

A little something from Brother Giz

Winter is once again upon us and as a lot of you bros in the northern states put up the bikes until the snow melts, Thoughts turn to preparing for the next riding season. Way down here in the southern states, most of us ride year round (except for the rubs who think 50 degrees is too cold to ride). Anyway back to what I was getting to, I am a tattoo artist and winter seems to be a busy season for me as far as the bikers are concerned. I guess since not as much riding going on they come get new artwork. So I thought I would give you guys a few tips on picking a tattoo shop. There are a lot of folks interested in tattoos today with the advent of the tv shows (god I'm

glad I started tattooing long before they came out..and OCC syndrome hits). By the OCC syndrome I mean when the show came out it seemed everyone decided they could build custom bikes, now with the tattoo shows there will be a lot more people trying to get into the tattoo industry (god help us all). I hope these few tips will help you bro's and sisters avoid some of the bad shops out there. Most of this will be old news to the freaks like myself covered with them. But for you bro's and sister's out there new to the scene these tips may save you not only some grief but some coin as well.

Here are a few things to look for:

1. Is the shop clean?

If the floors are dirty and trash cans are overflowing in the lobby chances are this shop isn't doing all it can to keep everything as sterile as possible. First Impressions are everything. Does the artist look like he bathes? are his clothes clean? would you eat at a restaurant that looked like a porta-john? so why would you let someone inject something into your skin in a place that looks like an outhouse?

2. Ask the artist to explain the procedure and see their work: Im not saying ask them so many questions you piss them off, but most reputable shops will be happy to ask any questions you have. If they are not willing to talk to you run away fast, they are more interested in your

coin than doing a good tattoo also ask to see some of the artists work, we are a funny breed we like to show people our portfolios if they are scared to show you their work they are hiding something.

3. Ask about sterilization procedure:

All reputable shops will use single use needles and own an autoclave (not a pressure cooker) to sterilize tubes and piercing supplies. a very important question to ask when discussing sterilization procedure is to ask how often they spore test their autoclave.



Most states require that an autoclave be spore tested at least once a month AND that the tattoo artist must present to the customer upon request the results of the spore test. To put it in easy to understand terms a spore test is conducted by an independent lab to make sure the autoclave kills everything it should and is working proper-

4. Price:

There is an old saying "good tattoos ain't cheap and cheap tattoos aren't good" I find this to be true. I can honestly say I make a good bit of money fixing bad homemade tattoos, if you find a shop you like and you don't have enough cash to get what you want done save for it until you do

you will be happier in the long run and richer too. I cant count how many tattoos I have been paid a couple hundred bucks to fix or cover that I would have done right the first time for 75 bucks. I hear it every day "You want \$200.00 to fix my tattoo and it only cost me 50 to have it done?"

5. Aftercare:

This is the biggest reason a tattoo will look like crap is aftercare. Once you leave the shop the future of your new Tattoo is up to you. Make sure you follow the instructions you are given to the letter. Any Good shop should not only give you written instructions about the care of your tattoo, they should also go over it with you and answer any questions you have. Although the aftercare instructions will vary from artist to artist slightly here are a few common absolute no-no's for a new tattoo.

- 1. Never and I mean Never put Vaseline or Neosporin on a new tattoo it will draw the ink out of it and it will look like hell when it heals. Use A&D ointment or Keri lotion and only thinly applied if you can se it you have to much on.
- 2. Avoid soaking in the tub, hot tubs, swimming pools, Tanning beds, and keep the tattoo out of direct sun. Once again this will draw the ink out of the skin. even after the tattoo is healed put a good sun block on when going out in the sun for a long

Hopefully these tips will help you be happy with your new tattoo. Remember a tattoo is for life so do a little research and go in with an informed decision. If anyone has any questions Im sure preacher will be happy to pass them along to me and I will be happy to answer them if I can.

Giz(owner/head artist) Mad Dreams Tattoo Monroe, Georgia