

THE LITTLE BLACK NEEDLE

Booking & Appointment Information

Thank you for your interest in booking with The Little Black Needle.

The Little Black Needle is a fine-line, illustrative and fine-art inspired tattoo service based at Martink's Tattoo Studio in Maidstone, Kent.

This page explains how bookings work, what to send before your appointment, how to prepare, and what to expect on the day.

Studio Details

The Little Black Needle

Martink's Tattoo Studio, Unit 5 Wren Industrial Estate, Coldred Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15, 9YT

Email: thelittleblackneedle@gmail.com

Instagram: [@thelittleblackneedle](https://www.instagram.com/thelittleblackneedle)

Website: www.thelittleblackneedle.co.uk

Artist: Maggie Kaupas

How to Book

To enquire about a tattoo, please contact the studio by email, website enquiry, or Instagram message.

Please include as much useful information as possible so your idea can be assessed properly.

Helpful information includes:

- your tattoo idea;
- approximate size;
- preferred placement;
- whether you want fine line, blackwork, black and grey, colour, realism, illustrative work, or one-line style;
- any reference images;
- whether the tattoo is custom or flash;
- your preferred dates or availability;
- whether this is your first tattoo;
- any relevant skin, scar, cover-up, or placement issues.

Please do not copy another artist's tattoo exactly. Reference images are welcome for direction, mood, composition, or style, but the final tattoo will be an artistic interpretation.

Before Booking or Paying a Deposit

By booking or paying a deposit, you agree to the studio's Terms & Conditions. Your statutory rights are not affected.

Please read the full Terms & Conditions before paying a deposit.

Quotes

Prices are quoted individually based on size, detail, placement, colour, complexity, and estimated time.

Flash tattoos are priced individually unless stated otherwise.

Custom tattoos are quoted individually.

Any quote is an estimate unless confirmed as fixed in writing. If the design, size, placement, complexity, or session time changes, the price may change. Any material price change will be discussed before tattooing begins.

Deposits

A deposit is required to secure your appointment.

Your appointment is not confirmed until the deposit has been received and accepted by the studio.

The deposit is deducted from the final tattoo price on the day of the appointment.

Deposits cover appointment space, consultation time, design preparation, diary administration, and loss of opportunity where another client could have booked the appointment.

Deposits are not automatically refundable if you cancel, fail to attend, arrive too late to proceed, attend without valid ID, attend under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or fail to disclose relevant information which means the tattoo cannot safely proceed.

Any deposit retention will be limited to the studio's reasonable losses and costs already incurred.

Rescheduling & Cancellation

You may reschedule once without losing your deposit if you give at least 48 hours' notice, subject to availability.

Less than 48 hours' notice, no-show, or late arrival may result in deposit retention and a new deposit being required.

Major design changes close to the appointment may require rescheduling and deposit retention for work already carried out.

If the studio has to cancel your appointment, you will be offered a new date or a refund of the deposit.

Cancellation or rescheduling must be made by email to thelittleblackneedle@gmail.com or by telephone/message to 07411 949500. Social media messages may be missed and should not be relied on for urgent cancellation unless confirmed by the studio.

Before Your Appointment

Before your appointment, please:

- eat a proper meal;
- stay hydrated;
- avoid alcohol and recreational drugs for at least 24 hours;
- bring valid photo ID;
- wear comfortable clothing that gives easy access to the tattoo area;
- avoid heavy sun exposure or sunburn before the appointment;
- tell the studio about any relevant medical condition, medication, allergy, skin issue, illness, pregnancy, breastfeeding, or wellbeing concern;
- tell the studio if anything changes between booking and the appointment.

Please do not attend if you are unwell, feverish, dizzy, faint, infectious, intoxicated, or unable to give informed consent.

ID / Age Requirement

You must be aged 18 or over to be tattooed.

Parental consent is not sufficient.

Valid photo ID must be shown before tattooing. Accepted ID includes passport, driving licence, PASS-approved proof-of-age card, or another form of photo ID accepted by the studio.

If you cannot provide satisfactory ID, the appointment will not proceed and the deposit may be retained to cover reasonable costs and lost appointment time.

Medical Suitability

Before tattooing, you will be asked to complete a consent and medical declaration form.

This includes questions about medical conditions, medication, allergies, pregnancy/breastfeeding, skin conditions, previous tattoo reactions, fainting, blood-thinning medication, immune system issues, and anything else relevant to tattooing or healing.

A “Yes” answer does not automatically mean you cannot be tattooed. It means the artist may need to ask further questions, proceed with caution, postpone, refuse, or ask you to seek medical advice before tattooing.

The artist and studio are not medical professionals and cannot diagnose medical conditions or provide medical advice or treatment.

Design Approval

Before tattooing begins, you will have the opportunity to review and approve the final design/stencil, including design, size, spelling, placement, and orientation.

You are responsible for checking names, dates, numbers, symbols, translations, spelling, placement, size, orientation, and design details before tattooing begins.

Once you have approved the final design or stencil and tattooing has begun, changes of mind or dissatisfaction with an approved design, size, spelling, placement, orientation, or agreed style are not grounds for a refund.

The final tattoo is an artistic interpretation and may not be an exact replica of any reference image, photo, drawing, or mock-up.

High-Risk Placements

Some placements are more likely to heal unpredictably, fade, blur, spread, lose ink, or require touch-ups.

This includes hands, fingers, feet, elbows, knees, wrists, ankles, ribs, neck, face, inner lip, scar tissue, high-friction areas, and high-movement areas.

High-risk placements, including hands, fingers, feet, elbows, knees, wrists, and joints, may not qualify for complimentary touch-ups.

On the Day

On the day of your appointment:

- arrive on time;

- bring valid photo ID;
- complete or confirm your consent and medical form;
- discuss any medical or skin concerns with the artist;
- review and approve the final design/stencil;
- follow the artist's hygiene and safety instructions;
- remain as still as reasonably possible during tattooing.

The artist may refuse, pause, or stop tattooing if it would be unsafe, unsuitable, unlawful, inappropriate, or inconsistent with professional standards.

Aftercare

You will be provided with written aftercare instructions.

Please read and follow them carefully. Failure to follow aftercare may increase the risk of infection, scarring, colour loss, fading, patchy healing, poor healing, or the need for a touch-up.

Fresh tattoos may look darker, sharper, brighter, or more defined than the healed result. Healed tattoos may soften, lighten, blur slightly, fade, or heal unevenly.

All tattoos naturally fade and change over time.

Touch-Ups

Touch-ups are considered only after the tattoo has fully settled, usually no earlier than 8 weeks after the appointment.

A complimentary touch-up may be considered at the artist's discretion, but is not guaranteed.

Touch-up requests must be made within 6 months of the original appointment.

Touch-ups may be chargeable where required because of aftercare failure, picking, scratching, sun exposure, soaking, friction, unsuitable products, high-risk placement, design changes, normal ageing, lifestyle factors, skin changes, or work by another artist.

Privacy & Data Handling

Personal information provided during enquiries, bookings, consent forms and aftercare communication is handled in line with the Privacy Notice.

Concerns or Complaints

If you have a concern about your tattoo, healing, service, or booking, please contact the studio as soon as possible.

Please include:

- your name;
- appointment date;
- a clear description of the concern;
- clear photographs if relevant.

Any concern, complaint, or touch-up request should be raised promptly before any work is carried out by another artist.

For medical concerns, such as suspected infection, allergic reaction, severe swelling, spreading redness, fever, or feeling unwell, please seek medical advice from your GP, NHS 111, urgent care, or emergency services as appropriate.

Documents You May Be Asked to Read or Complete

Before or during your appointment, you may be asked to read or complete:

- Terms & Conditions;
- Privacy Notice;
- Consent, Medical Declaration & Aftercare Acknowledgement Form;
- Aftercare Instructions;
- Photo/Marketing Consent (optional — you can still get your tattoo if you decline).

Thank you for choosing The Little Black Needle.