**[miss adventure](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1003-miss-adventure/" \o "Go to miss adventure's profile)**

* Deck Swabber
* 
* 
* Member
* 26 posts
* Location:usa and europe
* Interests:pirates, belly dance, tattoos, scooters

([IP: 67.35.33.63](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=67.35.33.63)) ·

[Posted February 18, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=findComment&comment=37379) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=reportComment&comment=37379)

you know, being a tattooer, you think i would already know the answer to my question, but i don't...

is there any reference ANYWHERE to pirates having tattoos that labeled them a pirate? i saw that jack had what looked to be a brand with a capital P on his inner forearm, and i am wondering if there is any truth to this particular punishment?

i am having no luck, even after scouring my library and online...

if pirates were indeed tattooed, is there a database somewhere where i might find such images and their meanings?



* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=edit)

[**Black Deacon**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/531-black-deacon/)

* Plunderer
* 
* 
* Member
* 311 posts
* Location:Houston, TX
* Interests:Graphic Design, Stunts, Special Effects, Pirates, Massage Therapy, DJ

([IP: 204.235.237.65](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=204.235.237.65)) · · 

[Posted February 18, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=findComment&comment=37380) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=reportComment&comment=37380)

The branding at one point was done on the forehead. Usually we was just hung.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=editComment&comment=37380)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/#elControls_37380_menu)

[**Wartooth**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1037-wartooth/)

* Ship's Master
* 
* 
* Member
* 119 posts
* Location:Dusty & Boring Reno, Nevada
* Interests:My wife and 3 sons, of course. My Welsh & Dutch heritage, including the substantial privateering and roguish ancestry therein. Martial sword work focusing on longsword, short sword, rapier, and baskethilt saber.

([IP: 64.66.194.65](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=64.66.194.65)) · · 

[Posted February 18, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=findComment&comment=37392) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=reportComment&comment=37392)

 Black Deacon said:

The branding at one point was done on the forehead. Usually we was just hung.

Lloyd's right. A brand wouldn't do much to mark you. Plus, who's to say a typical pirate would give a damn? Hanging was much more effective. Most tattoos would probably be more generally nautical in nature, found on sailors of all cultures and ship-classes.

Miss Adventure - not to steal your thread, but .....

I have been looking for flash art of octopuses (yes, octopuses not octopi ... don't mix your Latin and Greek ). Have been unable to find anything printable in black & white. Am wanting one on my left arm and my local artist only has 2 in his books ... both are okay but not exactly what I want. Any ideas where I can look?

Thanks,

Wartooth

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=editComment&comment=37392)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/#elControls_37392_menu)

[**JoshuaRed**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/81-joshuared/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,342 posts

([IP: 151.138.254.21](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=151.138.254.21)) · · 

[Posted February 18, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=findComment&comment=37394) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=reportComment&comment=37394)

Yeah. Tattooing was virtually unheard for Europeans to have prior to the Napoleonic era, early 19th century. I have read a few accounts of Europeans who spent time as captives of South American/Carib tribes being tattooed against their will. They felt it was the mark of the devil, not at all desirable as a fashion statement.

If a pirate was to get himself a tattoo, it probably would have Mayan influence, as they did tattooing.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=editComment&comment=37394)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/#elControls_37394_menu)

[**Paisley**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/530-paisley/)

* Notorious Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 866 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Margarittaville, Florida
* Interests:pirates, of course, but other than that:
cycling (go lance armstrong!), hiking, camping, pug dogs, reptiles & amphibians, florida & caribbean travel, snorkle & scuba, tattoos & piercings, jimmy buffett, 80's music, whew..that enough???

([IP: 172.133.234.204](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=172.133.234.204)) · · 

[Posted February 18, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=findComment&comment=37401) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=reportComment&comment=37401)

maybe not piracy, but stealing, etc....didn't those crazy brits brand people who commited crimes with \_\_\_\_?, then shipped them over to america??

or am i just having a moll flanders flashback????

**Edited February 18, 2004 by Paisley**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=editComment&comment=37401)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/#elControls_37401_menu)

[**miss adventure**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1003-miss-adventure/)

* Deck Swabber
* 
* 
* Member
* 26 posts
* Location:usa and europe
* Interests:pirates, belly dance, tattoos, scooters

([IP: 67.35.34.44](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=67.35.34.44)) · · 

[Posted February 18, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=findComment&comment=37404) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=reportComment&comment=37404)

so where did the idea of putting a "P" on ol' sparrow come from?

that had to have come from somewhars...

as for octopus flash, i would suggest NOT looking at tattoo designs, and instead looking at photographs, illustrations, anything BUT tattoo designs...

we tattooers are indeed pirates, we steal much of what is then turned into flash from existing art and photographs!

YARR!

image google on, me matey!!



* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=editComment&comment=37404)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/#elControls_37404_menu)

[**Maraudin Sparky**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1156-maraudin-sparky/)

* Deck Swabber
* 
* 
* Member
* 33 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Ye Olde London in Englande, where everythin' began!
* Interests:Now let's see... I like plunderin', fightin', drinkin' (lots! Rum, Whisky, Port, Cider, Ale, Lager, Bitter, Brandy, Vodka, Absinthe etc...), eatin', and also the occasional scuba diving (for treasure!), caving (to hide my treasure!), hiking (to come at the lubbers unawares like!) and dancin', singin' and finally being cunningly mischievous! (There's more... but thats for another day).

([IP: 80.2.193.84](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=80.2.193.84)) · · 

[Posted February 18, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=findComment&comment=37405) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=reportComment&comment=37405)

Hmm, not sure about branding AND shipping...

Afterall, no good branding someone if you're going to put them out of sight anyway.

Still more info on delightful British punishments during 17th to 19th C's can be found here:

[Crime and Punishment](http://www.oldbaileyonline.org/history/crime/punishment.html)

Looking at some of them, quite makes me wish that some people I meet in London were still dealt with in this way! 

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=editComment&comment=37405)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/#elControls_37405_menu)

[**JoshuaRed**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/81-joshuared/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,342 posts

([IP: 151.138.254.21](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=151.138.254.21)) · · 

[Posted February 18, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=findComment&comment=37408) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=reportComment&comment=37408)

Branding was used as a punishment in the 17th century, but by the early 18th century (in England at least) it came to viewed as excessive and was abolished. When it was done, brands were placed on the left cheek or dead center in the forehead, after all the point was that it should be seen, not convienently hidden under a shirtsleeve. Jack was lucky. 

The funny thing is that branding continued to be used as punishment, but was done with cold irons as a symbolic form of public humilation well into the 1730's.

Btw, very cool that yer a tattoo artist! I always wanted to meet one. What's the most bizarre ink you've been asked to do?

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=editComment&comment=37408)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/#elControls_37408_menu)

[**miss adventure**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1003-miss-adventure/)

* Deck Swabber
* 
* 
* Member
* 26 posts
* Location:usa and europe
* Interests:pirates, belly dance, tattoos, scooters

([IP: 67.35.34.44](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=67.35.34.44)) · · 

[Posted February 18, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=findComment&comment=37416) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=reportComment&comment=37416)

so what did the brands look like then?

most bizarre tattoo i ever did was a chocoalte chip cookie on a grandma's forearm.

her nickname was "cookie"

stupidest tattoo i ever did was on either side of a girl's pooper 9sorry, it's true) a "T" on the left cheek and two "d"'s on the right

when read , uh properly, it spelled her boyfriend's name, T(O)DD...

you figure it out...

i didn't want to do it, and tried in vain for an hour to talk her out of it, but she insisted.

and hey, pirate ho's gotta eat and pay tha rent..

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=editComment&comment=37416)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/#elControls_37416_menu)

[**miss adventure**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1003-miss-adventure/)

* Deck Swabber
* 
* 
* Member
* 26 posts
* Location:usa and europe
* Interests:pirates, belly dance, tattoos, scooters

([IP: 67.35.34.44](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=67.35.34.44)) · · 

[Posted February 18, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=findComment&comment=37418) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=reportComment&comment=37418)

wait a sec, apply the branding iron COLD?!?!

what tha hell kinda punishment is THAT!?!

that seems akin to being slapped with a piece of bolgna!

cold iron...sheesh!

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=editComment&comment=37418)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/#elControls_37418_menu)

[**JoshuaRed**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/81-joshuared/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,342 posts

([IP: 151.138.254.21](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=151.138.254.21)) · · 

[Posted February 18, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=findComment&comment=37424) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=reportComment&comment=37424)

Uhhh....so it read like this: **T \* D D** ? ? ?

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=editComment&comment=37424)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/#elControls_37424_menu)

[**miss adventure**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1003-miss-adventure/)

* Deck Swabber
* 
* 
* Member
* 26 posts
* Location:usa and europe
* Interests:pirates, belly dance, tattoos, scooters

([IP: 67.35.34.44](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=67.35.34.44)) · · 

[Posted February 18, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=findComment&comment=37450) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=reportComment&comment=37450)

yes.

the stupidity of some people never ceases to amaze me.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=editComment&comment=37450)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/#elControls_37450_menu)

[**corsair2k3**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/82-corsair2k3/)

* Ship's Master
* 
* 
* Member
* 167 posts

([IP: 24.91.202.2](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=24.91.202.2)) · · 

[Posted February 18, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=findComment&comment=37481) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=reportComment&comment=37481)

 JoshuaRed said:

Yeah. Tattooing was virtually unheard for Europeans to have prior to the Napoleonic era, early 19th century. I have read a few accounts of Europeans who spent time as captives of South American/Carib tribes being tattooed against their will. They felt it was the mark of the devil, not at all desirable as a fashion statement.

If a pirate was to get himself a tattoo, it probably would have Mayan influence, as they did tattooing.

Might be true for most Europeans, but then sailors weren't most Europeans.

As a consequence, one frequently runs across mention of tattoos in the descriptions of runaway sailors found in colonial newspapers of the early 18th century. The ones I've seen all had religious/magical themes.

Don't think there were any tattoos specific to pirates, though. Seems sorta counterintuitive to me--but who's to say?

As to branding with a "P"--several instances of this are recorded as an East India Company punishment during the 1680's and 1690's. When the John Company caught a batch of pirates, it would usually sentence only a few to death. The rest would be branded--so that future merchant captains would know them for what they were.

Regards,

The Corsair

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=editComment&comment=37481)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/#elControls_37481_menu)

[**Captain Wolfy Wench**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/794-captain-wolfy-wench/)

* Plunderer
* 
* 
* Member
* 431 posts
* Location:So. Cal
* Interests:Lessee... I'mma multi-faceted kinda lass. <br><br>Pirates, of course, Pirates of the Caribbean, costuming, drawing, animals, anime, furries, Star Wars, the X-Files, movies, Ewan McGregor, comics (Daredevil), Harry Potter, Lord of the Rings, the Matrix, Balto, videogames, the internet, cabin boys, spending more money than I have, etc.

([IP: 64.214.82.167](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=64.214.82.167)) · · 

[Posted February 18, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=findComment&comment=37486) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=reportComment&comment=37486)

Interestin'. I never really thought of whether or not it was historically accurate. I know pirates that were caught were hung and displayed so that passing ships could spot the bodies; served as a warning. I'm sure many ports would utilize the brand to mark and punish marauding pirates. Personally, I'd love one of those tats on me arm. O.o

Captain Wolfy Wench

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=editComment&comment=37486)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/#elControls_37486_menu)

[**miss adventure**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1003-miss-adventure/)

* Deck Swabber
* 
* 
* Member
* 26 posts
* Location:usa and europe
* Interests:pirates, belly dance, tattoos, scooters

([IP: 67.35.37.252](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=67.35.37.252)) · · 

[Posted February 18, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=findComment&comment=37494) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=reportComment&comment=37494)

i want one too!

that's why i'm asking!!

dammit, now where can we find some images of those!?!

yarrr..

on a quest!



* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=editComment&comment=37494)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/#elControls_37494_menu)

[**miss adventure**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1003-miss-adventure/)

* Deck Swabber
* 
* 
* Member
* 26 posts
* Location:usa and europe
* Interests:pirates, belly dance, tattoos, scooters

([IP: 67.35.37.252](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=67.35.37.252)) · · 

[Posted February 18, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=findComment&comment=37497) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=reportComment&comment=37497)

ok, this is one of the bizarre things i came across in my search for the info...

DO NOT DO THIS TO YOURSELF DAMMIT!!!

My Brush With The East India Trading Company: Or, Marking Myself a Pirate

At A Glance

Author

spikeyannie

Contact

spikeyannie@bme.anon

IAM

SpikeyAnnie

When

It just happened

Artist

me

Fanatics. They come in all shapes and forms. For some people, it's Disney memorabilia. For others, it's Krispy Kreme. For even others, it's Lord of the Rings, or Harley-Davidson motorcycles, or even religion.

Everybody has something that they're passionate about, if not many things. Sometimes that passion will grab someone and affect them to the point where they feel like it's been assimilated into their being.

I think many people on BME can attest to that powerful feeling of devotion and what some wrongly call "obsession" about a particular thing; I see many tattoos and scars that are tributes to songs, bands, artists, movies, characters, ideas. As human beings, we are forever being touched by fictional worlds and people. There is nothing wrong with it.

This past summer, i fell in love. I stumbled upon a character who i was told resembled me in many ways, who inspired me to no end. He made me lighten up and see the more humorous, crazy side of life, but he also made me value the only two things that really matter: what you can do, and what you can't do.

His name was Captain Jack Sparrow.

I have been a Johnny Depp fan for years, and I have been a pirate fan for years. These two things combined, were a match made in silver screen heaven. But let me explain: this was not just the admiration of a fan, this was finding the brave, funny, totally fucking weird, adventure-seeking part of me all over again.

I got into live-action roleplay and saw "Pirates" again and again, dressed up as my own personalized version of Captain Jack. It was an awesome feeling. I felt like through the fabrics of my costume, I was finally coming through to others as my true self.

The same self who would jump out of trees from high up in the air, and swing from rope swings into the lake, and sail the ocean always watching the horizon. Who would stand on the beach and let the waves wash up over her feet. I have always grown up near the sea and it always finds its way into my dreams and artwork.

In the midst of realizing these things, the recording industry was beginning to crack down on the modern-day pirates of today. As I type this, they still are, and many shared and pirated files sit on my hard drive. Yes, I have always been a pirate.

So without further ado, here is what I did for my latest form of dermal art, although I do have to include a brief history lesson. When the East India Trading Company would catch pirates, they would brand them with the letter P. In the movie "Pirates of the Caribbean", Jack Sparrow had a pirate brand on the top of his wrist right underneath his sparrow tattoo.

This is actually incorrect placement because in reality, the brands were on the forehead. But I digress; I did not want to do a brand because I felt like it wasn't for me, and I certainly didn't want it on my forehead (whatever the mark would be made of), so I chose the top of my wrist.

It was then that with a scalpel blade and some patience, I marked myself a pirate. I swabbed off the top of my wrist with iodine and drew it on with a new ballpoint pen. The P is facing downwards towards my hand and about an inch high. I don't know how noticeable it will be when it heals, but regardless of what it looks like, it's something for myself and myself only. It was hard to make the curved part of the P but I managed quite nicely. It didn't take long at all, nor did it hurt. When I was finished cutting, I poured some peroxide on it, scrubbed it with a toothbrush, and resigned myself to the Leave It The Hell Alone method (except for the occasional picking of scabs!).

Oddly enough, I've been modifying my body for many years now and it was only yesterday when I did this cutting, that I truly felt like I was doing something only for my own happiness and not for anyone else's benefit. As soon as the cutting was complete, I felt a momentary wave of intense panic where I wondered briefly if I had done the right thing, and how would I explain it to people, and so on.

Then I realized, "So what? This is MINE!" which was followed by one of the best feelings I've had in my entire life, because I was no longer held back by the fear of what others would think. So remember to always follow your heart and never compromise or change yourself purely for the sake of others. After all, the only things that matter are what you can do, and what you can't do...(Drink up me hearties, yo ho...)

Disclaimer: The experience above was submitted by a BME reader and has not

been edited. We can not guarantee that the experience is accurate, truthful,

or contains valid or even safe advice. We strongly urge you to use BME and

other resources to educate yourself so you can make safe informed decisions.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=editComment&comment=37497)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/#elControls_37497_menu)

[**JoshuaRed**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/81-joshuared/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,342 posts

([IP: 24.198.34.161](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=24.198.34.161)) · · 

[Posted February 18, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=findComment&comment=37500) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=reportComment&comment=37500)

Wow. Hey to each his own, right? 

Me, I'm quite content paying homage to Mr. Depp by merely enjoying the hell out of his movies once and awhile. But that's just me. I do fully intend on getting a pirate tattoo one day...but branding is a bit much. And being the history buff I am, I would be nitpicky and insist on usual an actual period brand... 

**Edited February 18, 2004 by JoshuaRed**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=editComment&comment=37500)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/#elControls_37500_menu)

[**miss adventure**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1003-miss-adventure/)

* Deck Swabber
* 
* 
* Member
* 26 posts
* Location:usa and europe
* Interests:pirates, belly dance, tattoos, scooters

([IP: 67.35.37.252](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=67.35.37.252)) · · 

[Posted February 18, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=findComment&comment=37504) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=reportComment&comment=37504)

indeed, to each his own....

whether it be a self inflicted P cut into your wrist or your boyfriend's name tattooed around your poopchute....





* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=editComment&comment=37504)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/#elControls_37504_menu)

[**Paisley**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/530-paisley/)

* Notorious Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 866 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Margarittaville, Florida
* Interests:pirates, of course, but other than that:
cycling (go lance armstrong!), hiking, camping, pug dogs, reptiles & amphibians, florida & caribbean travel, snorkle & scuba, tattoos & piercings, jimmy buffett, 80's music, whew..that enough???

([IP: 172.144.46.113](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=172.144.46.113)) · · 

[Posted February 18, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=findComment&comment=37512) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=reportComment&comment=37512)

think i'll just stick with my one day hope of a full sleeve.....

and the tattoos covering my right calf, more native work on my neck, a few more faeries, throw in a couple more pirate-y things here n there...

i think i need more skin!

hey miss---how bout a weeks worth of food n board at me new casa in florida for getting me closer? lol

btw-there are a few threads already started up on tattoos n piercings, just do search...you'll see some great artwork.

**Edited February 19, 2004 by Paisley**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=editComment&comment=37512)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/#elControls_37512_menu)

[**miss adventure**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1003-miss-adventure/)

* Deck Swabber
* 
* 
* Member
* 26 posts
* Location:usa and europe
* Interests:pirates, belly dance, tattoos, scooters

([IP: 67.35.36.58](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=67.35.36.58)) · · 

[Posted February 19, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=findComment&comment=37530) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=reportComment&comment=37530)

miss paisley, email me!

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=editComment&comment=37530)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/#elControls_37530_menu)

[**Wartooth**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1037-wartooth/)

* Ship's Master
* 
* 
* Member
* 119 posts
* Location:Dusty & Boring Reno, Nevada
* Interests:My wife and 3 sons, of course. My Welsh & Dutch heritage, including the substantial privateering and roguish ancestry therein. Martial sword work focusing on longsword, short sword, rapier, and baskethilt saber.

([IP: 64.66.198.55](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=64.66.198.55)) · · 

[Posted February 19, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=findComment&comment=37552) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=reportComment&comment=37552)

Ooooookay ....

Makes ye wonder.

Wartooth

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=editComment&comment=37552)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/#elControls_37552_menu)

[**Isabella**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1057-isabella/)

* Plunderer
* 
* 
* Member
* 311 posts
* Interests:I love history! Any type! Painting, sewing, playing music, gardening, bird watching, sailing, being silly, walking barefoot on warm sidewalks, whistling, owls (Hey boys look at my Hooter Collection!), men who have the bumpersticker "Real Men Love Jesus" and don't realize how odd it sounds or looks on a Pickup truck. Being lazy on Sunday mornings, being lazy on any morning in general, my husband playing piano, holding hands in the car, long drives, Ren Faires...the OCEAN!

([IP: 207.69.140.36](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=207.69.140.36)) · · 

[Posted February 25, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=findComment&comment=38464) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=reportComment&comment=38464)

This is a joke regarding the T\*DD tattoo, other wise ignore in the flow of the thread.

A woman decides she's going to get her husband's initals tattooed on her butt, so she goes and has it done. She goes home, and sets up the house for a romantic evening, and he comes home.

"I've got a suprise for you!" She churps.

"OH? What is it?" He asks

"You'll see."

So the evening goes on, and they retire to bed, and she says, "I'll show you your suprise now, winking. So she pulls down her pants, all excited to show him his suprise, and he asks, "Who's Bob?"

Totally stupid...but fit to Todd story. \*shakes head\* Why wouldn't I be suprised if she broke up with him three weeks later? That's my husband's only rule. No names tattooed on the body. It's one of those "Doomed to break up" weird things he has. Don't ask. :)

On Topic:

I would think maybe they would have done things like whales or albatrosses. I agree definately with the sea theme.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=editComment&comment=38464)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/#elControls_38464_menu)

[**Isabella**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1057-isabella/)

* Plunderer
* 
* 
* Member
* 311 posts
* Interests:I love history! Any type! Painting, sewing, playing music, gardening, bird watching, sailing, being silly, walking barefoot on warm sidewalks, whistling, owls (Hey boys look at my Hooter Collection!), men who have the bumpersticker "Real Men Love Jesus" and don't realize how odd it sounds or looks on a Pickup truck. Being lazy on Sunday mornings, being lazy on any morning in general, my husband playing piano, holding hands in the car, long drives, Ren Faires...the OCEAN!

([IP: 207.69.140.36](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=207.69.140.36)) · · 

[Posted February 25, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=findComment&comment=38465) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=reportComment&comment=38465)

Also let me look up in my big history of the Philippines book. They talk about tribal branding etc in there in the 1620's. I know some of the Spanish adopted some of it. :)

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=editComment&comment=38465)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/#elControls_38465_menu)

[**HarborMaster**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/970-harbormaster/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,446 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Centralia Wa and Cebu Philippines
* Interests:Scuba Diving ., Shooting ., Drinking ., Cannons ., Motorcycling . I hope I didn't , leave out anything important.

([IP: 24.18.65.163](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=24.18.65.163)) · · 

[Posted February 26, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=findComment&comment=38517) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=reportComment&comment=38517)

 miss adventure said:

indeed, to each his own....

whether it be a self inflicted P cut into your wrist or your boyfriend's name tattooed around your poopchute....

WOWSA !!!., "Holy Dawg S%it " !!!

(I just saw this post)

My Gawd Man., If ever I was a Ravashing and Pilaging away on a Wench and in the Glimmering Moon light...,and I could make out something like the words......, PROPERTY OF TOP-HAT :angry: Around some Wenches Ho-Ho....., 

I'd be hook'in back to the ship fast!!!! weighin'in the anchor an makin fer another port., before some 400lb land-lubbin Biker type wanted to sink me !!!....,

whoooooo !!!!., :) I get weak in the knees just thinkin about it......., at my age I am more interested in the treasure than todays booty. 

HarborMaster

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=editComment&comment=38517)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/#elControls_38517_menu)

[**the Royaliste**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/237-the-royaliste/)

* Pyrate Legend
* 
* 
* Member
* 2,841 posts

([IP: 64.161.27.236](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=64.161.27.236)) · · 

[Posted February 26, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=findComment&comment=38552) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=reportComment&comment=38552)

Those of us who generally resemble several of those remarks swore off the 'property of' tat's long ago. On the left coast, at least to the R.P, names on arses are thought of mostly as 'hookers'...file that, mate...for future reference! :angry:

  [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/)

 [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=editComment&comment=38552)

 [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/" \l "elControls_38552_menu)

[**Dorian Lasseter**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/137-dorian-lasseter/)

* Where's My Water
* 
* 
* Member
* 3,266 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:The Sea!
* Interests:18th Century reenactment; Maritime, F&I...
Did ECW as well...
All BP firelocks and cannons!

Also enjoy Swordfighting and a good Donnybrook

Got a question for or about me? Ask!!!

([IP: 147.72.68.85](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=147.72.68.85)) · · 

[Posted February 26, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=findComment&comment=38560) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=reportComment&comment=38560)

Aye,

I'll be backin' up Cap'n Gary on tha' last bit....

Back ta th' main topic...

All form o' sea creatures ye might find on th' edge o' maps n' charts o' the tyme I would think would be turned inta a tattoo....

I've had a thought fer a few years o' turnin' me back into a map of, say the Caribbean... havin the different sea creatures 'round th' edges...

I already have th' compass rose on me shoulder...

I'll be gettin a mermaid soon...

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=editComment&comment=38560)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&page=2#elControls_38560_menu)

[**hitman**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1015-hitman/)

* Pyrate Captain
* 
* 
* Member
* 720 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Sardis Ga
* Interests:women, booze,books,tobacco,tall ships.hot rods and other monstrocities

([IP: 68.210.224.210](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=68.210.224.210)) · · 

[Posted February 26, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=findComment&comment=38582) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=reportComment&comment=38582)

Been thinkin bout haveing me avatar and a cross tatted on me arm but then I be wierd

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=editComment&comment=38582)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&page=2#elControls_38582_menu)

[**Jocko**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/170-jocko/)

* Deck Swabber
* 
* 
* Member
* 20 posts

([IP: 63.64.125.234](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=63.64.125.234)) · · 

[Posted March 10, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=findComment&comment=40102) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=reportComment&comment=40102)

Ahoy mates,

As of late "life" has gotten in the way of me postin' and such... However, today I just managed to get on here and check a few threads...

Interestingly, I have recently been discussing with Don Maitz about tattoos. I asked him if he ever was asked to, and did he, create images specifically for tattooing... Although he said that he had been asked before, he also told me that he was unsure of the legalities of the whole thing. He wanted to know about being paid royalties every time someone had one of his images tattooed on themselves and he asked the question "Are these people willing to put a 'copyright Don Maitz' on their bodies underneath the tattoo?"

I asked some people I know who are in the business and the bottom line is that there is no way to control who gets what tattooed where... Look at Harley Davidson - How many people have that logo tattooed? I seriously doubt that Harley Davidson gets anything when someone has it done. One possibility that was mentioned was that Don could sell images to a particular shop as flash and get a one-time payment for it.

Anyhow, its a shame - for like some of you, I too have been searching for just the "right" piratical tattoo.... no luck yet...

Jocko

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=editComment&comment=40102)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&page=2#elControls_40102_menu)

[**the Royaliste**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/237-the-royaliste/)

* Pyrate Legend
* 
* 
* Member
* 2,841 posts

([IP: 64.161.27.134](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=64.161.27.134)) · · 

[Posted March 10, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=findComment&comment=40105) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=reportComment&comment=40105)

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Anyhow, its a shame - for like some of you,  I too have been searching for just the "right" piratical tattoo.... no luck yet...

Jocko

Most of us with Harley tats own one, so H.D. doesnt seem to mind..But your buddies ego screams for tattooing his name on a horses ass...Lotsa people have photos of my ship, in their homes, on their avatars, but hey,it's all good, so can the ego's..........Hesounds more like a crook than a pirate anyway..we do enjoy pirate art aboard ship. 'Bloodthirsty Pirate Tales', by Richard Becker, are proudly stocked in the onboard ship's library...

**Edited March 10, 2004 by the Royaliste**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=editComment&comment=40105)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&page=2#elControls_40105_menu)

[**Albatross Bill**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1166-albatross-bill/)

* Deck Swabber
* 
* 
* Member
* 34 posts

([IP: 69.66.114.158](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=69.66.114.158)) · · 

[Posted March 10, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=findComment&comment=40106) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=reportComment&comment=40106)

I'm thinkin' ye've got the horse's arse before the cart on this one. Nuffink wrong wif wantin to pertect yer own original artwork from bein', well, pyrated. Differcult, mebbe, but not crooked. 

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=editComment&comment=40106)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&page=2#elControls_40106_menu)

[**the Royaliste**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/237-the-royaliste/)

* Pyrate Legend
* 
* 
* Member
* 2,841 posts

([IP: 64.161.26.227](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=64.161.26.227)) · · 

[Posted March 10, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=findComment&comment=40116) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=reportComment&comment=40116)

It be a friggin free country, mate..think wot ye may, but sounds like pure egotistical crap to me...Mickey Mouse is tattooed everywhere, and even Eisner aint bitchin!..Wotever, hope he lives long and prospers off his ego...copyright on my arm, bullshit!...Sailor Jerry was proud to have his art on the bod's o' fightin' men, didnt need his 'name' on 'em, his style was his 'trademark'.....The trick is in original art..If he inked the tat, more power to him, if it's just his design, well, like I said about 'Mickey'.....So, pay him a copyright ,Bill, and show us some 'o his work on skin!! ..Now, tell me ye haven't hummed five or six bars 'o yer favorite song in front 'o a friend or two....By BMI standards, you are guilty of copyright infringement, and 'Papa Zig-Zag??..Why, Ritzla would be really wealthy if tattoo's were covered under 'copyright'...Nevermind the whole 'Napster' and 'Kazaa' thing..

**Edited March 10, 2004 by the Royaliste**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=editComment&comment=40116)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&page=2#elControls_40116_menu)

[**Captain Charlotte Savvy**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1047-captain-charlotte-savvy/)

* First Mate
* 
* 
* Member
* 230 posts
* Location:Big City, Grad School
* Interests:Reading (particularly maritime lore, decent fantasy, historical fiction, mysteries, sci-fi, Harry Potter, and Dave Barry), good movies (Pirates of the Caribbean, The Mummy Returns, Galaxy Quest, etc), colored pencil sketching, walking/hiking, musicals, dragons, birds, Ancient Egypt, Greek mythology, medieval times, mythology theory (i.e. Joseph Campbell), psychology, literature -- and, of COURSE, pirates. Pirates, pirates, PIRATES, my biggest and best obsession! ;-D They are my current research project, when RL allows me the time for private research -- and now that PotC has finally come to video, you'll often be findin' me viewin' that wonderful flick for the hundredth time.

([IP: 24.158.241.200](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=24.158.241.200)) · · 

[Posted March 10, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=findComment&comment=40196) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=reportComment&comment=40196)

 Jocko said:

As of late "life" has gotten in the way of me postin' and such... However, today I just managed to get on here and check a few threads...

Amen, and do I hear ye *there*. The profs seem to see my final semester at uni as a sort of challenge to breakin' me will, and I've had precious little time for anything but school (in one form or another) straight from Christmas Break 'til Spring Break last week. And things look to be picking right back up again now ... but ah well. It's the last bit o' things; they won't defeat me NOW ...

Okay, getting back on-topic now ...

I whole-heartedly agree with the "to each their own" bit after reading the self-given branding essay (considering I'm too much of a wimp half the time to remove a splinter, let alone *that* ... though in my defense, I did try self-waxing treatments once, which I hear is a pretty painful thing to do ... but I digress again, don't I? ). I don't particularly want a brand -- but I would *love* a tattoo, if only I could come up with a design that I'd want for life. I'm really, really tempted to one day get the Sparrow-esque bird-above-the-waves-and-sun "crest" on my forearm ... but it would definitely be in years to come. It's an int'resting thought. I won't even get my ears pierced -- but oddly enough, I'd get a tattoo BEFORE I'd get my ears pierced.

I know. Bizarre. ;-)

BTW, to those of you who have tattoos ... for my own future reference, how can you be guarenteed that the parlor one goes to has sterile facilities, right down to only-one-use-each-time needles? Is there a certain legal standard (gov't or otherwise) dictating that, if they say somewhere, "We run a sterile place," they have to abide by certain rules? I may get my nerve up one day to get a tattoo ... but if I can't be 100% sure that I won't walk out with hep C or something of that nature (and I do mean *one hundred percent* sure, and nothing less), there's not a chance in Hades. Anyone know how parlors work on this issue?

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=editComment&comment=40196)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&page=2#elControls_40196_menu)

[**Dorian Lasseter**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/137-dorian-lasseter/)

* Where's My Water
* 
* 
* Member
* 3,266 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:The Sea!
* Interests:18th Century reenactment; Maritime, F&I...
Did ECW as well...
All BP firelocks and cannons!

Also enjoy Swordfighting and a good Donnybrook

Got a question for or about me? Ask!!!

([IP: 147.72.68.85](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=147.72.68.85)) · · 

[Posted March 11, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=findComment&comment=40244) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=reportComment&comment=40244)

Aye Lassie,

Havin' a few inkin's mesalf, and being very goode friends wi' me tattoo Artists, I'll give ye wot I know....

Yes, there is a standard to the sanitation of a tattoo shop - that's a LEGAL tattoo shop, not a back alley job...

Yer best bet is ta go check out a few establishments, they will have their licenses and certifications posted on the wall....

Also, since they don't want a bad reputation, say fer havin' dirty equipment, they should open the fresh needles in from of ye, afore the work begins, some shops will even give ye the needles when yer done, thus, they can nay be reused....

Look around th' shop for sterilization equipment, like an Autoclave, etc...

So, there may be more to know, but this be just my tuppence....

And, Sunday, I'll be gettin' me next bit o' ink.... a nice piece, gonna take 7-8 hrs....

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=editComment&comment=40244)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&page=2#elControls_40244_menu)

[**Captain Charlotte Savvy**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1047-captain-charlotte-savvy/)

* First Mate
* 
* 
* Member
* 230 posts
* Location:Big City, Grad School
* Interests:Reading (particularly maritime lore, decent fantasy, historical fiction, mysteries, sci-fi, Harry Potter, and Dave Barry), good movies (Pirates of the Caribbean, The Mummy Returns, Galaxy Quest, etc), colored pencil sketching, walking/hiking, musicals, dragons, birds, Ancient Egypt, Greek mythology, medieval times, mythology theory (i.e. Joseph Campbell), psychology, literature -- and, of COURSE, pirates. Pirates, pirates, PIRATES, my biggest and best obsession! ;-D They are my current research project, when RL allows me the time for private research -- and now that PotC has finally come to video, you'll often be findin' me viewin' that wonderful flick for the hundredth time.

([IP: 24.158.241.200](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=24.158.241.200)) · · 

[Posted March 11, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=findComment&comment=40251) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=reportComment&comment=40251)

Thank ye, sir -- that be exactly the information I was lookin' for. Much obliged.

Now I just gotta work me courage up sometime ... 

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=editComment&comment=40251)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&page=2#elControls_40251_menu)

[**the Royaliste**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/237-the-royaliste/)

* Pyrate Legend
* 
* 
* Member
* 2,841 posts

([IP: 64.170.155.89](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=64.170.155.89)) · · 

[Posted March 11, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=findComment&comment=40255) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=reportComment&comment=40255)

My experience over the years is that several friends usually seek to get inked up at the same time..So, talk to those with nice tats around you for references, as besides the regs, word of mouth is definitely spoken here in the tattoo community......

and remember, 'GO BIG'! 



* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=editComment&comment=40255)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&page=2#elControls_40255_menu)

[**Dorian Lasseter**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/137-dorian-lasseter/)

* Where's My Water
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* Member
* 3,266 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:The Sea!
* Interests:18th Century reenactment; Maritime, F&I...
Did ECW as well...
All BP firelocks and cannons!

Also enjoy Swordfighting and a good Donnybrook

Got a question for or about me? Ask!!!

([IP: 147.72.68.65](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=147.72.68.65)) · · 

[Posted March 17, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=findComment&comment=41372) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=reportComment&comment=41372)

Aye Lads n' Lassies...

Got me new ink on Friday nite....

Have a pic o' it fresh from under the needle on me profile page here, can't get it ta post here...

Took less tyme than was thought...

Not exactly 'Pyratey' but, very nautical, plus, I has some o' me Compass Rose tat, fixed...

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=editComment&comment=41372)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&page=2#elControls_41372_menu)

[**thepiratecaptainmorgan**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/989-thepiratecaptainmorgan/)

* Deck Swabber
* 
* 
* Member
* 26 posts
* Interests:The Sea, The Ocean, El Caribb, Women, mates, guns, swords.

([IP: 199.38.33.152](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=199.38.33.152)) · · 

[Posted March 20, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=findComment&comment=41851) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=reportComment&comment=41851)

If ye Remember the Movie,

And I Did....

"Had a Brush with the East India Trading Company eh, PIRATE?"

In India, It is very common to MARK a Theif a Theif, etc etc.... Actually Jack Sparrow Would have been fortunate not have lost his Hand for his Theivery.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=editComment&comment=41851)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&page=2#elControls_41851_menu)

[**Jocko**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/170-jocko/)

* Deck Swabber
* 
* 
* Member
* 20 posts

([IP: 63.64.125.234](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=63.64.125.234)) · · 

[Posted March 22, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=findComment&comment=41999) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=reportComment&comment=41999)

Avast there, Mates!!

Before ya start callin' Mr. Maitz a crook , I think ya might not be realizin' who he be! Which also mayhaps the reason why I's asked him the question in the first place!

Don Maitz is the artist who put many a cover on the No Quarter Given Pirate-zine .... as well as many a decor betwix the covers... For those of you not familiar with those things, surely you've 'eard of Captain Morgan's Rum??? Don Maitz be the man who created Captain Morgan's image that's used on all the bottles, ads, etc...

Therefore, since he is so active within the "No-Quarter-Given-Piratical Community" (say THAT 10 times fast!), I figured that he'd be a good one to ask about tattoos, to be sure .....

I can understand his wanting to protect that which puts food on his plate and as I said to him, if'n he wanted to create Piratical-images specifically for tattooing - not only would I be GREATLY appreciative, but I'd also most likely be first in line!! 

Good fortune to all ye on the same quest as I - for that "perfect" Piratical Tattoo!

Jocko

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=editComment&comment=41999)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&page=2#elControls_41999_menu)

[**cpts plesur wnch**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1408-cpts-plesur-wnch/)

* Bilge Rat
* 
* 
* Member
* 14 posts
* Location:Alexandria Va, US
* Interests:Pyrates and renaissance....

([IP: 68.100.214.218](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=68.100.214.218)) · · 

[Posted June 1, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=findComment&comment=49294) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=reportComment&comment=49294)

I am rather confused now. See from what i have read (which is of course nothing compared to the amazing knowledge of all of you) was it not the palm of the hand that was branded for thievery, in which wasn't the raising of the right hand in court derived from? Or mayhaps i be thinking of another time then?

I also agree with the hangings being more effective, and as for the self inflicted things, i will keep my mouth shut on such issues as i may contain much common sense, as i myself have a pyrate-referenced burn on my left arm...

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=editComment&comment=49294)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&page=2#elControls_49294_menu)

[**PyratePhil**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1344-pyratephil/)

* Pyrate Legend
* 
* 
* Member
* 2,671 posts

([IP: 64.12.117.22](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=64.12.117.22)) · · 

[Posted June 2, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=findComment&comment=49343) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=reportComment&comment=49343)

 Captain Charlotte Savvy said:

BTW, to those of you who have tattoos ... for my own future reference, how can you be guarenteed that the parlor one goes to has sterile facilities, right down to only-one-use-each-time needles?  Is there a certain legal standard (gov't or otherwise) dictating that, if they say somewhere, "We run a sterile place," they have to abide by certain rules?  I may get my nerve up one day to get a tattoo ... but if I can't be 100% sure that I won't walk out with hep C or something of that nature (and I do mean *one hundred percent* sure, and nothing less), there's not a chance in Hades. Anyone know how parlors work on this issue?

A few hints be here...

1. Iffn there be scallywags layin' about th' front door, droolin' and cussin' an' such, ye might want to be shippin' out ta th' next parlor o' ink.

2. Open jars o' leeches are a DEFINITE no-no.

3. Iffn the only flash they got's is airbrushed on th' walls an' signed "Paco 256", ye might be reconsiderin'.

Dorian said it best, methinks...

Tats been 'round fer over 5,000 years...ye'd think they'd be havin' it down by now, but there still be beastie places and palaces...

It been a while since me last inkin', but as a needle-stickin' type meself (a little thingie called acupuncture what I picked up in the China Sea cruise), I don't quite know but that disposable needles should be th' standard...I wouldn't be doin' it any other way...

**Edited June 2, 2004 by PyratePhil**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=editComment&comment=49343)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&page=2#elControls_49343_menu)

[**Captain\_MacNamara**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1380-captain_macnamara/)

* Plunderer
* 
* 
* Member
* 467 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:The Seas of Ansteorra
* Interests:Piracy, the Sea, Sailing Vessels, Period Gunnery, and Rum...

([IP: 24.216.128.85](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=24.216.128.85)) · · 

[Posted June 2, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=findComment&comment=49396) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=reportComment&comment=49396)

I too, am on the quest for the perfect piratey tatoo... somehow, a simple skull and crossbones doesn't seem to cut it. Any suggestions for flash art? Or a good artist?

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=editComment&comment=49396)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&page=2#elControls_49396_menu)

[**Nigel**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/963-nigel/)

* Notorious Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 945 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Arvada, CO
* Interests:Pirating (of course!), music, and art, leatherwork, costuming, and character acting.
Oh, and I loves swag. Shiny, pretty, swag.

([IP: 216.162.198.6](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=216.162.198.6)) · · 

[Posted June 2, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=findComment&comment=49404) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=reportComment&comment=49404)

Arrgh, matey - I be a professional arrrtist, and hapy t'help ye with yer tattoo design. Be it traditional, cartoony, sinister, or whatever.

I have done several tat designs in the past, and be currently in the process of designing a fresh new tattoo fer me sister.

Drop me an email and let me know what yer thinkin' of. I'd be happy t'help ye come up with a good design.

There are too many poorly designed tats out there. Makes me sad; if it be permanent, it oughta be done well. Hell, even if it ain't permanent it oughta be done well - but *especially* if it be permanent!

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=editComment&comment=49404)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&page=2#elControls_49404_menu)

[**Captain\_MacNamara**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1380-captain_macnamara/)

* Plunderer
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* Member
* 467 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:The Seas of Ansteorra
* Interests:Piracy, the Sea, Sailing Vessels, Period Gunnery, and Rum...

([IP: 24.216.128.85](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=24.216.128.85)) · · 

[Posted June 2, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=findComment&comment=49422) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=reportComment&comment=49422)

Thanky Nigel, Thanky.... 'Ere, 'ave a drink, on me



(email sent)



* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=editComment&comment=49422)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&page=2#elControls_49422_menu)

[**Scupper**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/420-scupper/)

* Notorious Pyrate
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* 
* Member
* 930 posts
* Location:East Hartford CT
* Interests:Pillage, Plunder, Fighting with me mates, swilling grog or Guiness<br><br>In real life, pool, hiking, camping, re enacting history, building award winning models.<br><br>.

([IP: 64.12.117.22](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=64.12.117.22)) · · 

[Posted June 6, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=findComment&comment=49804) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=reportComment&comment=49804)

If i remember correctly. tattooing came about after sailors were exposed to pacific islander art. They didn't want the tribal tattoos and started drawing thier own and having sail makers, tailors or anyone good with a needle and thread to do the tattoo. Most were of nautical, sexual or mottos draw on them. Hope it helps a bit

Scupper

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=editComment&comment=49804)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&page=2#elControls_49804_menu)

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
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* Admin
* 5,083 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Monroe, MI
* Interests:Scholarly piracy, designing and creating haunted house rooms and props, movies, abstract thinking, abstruse thinking, obstructive thinking, ideating, random thinking, movies, cartoons, movies, movies scores, cycling, world peace and small furry dogs, movies, writing, drawing, personal skills training, gremlins and, of course, lest I forget, movies.

([IP: 24.231.217.242](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=24.231.217.242)) · · 

[Posted March 12, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=findComment&comment=347592) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=reportComment&comment=347592)

 corsair2k3 said:

 JoshuaRed said:

Yeah. Tattooing was virtually unheard for Europeans to have prior to the Napoleonic era, early 19th century. I have read a few accounts of Europeans who spent time as captives of South American/Carib tribes being tattooed against their will. They felt it was the mark of the devil, not at all desirable as a fashion statement.

If a pirate was to get himself a tattoo, it probably would have Mayan influence, as they did tattooing.

Might be true for most Europeans, but then sailors weren't most Europeans.

As a consequence, one frequently runs across mention of tattoos in the descriptions of runaway sailors found in colonial newspapers of the early 18th century. The ones I've seen all had religious/magical themes.

Don't think there were any tattoos specific to pirates, though. Seems sorta counterintuitive to me--but who's to say?

As to branding with a "P"--several instances of this are recorded as an East India Company punishment during the 1680's and 1690's. When the John Company caught a batch of pirates, it would usually sentence only a few to death. The rest would be branded--so that future merchant captains would know them for what they were.

Regards,

The Corsair

Ah, further proof of the tattooing in prisoner accounts from a similar source as CrazyCholeBlack. (And from no less than corsair2K3. You can't beat that.)

\_\_\_

Although I actually dug this old thing up from the thread graveyard because I wanted to talk about branding without starting a superfluous thread. I have been re-reading *The General History* and I came across this in the chapter on Charles Vane:

"But the next Day, the Captain's [Vane's] Behavior was obliged to stand the Test of a Vote [for not attempting to engage a French Man of War], and a Resolution passed against his Honour and Dignity, **branding** him with the name of Coward, deposing him from the Command, and turning him out of the Company **with Marks of Infamy**; and, with all those who did not Vote for boarding the *French* Man of War." [Johnson, erroneously attributed in this volume to Defoe, p. 139)

Now when I first saw the word 'branding,' I didn't think it meant an actual brand, but just an interesting way of noting that he was called a coward. But then they talk about 'Marks of Infamy.' So did the pirates actually brand him? Or did they do something else to indicate infamy? Any thoughts?

**Edited March 12, 2009 by Mission**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=editComment&comment=347592)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&page=2#elControls_347592_menu)

[**Iron Jon**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/5756-iron-jon/)

* Plunderer
* 
* 
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* 472 posts
* Gender:Male
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([IP: 216.167.160.29](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=216.167.160.29)) · · 

[Posted March 12, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=findComment&comment=347596) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=reportComment&comment=347596)

A little bit on branding from Wiki -

The punishment was adopted by the Anglo-Saxons, and the ancient law of England authorized the penalty. By the Statute of Vagabonds (1547) under King Edward VI, vagabonds and Gypsies were ordered to be branded with a large V on the breast, and brawlers with F for "fravmaker"; slaves who ran away were branded with S on the cheek or forehead. This law was repealed in England in 1550. From the time of Henry VII, branding was inflicted for all offences which received Benefit of clergy (branding of the thumbs was used around 1600 at Old Bailey to ensure that the accused who had successfully used the Benefit of Clergy defence, by reading a passage from the Bible, could not use it more than once), but it was abolished for such in 1822. In 1698 it was enacted that those convicted of petty theft or larceny, who were entitled to benefit of clergy, should be "burnt in the most visible part of the left cheek, nearest the nose." This special ordinance was repealed in 1707. James Nayler, a Quaker who in the year 1655 was accused of claiming to be the Messiah, convicted of blasphemy in a highly publicized trial before the Second Protectorate Parliament and had his tongue bored through and his forehead branded B for 'blasphemer'.

In the Lancaster criminal court a branding iron is still preserved in the dock. It is a long bolt with a wooden handle at one end and an M (malefactor) at the other; close by are two iron loops for firmly securing the hands during the operation. The brander would, after examination, turn to the judge exclaiming "A fair mark, my lord." Criminals were formerly ordered to hold up their hands before sentence to show if they had been previously convicted.

In the 18th century, cold branding or branding with cold irons became the mode of nominally inflicting the punishment on prisoners of higher rank. "When Charles Moritz, a young German, visited England in 1782 he was much surprised at this custom, and in his diary mentioned the case of a clergyman who had fought a duel and killed his man in Hyde Park. Found guilty of manslaughter he was burnt in the hand, if that could be called burning which was done with a cold iron" (Markham's Ancient Punishments of Northants, 1886).

Such cases led to branding becoming obsolete, and it was abolished in 1829 except in the case of deserters from the army, which were marked with the letter D, not with hot irons but by tattooing with ink or gunpowder. Notoriously bad soldiers were also branded with BC (bad character). The British Mutiny Act of 1858 provided that the court-martial may, in addition to any other penalty, order deserters to be marked on the left side, 2 inch below the armpit, with the letter "D", such letter to be not less than an inch long. In 1879 this was abolished.

In the North-American Puritan settlements of the 17th century, men and women sentenced for having committed acts of adultery were branded with an "A" letter on their chest (men) or bosom (women).

The mark in later times was also often chosen as a code for the crime (e.g. in Canadian military prisons D for Desertion, BC for Bad Character, most branded men were shipped off to a penal colony). Branding was used for a time by the Union Army during the American Civil War. Surgeon and Oxford English Dictionary contributor William Chester Minor was required to perform human branding on deserters at around the time of the Battle of the Wilderness.

The canon law sanctioned the punishment, and in France, in royal times, various offences carried the additional infamy of being branded with a fleur de lys, also galley-slaves could be branded GAL or once the galleys were replaced by the "bagne"s on land TF (travaux forcés, 'forced' labor, i.e. hard labour) or TFP (travaux forcés à perpetuité, forced labour for life) until 1832. In Germany however, branding was illegal.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=editComment&comment=347596)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&page=2#elControls_347596_menu)

[**Jib**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2545-jib/)

* Dread Pyrate
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([IP: 209.162.15.186](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=209.162.15.186)) · · 

[Posted March 12, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=findComment&comment=347622) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=reportComment&comment=347622)

I seem to recall people branded for beggary in Tudor England. I believe these are considered "sturdy beggars" who could work for a living.

As a side note: Had a black Karate instructor who was branded with his college frat symbol. I asked him about it and he told me "Never mind". He was one tough as nails dude!

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=editComment&comment=347622)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&page=2#elControls_347622_menu)

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
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* Admin
* 5,083 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Monroe, MI
* Interests:Scholarly piracy, designing and creating haunted house rooms and props, movies, abstract thinking, abstruse thinking, obstructive thinking, ideating, random thinking, movies, cartoons, movies, movies scores, cycling, world peace and small furry dogs, movies, writing, drawing, personal skills training, gremlins and, of course, lest I forget, movies.

([IP: 64.241.37.140](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=64.241.37.140)) · · 

[Posted March 15, 2009](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=findComment&comment=347875) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1741-pirate-tattoosnot-jolly-roger-and-brandings/&do=reportComment&comment=347875)

So no one can tell me about the branding or not of Vane? Compared to all the journal accounts, I am finding the General History to be rather cold and lifeless in detail. It seems to me that it must have been written by someone who had court accounts and such, but either not as many first-hand accounts as it is claimed he had or a decidedly journalist perspective.

Anyhow, I found this tale of scarring with the intent to sort of brand while typing in my notes and found it fascinating.

NOTE the SASH! (I want a freaking sash - this makes it period!)

“Whilst our Squadron [the Dunkirk Privateers] rode at Anchor in the *Groin* [Groyne - a structure built to protect ships near shore], there came in some *Hollanders*, under the notion of *Hamburgers*, with three Ships new trimm’d up for the King of *Spain*’s Service. A Boastswain of one of these ships happened in company ashoar with some of our men, were drinking together, the *Hollanders* began to prate of Religion, upbraiding one of our men for wearing a Cross; and after a while, growing more heated with drink, he became quarrelsome, and swore *Sacrament* he would not wear a Cross, no, the Devil take him, repeating it often. One of our men beat him down, and fell with him; then kneeling upon his Breast, and holding his Head down, he drew out a Knife sticking in his Sash, & cut him from the Ear towards the Mouth, then from the Os zygoma [cheek bone] to the neather Jaw. *Now*, said he, *you shall wear a Cross, that the Devil do not carry you away.*

I was sent for from the next house as a friend to that Religion, and stitcht the Lips of the Wound close together; then sprinkling them with a little *pulv. Galeni*, [extract of powdered aloes to cause bleeding to stop, often combined with hare’s fur mixed in egg white] applied Pledgits [compresses of lint] with a sarcotick Unguent [unguent generating granulation tissue in a wound], and with Astringents and Bandage dressed him up. The next morning he was let bloud, and the third day after I took off the Dressings, and finding the Wound as it were agglutinated [the wound edges adhering together].in the Slits, I cut out some of the Stitches, sprinkled the Wound as at first, & drest him up with Sarcoticks, with Compress and Bandage. The second day after I drest him again, and cut out the remainint Stitches; and in a dressing or two more cured him. This being the work of Nature, who rarely faileth in acting her part, if we perform ours, in retaining the Lips close together, and defending them from Fluxion [discharge]. The Patient was well pleased with his Cure, though there remained some marks of a Cross. These sort of people wearing them with much pride in their Faces, as marks of their Courage.” (Wiseman, Richard, *Of Wounds, Severall Chirurgicall Treatises*, 1676 p. 362)

**Edited March 15, 2009 by Mission**