

DOI 10.36074/logos-01.08.2025.039

USE OF THE 3RL TECHNIQUE IN TATTOOING WHEN DEPICTING GREEK GODS

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In the modern world, tattooing represents a distinctive form of self-expression that combines artistic exploration with the rich cultural heritage of humanity. Scientific studies on tattoo styles cover a broad spectrum of topics, including historical, cultural, psychological, and artistic dimensions. The primary goal is to identify the classification and characteristics of contemporary tattoo styles [1]. According to Ignatenko D. A., current trends in tattooing development suggest that it has become a significant avenue for self-expression. Tattoos enable individuals to emphasize their personal nuances and convey them to others. They can be perceived as text, albeit encoded in symbolic form, yet open to interpretation. The growing popularity of tattoo art today reflects a unique response by individuals to the challenges of globalization, technologization, and urbanization [2].

According to the statement by Krotevych O., the concept of tattooing plays a key role in the study of tattooing as a graphic form of art and a component of contemporary design. Tattooing refers to the process of creating a permanent image on the body by introducing pigment into the subcutaneous tissue, resulting in art pieces that adorn the human body. In this context, tattooing serves as a vivid example of the designer-graphic direction of visual arts. The study of historical facts related to the cultural and aesthetic traditions of various peoples allows for a deeper understanding of the processes behind the emergence of this art form. Based on historical sources, it can be asserted that the art of tattooing originates from primitive cultural environments. Researchers associate the origins of its dissemination with a number of peoples, many of whom are known today primarily through ancient texts. Among these peoples are the Dacians, Gauls, Picts, Germans, Sarmatians, Scythians, the legendary Agathyrsi, Thracians, Libyans, Danlins, Kyrgyz, Ainu, and Japanese [3].

Recently, in modern society, there has been a growing interest in traditional symbols and mythological motifs, particularly in the images of Greek gods that reflect centuries-old history.

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Greek mythology has a profound cultural influence, and its characters are often featured in modern tattoo art. Thanks to the technical capabilities of the 3RL needle, it is possible to achieve high precision in reproducing intricate details, such as facial features and textures.

Modern tattooing combines art with the latest technologies, where portrait and symbolic images inspired by mythological stories acquire special significance. Both Ukrainian and international studies emphasize that contemporary tattoo techniques rely on the careful selection of tools to ensure high artistic quality and minimize skin damage.

It should be noted that tattoos are among the most ancient forms of art, which have evolved into a refined technique involving various equipment and methods. One of the popular trends is the depiction of mythological figures, particularly Greek gods, which are distinguished by profound symbolism and high artistic value. In this context, the 3RL (3 Round Liner) technique plays an important role in creating detailed and realistic tattoos.

In the art of tattooing, the 3RL (3 Round Liner) technique is one of the most popular and widely used methods for creating precise outlines, fine details, and delicate lines. It is particularly well-suited for tattoos depicting Greek gods due to its versatility and precision in many aspects.

First and foremost, 3RL is ideal for outlining the precise contours of faces, attributes (weapons, wreaths, scepters, etc.), and other intricate elements associated with Greek gods. Thin lines allow for capturing the complexity of details, such as curls of hair or beards in depictions of Zeus or Athena.

Additionally, 3RL enables the rendering of the smallest elements with exceptional accuracy. The 3RL needle facilitates the creation of subtle details: delicate facial features, hair texture, folds in clothing, and other intricate elements. This is particularly vital for preserving the classical style and aesthetic essence of ancient art.

This technique allows for achieving sharper delineation of contours, such as the outlines of gods, weapons, or symbolic attributes. It ensures clean and precise lines, contributing to the harmony and balance of the composition.

The 3RL needle is also effective for linear shading, allowing the creation of soft shadows and gradients. This adds depth to the artwork, making the image more dimensional and lifelike.

Additionally, fine strokes are often added to tattoos of Greek gods to create a visual effect of depth and dimension. The use of the 3RL technique allows for subtle shading in small areas, such as shadows on faces or detailing of muscle structure.

Regarding work with symbolic elements, Greek gods are often associated with symbols (Athena's owl, Poseidon's trident, Zeus's lightning). Using 3RL enables

meticulous detailing of these symbols, highlighting their expressiveness and clarity in the design.

The 3RL technique also facilitates a smooth transition to other techniques. In essence, the 3RL technique seamlessly integrates with other tattooing methods, enhancing the overall appearance of the composition and harmoniously complementing more voluminous details.

Attention should be paid to the advantages of the 3RL technique. First and foremost, it provides high precision and detail. This technique is ideal for intricate and symbolic tattoos, such as depictions of Greek gods, as it allows for the accurate reproduction of complex imagery thanks to its detailing. The fine lines characteristic of 3RL add aesthetic refinement and realism to the tattoo, giving the image expressiveness and emphasizing its essence.

The features of this technique become even more impressive when combined with other methods, such as Magnum shading, which adds depth and dimensionality to the creations. Such a combination enables tattoo artists to implement complex concepts that transcend traditional tattoo art.

Due to its ability to work with fine details and form clear contours, the 3RL technique is extremely effective for creating tattoos based on mythological characters. It supports the transmission of symbolic elements of Greek gods while preserving their cultural and artistic value. Integrating 3RL with additional techniques not only expands the possibilities for artists but also deepens artistic expression within the realm of tattoo design.

It is also worth considering the 3RL technique.

3RL (Three Round Liner) is a specialized type of needle consisting of three ultra-thin elements combined into a compact round bundle. The primary purpose of this technique is to create precise and refined lines, which are crucial for detailing designs, reproducing complex elements, textures, and ornaments, particularly in mythology-themed tattoos. The needle diameter typically ranges from 0.25–0.30 mm, allowing for the application of pigment with high accuracy while minimizing skin damage. Thanks to its thin construction, this tool reduces pain, minimizes bleeding, and ensures a faster healing process. Moreover, 3RL allows for working in multiple layers, creating effects of volume and depth.

The evolution of tattoo needles has come a long way—from primitive tools to modern instruments made of surgical steel. A significant breakthrough in this field was achieved by S. O'Reilly, who patented the first electric tattoo machine using a group of needles in 1891. In subsequent years, various types of specialized needles were developed, including 3RL, meeting the high artistic standards of contemporary tattoo artistry. Scientific research and practical reviews indicate that ensuring the high-quality execution of linear tattoos requires consideration of

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several key parameters, such as needle penetration depth control, machine voltage settings, movement speed, and an optimal application angle. Insufficient or excessive control of needle depth, as well as inappropriate voltage settings, can result in uneven pigment distribution, aesthetic defects in the tattoo, and significantly complicate the skin healing process.

Innovative technological developments, including sensor systems and robotic mechanisms for controlling needle operation, have marked a significant advancement in this field. Their use enhances pigment distribution accuracy, minimizes risks of tissue damage, and optimizes the tattooing process. The implementation of these solutions contributes to increased safety levels and improvements in the artistic execution of designs.

Particular attention should be given to the use of machines equipped with 3RL needle types for creating fine line tattoos, especially when depicting mythological motifs such as images of Greek gods. This technique opens up vast opportunities for the detailed reproduction of symbolic elements, ensuring sharp design contours and conveying profound conceptual essence.

The application of the 3RL technique in tattoos depicting Greek gods is grounded in contemporary research and advancements in tattooing equipment. The combination of technological innovations, attention to safety and hygiene, and the high skill level of artists enables the creation of detailed, durable, and aesthetically refined tattoos that embody the finest traditions of tattoo art.

The 3RL technique is one of the primary tools for creating precise outlines. It is extremely popular among tattoo artists when performing work that requires highlighting facial features, muscle structures, hair textures, or symbolic attributes of ancient Greek gods. This needle is an essential instrument for outlining boundaries and emphasizing various elements of the image.

Detail work is one of the most critical aspects in executing portrait tattoos with mythological themes. Thanks to the 3RL technique, a high level of precision is achieved in reproducing small details, including those that convey the characteristic traits of ancient Greek art and the style of antiquity. Artists particularly appreciate the ability of this needle to convey emotions, proportions, and the complexity of the deities' images.

Regarding stylistic approaches, the 3RL technique plays a significant role in both realistic and illustrative tattoo styles. In realistic compositions, it is used to create fine lines with high detail and subtle shadow transitions through hatching. In linear styles, its application helps maintain clarity, minimalism, and the structural logic of the image.

The versatility of the 3RL technique is one of its defining features. Tattoo artists often combine it with other needles, particularly thicker RL (Round Liner) or RS (Round Shader), which allows for additional depth, optimized compositional

accents, and harmonious integration of drawing details while preserving the delicacy of the contours achieved through the 3RL technique.

In contemporary practice, this technique is widely utilized in tattoo studios. Artists' works inspired by ancient Greek mythology often highlight fine line detailing, which aligns with current trends in tattoo art and complements the aesthetic of mythological characters. Depictions of Greek gods using a 3RL needle possess unique characteristics that significantly impact the quality and nature of completed works. To enhance contrasts and achieve a volumetric effect in tattoos, 3RL is frequently combined with thicker needles, such as 5RL or RS. This method enables the artist to deliver a broader range of detail and texture. The 3RL needle is prominently used in several popular styles: – Realism: precise rendering of facial features, textures, and depth in the image; – Linework: minimalist tattoos with a focus on perfect line clarity; – Blackwork: designs in black ink featuring sharp details and rich saturation; – Illustrative style: blending smooth lines with dynamic strokes for added expressiveness.

Thus, the 3RL technique is a fundamental component of the process of creating tattoos depicting Greek gods. Its use enables the accurate and aesthetically pleasing reproduction of complex symbolic images, ensuring profound expressiveness and preserving the characteristic motifs of ancient mythology in modern interpretation. It is ideally suited for creating refined portraits of gods, intricate ornaments, typographic compositions, and symbolic elements, providing high precision and aesthetic quality. Additionally, it is noted for reduced trauma and faster healing. Thanks to fine needles, this technique has a delicate impact on the skin, minimizing the risk of hyperpigmentation or complications during the healing process. Precise control over pigment depth ensures sharp lines that retain their aesthetic appearance even after many years. The 3RL technique is pivotal in creating tattoos of Greek gods. It allows a focus on precision, subtlety, and the aesthetic expressiveness of each image, emphasizing the mythological symbolism of the characters. Due to its high level of detail and visual impact, this technique becomes an integral part of contemporary body art, embodying the spirit of ancient culture in tattoos for a new generation.

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