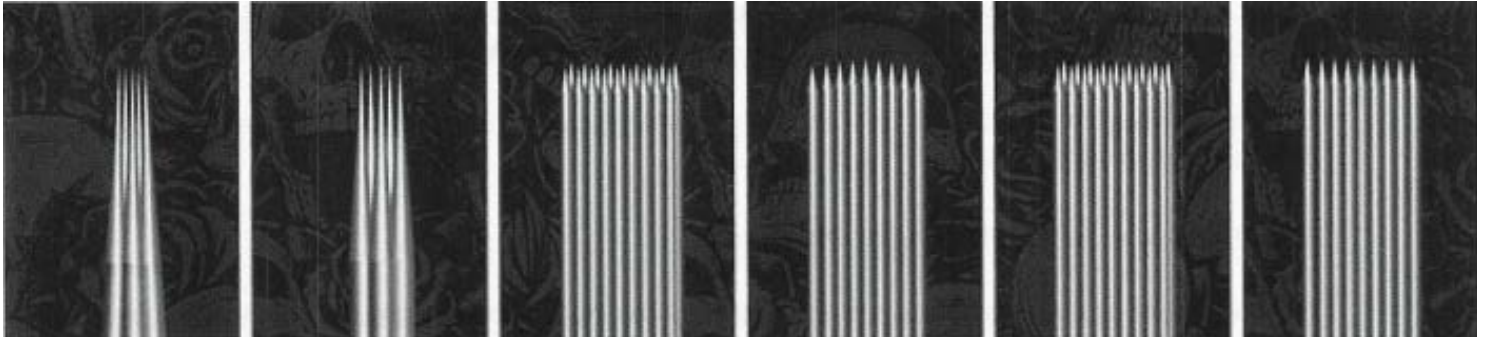


# Needle Types

When looking at a page of tattoo needles on a website or in a catalog, it can seem a little overwhelming with all different options available. No need to worry though! Here's where the learning begins.

All these options fall into six basic groupings of tattoo needles:



**Round Liner  
Needles**

**Round Shader  
Needles**

**Magnum  
Shader  
Needles**

**Curved Magnum  
Shader  
Needles**

**Double Stack  
Magnum Shader  
Needles**

**Flat Shader  
Needles**

## Round Liner Needles

The pins on round liner needles are soldered in a round pattern to produce crisp, clean lining tattoo work. 1 RL is very fine and 7RL is very thick (See Needle Diameter page).

## Round Shader Needles

Round shaders are very similar to round liners except the pins are not placed as close together. Meaning, for as well as doing thicker lines, they can also be used for color filling and basic shading.

## Magnum Shader Needles

Magnum shaders are the preferred grouping or needle type for pretty much all shading work. Magnums hold and deliver a lot of ink, making them perfect for large areas of color packing and shading. Less passes are required over an area to work the ink in meaning less trauma to the skin. There are a few different variations of magnum needles.

## Curved Magnum Shader Needles

Also known as soft magnums, soft edge magnums and round magnums- are used in the same way except the pins are arranged so they arch at the center. Meaning the edges of the needle run along the skin with more conformity, allowing for better dispersal of ink and a more consistent line. It's also less damaging to the skin and helps with soft shading.

## Double Stack Magnum Shader Needles

Not as current as they maybe once were. The pins on double stack magnums, or double stacks, are packed much more tightly together. This helps for any intricate shading or color work where you still want it to perform as a magnum with many pins but now as spread out.

## Flat Shader Needles

Flat shader needles are pins that are soldered in a straight line on the needle bar. These needles are used for lining because their shape lets them deliver more ink to the skin. This means clearer, darker lines with just one stroke. Larger flat needles can be used for color fills and shading as they deliver more ink quickly with just one pass.