

TATTOO GENESIS

TATTOO NEEDLES EXPLAINED

Tattoo needles are a topic that trips up a lot of beginner tattoo artists. Why are there so many groupings and diameters and tapers and counts to remember anyway?

It all seems confusing at first, and it can be a headache to even seasoned professionals in the industry. But, once you know what they are for, it will make a whole lot of sense.



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Traditional and cartridges

Traditional tattoo needles have a long metal bar with the brush. These are used on both rotary and coil machines.

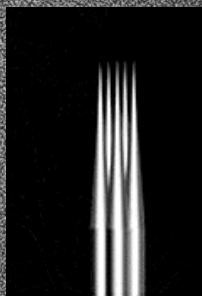
Cartridge tattoo needles, on the other hand, consist of a plastic tube with a shorter needle. These come with a membrane that prevents the ink from running into the tattoo machine. This type of needle is used mainly in rotary machines, and exclusively in pen machines.

Types of tattoo needles

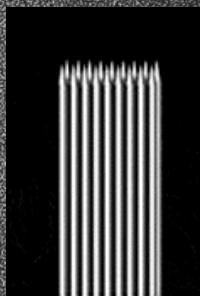
**Round
Liner
Needles**



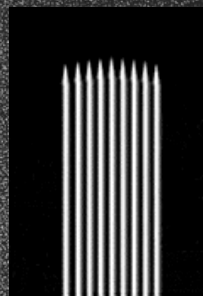
**Round
Shader
Needles**



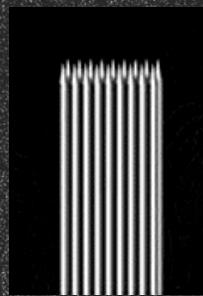
**Magnum
Shader
Needles**



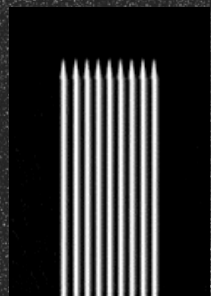
**Curved
Magnum
Shader**



**Double Stack
Magnum
Shader**



**Flat
Shader
Needles**





Round Liner needles

- Dot work
- All lining work both (bold and intricate)
- Script and lettering
- Japanese traditional and neo-traditional
- Geometric
- Tribal
- Samoan

These needles are soldered in a round pattern to create clean and crisp lines. A 01 rounder liner will create a very fine line while the 14 will create a very thick line.

Round Shader needles

The difference between round liners and shaders is the closeness of the pins. Round shaders are good for creating thick lines, color filling, and basic shading.

Magnum Shader needles

These are popular for shading because they hold and deliver a lot of ink, making them perfect for big tattoos that need a lot of color packing and shading. They allow an artist to make fewer passes over an area, which means less trauma to the skin.





Curved Magnum Shader needles

Curved magnum shaders are also called soft magnums, soft edge magnums, and round magnums. These pins arch at the center, so they can run along the skin more uniformly to create consistent lines.

Double Stack Magnum Shader needles

These needles are packed even tighter, which makes them ideal for intricate shading and colorwork. They are not as popular anymore.

Flat Shader Needles

These needles have pins that are soldered in a straight line on the needle bar. The smaller ones are used for lining since they deliver more ink to the skin in one stroke. The large ones are used for color fill and shading.

Flat shader needles are best used for intricate shading needs, like with geometric patterns and mandala work. They're also popularly used for semi-permanent makeup.





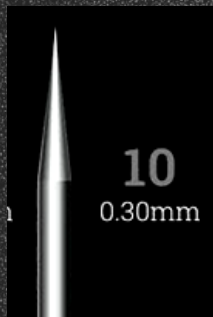
Diameter

You will have to decide between short taper, long taper, extra long taper, and even super long taper tattoo needles.

When the taper is long and fine, you will have more control over the ink flow. This is fine if you're filling, but sacrificing ink flow speed is not a good idea for line work. Long tapers are more suitable for line work.

The gauge of the needle is directly linked to ink flow. The narrower the gauge or diameter, the finer and more controlled the ink flow.

Gauge is indicated by numbers, typically 8, 10, and 12.



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#8 gauge (0.25mm diameter)

Also called Bugpins, the slow ink flow is perfect for intricate or detailed work. The tightly compact pins mean they hold more ink.

#10 Gauge (0.30mm Diameter)

Also referred to as Double Zeros, #10 gauge can be used with all styles of tattooing as they are the middle gauge size. These needles have a steady, controlled flow, but it is much freer than the #8 gauge.

#12 Gauge (0.35mm Diameter)

These needles are called Standards, and they are popular with all needle groupings and tattoo sizes. They have a faster ink flow and are commonly used for lining and traditional work, creating bold lines and color packing/shading large areas.

Tattoo needle counts

The last thing you need to learn about is tattoo needle count. This is a pretty straightforward concept. It refers to the number of pins in the grouping.

For example, a 1209RL means a 12 gauge (see above for gauge info), 09 Round Liner Needle. The 09 means 9 needle counts (or 9 pins used to make a round grouping).





TATTOO GENESIS

se - soft edge

3-liner			0,30 mm	9-magnum			0,35 mm
5-liner			0,30 mm	9-magnum-se			0,35 mm
5-shader			0,30 mm	13-liner			0,30 mm
5-magnum			0,35 mm	13-shader			0,30 mm
7-liner			0,30 mm	13-magnum			0,35 mm
7-shader			0,30 mm	13-magnum-se			0,35 mm
7-magnum			0,30 mm	17-magnum			0,35 mm
7-magnum-se			0,30 mm	17-magnum-se			0,35 mm
9-liner			0,30 mm	23-magnum-se			0,30 mm
9-shader			0,30 mm				



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Tattoo needle size chart and how to match your tips & tubes

We've put together this handy chart which will help you match the correct needles with the right size tips or vice versa. It also indicates what type of work the needle size is used for.

Are the needles well made?

Check to ensure the needles/pins are straight and securely soldered onto the needle bar. Faulty needles will not hold or disperse ink properly and will cause unnecessary trauma.

Will these needles work with my equipment?

Before buying needles, make sure they're compatible with your existing setup.

If you need help with matching tubes and tips to your needle gauge size and type, just use the matching guide above.

Another important thing to remember is that one size never fits all, especially in art. Some artists may argue about the uses of needles above, but it's all about what works for you. You'll discover that through practice, so don't worry about it.



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