do it for myself, I want to see it facing the right way"). Especially with tattoos on the wrist and forearm this question is inevitable. I then always insist that at least after the fifth time when somebody approaches him about his tattoo, and ask why the lettering is upside

down, it will start to annoy him.

And thus I have experienced many customers who did regret a decision like that at some point.... Exactly because the tattoo was not readable or not recognizable for strangers, and they were addressed again and again about it in a negative way.

For this reason, there are many tattoo artists who generally refuse to tattoo designs facing upside down (for everyone else than the customer). I myself try not to patronize the customer, but always tell him very vividly my opinion or experience on this. And most customers, especially those who don't have much experience with tattoos yet, are usually very grateful for your qualified opinion and advice.

A tattoo artist who only says "alright, we can do it like you want" to each and every design seems neither professional nor responsible!

You should also choose the placement carefully and leave nothing to chance.

With tattoos on arms or legs I always determine a central axis and mark it with a skin pencil. I then align the design with this axis.

Nothing can ruin the good appearance of a tattoo like a bad placement. Namely whenever you get the impression that the tattoo is not centered to body axes and muscle groups.

It becomes especially difficult if you tattoo symmetrical designs... because hardly any human body is really symmetrical... there is only one thing that helps: take a lot of time and pay all your attention!

TRICK NO. 2

Get the customers as close as you can!

I know that sounds rather irrelevant at first... but I can tell you: "get closer to me" is the sentence I say to customers most often, and usually several times during a session.

Because only if the spot is as close as possible to me, I have a secure hold and also enough grip to make lines perfectly, or to shade areas from the optimal angle.

If, for example, I tattoo a customer who is lying down on a couch, I always let him slide up to the outer edge of the couch next to me ! ALWAYS !

Also when the customer is sitting vis-à-vis on a chair, I usually still say: "Take your stool and slide to me as close as possible !"

Many tattoo newbies have hesitations to annoy the customers again and again with such things... so they say nothing and think: "oh, it will work like that". But the truth is: NO, it doesn't work. At least not without the correct execution of the technique suffering and you definitely will notice it with the results in the end.

These inhibitions you must take off absolutely! Remember, YOU are the one who is responsible for making the tattoo good... You have to create your own optimal working conditions !

TRICK NO. 3

Push the customer around during the tattoo session !

Of course, I do not mean that literally.

In order to always be able to tattoo from the best angle during the session, I often reposition the body part that I am tattooing (for example a leg or an arm), or the entire person, several times during a session. Sometimes I change the entire posture of the customer ... from sitting to lying and vice versa ... sometimes I change sides, turn the couch 180 degrees ... and sometimes I move the arm of the customer back and forth, and turn it from one side to the other. And in extreme cases I do so after each line!

It is especially important to me that I put my spot, (that's the area where I am tattooing) in a position that is frontal to me, like a piece of paper on a desk.

Because against the force of gravity you can hardly bring the ink under the skin!

Pictures of body postures, in which I put the customers for tattooing various spots, you will find in the comprehensive video tattoo tutorial that I am currently working on!

As with my Tip No. 2, you must get rid of your shyness ! I usually show the customer how he should sit down at the beginning of the session. And then I also announce: "but I will keep moving you back and forth during the session anyway". Then the customer is prepared for that, and I don't think about it any more, but simply move the body part back and forth as I need it.

Many customers are very sensitive and help with their whole body to turn the way you need it. Of course, there are always some people that are as movable as a bag of cement. You have to give these customers loud and clear instructions how to move in order to help you!

Always remember: the techniques I teach in my tattoo tutorials can only be applied correctly if you ensure optimal body posture!

TRICK NO. 4

Ensure perfect sight at the needle !

The perfect sight is extremely important for a good result! The first thing you need is of course a bright lamp, preferably a floor lamp that you can move back and forth. As a light source I use a 100 watt whitelight LED bulb. There's nothing brighter in the market !

And then you have to make sure with your own body posture that you can always see how the needle hits the stencil... to show you how exactly I sit while tattooing, I shot videos for you which you will be able to see in my upcoming video tutorial.

If all these requirements are met and you still feel that you can't see the needle properly, you should have your eyes checked !

I am completely serious about that... I have a visual impairment of 2.5 dioptries myself, and I finally noticed it when I started tattooing! I always had the feeling that I could not fix the needle properly with my eyes. Meanwhile I wear glasses for working and can see laser sharp.

TRICK NO. 5

Create an environment in which you can
concentrate well

Tattooing is exhausting! There are many things you have to pay attention to, and the result of what you do remains forever, so that you are somewhat tense most of the time ! And as a newbie without routine you have to concentrate even more.

But also the ability to concentrate is, fortunately, something you can train. Meanwhile I tattoo 6 to 7 hours sessions at a time, without concentration problems.

Especially when you start tattooing friends and acquaintances, it might be the case that they want to chat with you in during the tattooing process. For the

first tattoos, however, this is not so good, because it disturbs your concentration considerably. To avoid that, you can ask people to listen to music using ear plugs, or you can listen to music using ear plugs yourself. If you simply tell them that you can concentrate better if you don't chat, everyone will understand! You can still chat a little with the customers after you're done tattooing.

During the first two to three years, I really noticed how my concentration diminished after 3 hours to such an extent, that I had the feeling that I simply couldn't tattoo any further.

If you really can't concentrate any more during longer sessions, then you'd better interrupt the session and continue tattooing another time. Even smaller breaks, in order to stand up, stretch a little, and let your eyes relax, will help you endure longer sessions.

So if you feel at the beginning that tattooing is very exhausting for your concentration, be reassured: It gets better.

TRICK NO. 6

Put 100% of your love in every single line !

Remember: a tattoo is the sum of its single parts. And you can tell by the result whether the tattoo artist tried to create the perfect tattoo or not. You always have to keep the demands on yourself high. Even if you're usually the more relaxed type... to become a good tattoo artist, you have to be more picky than any customer will ever be!

So always put 100% of your love in your tattoos, and in every single line, it will be visible in your result. And if you need a long time for your tattoos at the beginning, that is not a bad thing at all.

Of course it is important that your customers are satisfied. But in the end it is much more important that you are satisfied with your work yourself !

TRICK NO. 7

Find a perfect prototype for every tattoo you will do
and try to outdo it.

Find a perfect prototype for every tattoo you will do
and try to outdo it.

That's why I'm still researching on the internet how other artists realise certain designs. And then I analyse what exactly makes the tattoo look particularly good and try to apply exactly that to my tattoo. That doesn't mean that you should copy other tattoos. It's more about learning from your role models and transferring the style.

With a simple lettering this may not be necessary, but with everything that goes beyond that, I can only recommend this procedure to you.

Particularly in the early days this procedure helped me **EXTREMELY** to further develop my skills. Because I had to develop first a feeling for what looks good with Tattoos and what does not.

I print out the prototype tattoo , in addition to my own design, and lay or hang both in front of me when I tattoo. So I can have a look at it again and

again during the tattooing process.

TRICK NO. 8

Take responsibility for the entire tattoo creation process.

This is perhaps the most important tip at all. Because as soon as you start to take responsibility for the entire creation process and of course also for the result of the tattoo, you will improve enormously!

This often begins with the selection of the design. Many customers will come to you with pictures of badly realised tattoos or tasteless designs.

You must decide which category of tattoo artist you want to belong to.

The first category of tattooists thinks: "well, if he wants it that way, then I'll do it" and realizes the customers design wishes without any ifs or buts. If you belong to this kind of tattoo artist, you quickly accumulate very average and uninspiring pictures in your tattoo portfolio. As a result, potential new customers who want a really good tattoo, will look at your portfolio and rather look for someone else. Because an other person, who sees average or even bad tattoos in your portfolio, will never think "oh, that's what the customer definitely wanted...". .

he will always think that you did it deliberately, it's YOUR job after all.

The second category of tattoo artists says to the customer: "We can make it similar, but I have already a few ideas, how we can realize it much more beautifully".

And the vast majority of customers appreciate this approach!

The second category of tattooists, by the way, do not work for a final result that satisfies the customer. These tattooists work for a final result that shows off their skills. Which could be the most impressive picture in their portfolio. Customer satisfaction then comes all by itself, by the way!

But your responsibility as a tattoo artist goes further of course.

When applying the stencil, for example, it is very important that the customer is in an upright, straight, natural posture. If he twists his head, the skin will distort all over his body. A stencil attached in distorted body posture, can become a real tattoo fail if it is tattooed like this. Because as soon as the customer brings himself into a quite natural posture (which he usually does 95% of the day), the tattoo will appear distorted.

Unfortunately, many customers tend to try to see what you are doing when the stencil is attached, and

twist and turn. And that's when it's your responsibility to perceive this and prevent it.

One of my most common sentences is: "Stand naturally. Look straight ahead. And please don't try to "present" the spot to me in any way.

The same applies to customers who move a lot or even wiggle. As a tattoo artist you are the professional in the room. The one who bears the responsibility.

So I tell wiggly customers very loud and clear that they have to stop moving if they want a clean result. Sometimes even a customer who gestures with his hands while talking can disturb the tattooing process on his leg, because even the smallest movements get through there. I tell the customer this loud and clear until he behaves accordingly.

The only thing you as a tattoo artist have barely an influence on is the aftercare.

Nevertheless, you should always give your customer very clear aftercare advice.

My advice is: Leave the plastic, that I wrap around the fresh tattoo overnight, but be sure to remove it the next morning. then clean the Tattoo with your hand and water only. Afterwards thinly apply Panthenol ointment. Apply the ointment 5 times a day for 3 weeks,

Until the scab falls off (by no means knibbeln yourself) do not bathe, swim, sauna or sunbathe. Then it will heal properly!



A NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

I hope that this ebook could at least help you a bit.

I'd really be happy if we could stay connected. So if you would like to see my actual tattoo work or hear about new tutorial projects, follow me on facebook and instagram:

[Click here to follow me on facebook](#)

[click here to follow me on instagram](#)

Kind regards

Dr. K