

MODIFICATION'S OUTER LIMITS!

XTREME BODY MOD

THE NEW TRIBALISM

BODY MOD PAYS HOMAGE TO HISTORY

BRANDING

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

RIP-OFF WARNING

TATTOOING SEMINARS SERVICE OR SCAM?

'SCARIFICATION

BODY MOD WITH A PAINFUL EDGE

TATTOO TECH TIPS

PIERCING UPDATES

PRO-FILES

A GALLERY OF XTREME ARTISTS & THEIR WORK

www.xtremebodymod.com

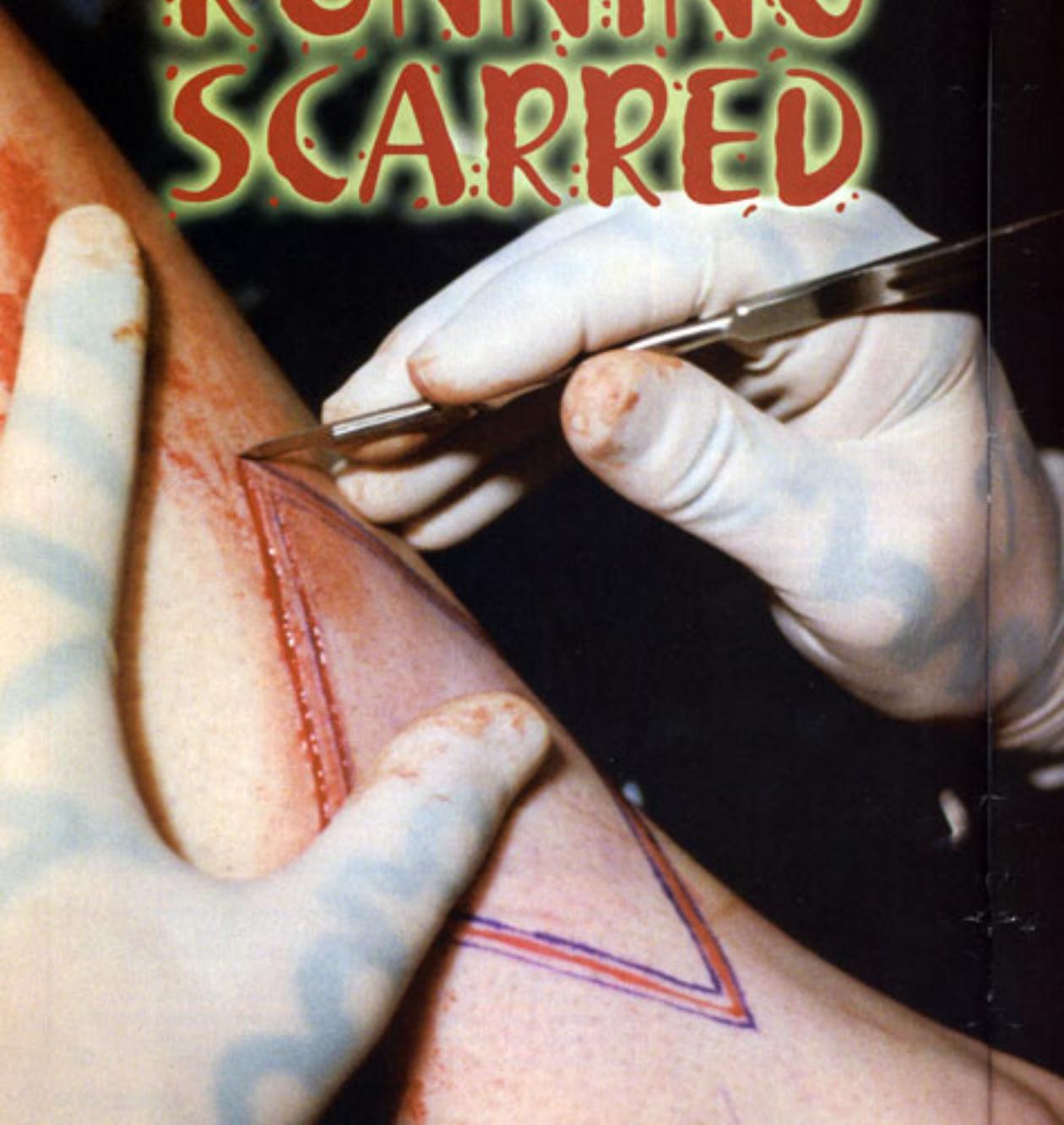
APRIL 2002 \$5.99/7.99 CAN.

0.4



PRINTED IN CANADA

RUNNING SCARRED





Surely one of the most intense and most painful forms of body modification is scarification. "Extreme"? It certainly qualifies. But how is it accomplished?

If all forms of body modification, it's safe to say that scarification is the most ancient. At its simplest, it requires nothing but experience and a sharp tool. No biocompatible inks are needed, no knowledge of machining to build jewelry is required, no difficult-to-manufacture plastic implants are involved, and it works on all colors of skin.

Until very recently, "scarification" meant one thing: cutting. Don't make the mistake, though, of thinking that those cuts weren't a big deal, or that modern man is somehow more extreme than his predecessors—we're talking about bloody rituals involving cuts across the scalp so deep that the scars are actually etched into the bone of the skull. We're also talking about deep multiple facial gashes packed with clay, resulting in one-inch-wide snakes of scar tissue.

The fashionable modern primitive isn't really looking for quite that level of brutality in his or her aesthetic.

Most people who choose to indulge in modern scarification are seeking a more precise aesthetic. We know, after all, how tattooing offers the opportunity to be decorated with intricate designs, and it's probably for that reason that so many people expect that level of control in scars as well. Is it possible? The results available from scarification depend in part on the method used. In the last couple of decades, various methods of scarification have been attempted—not all of them successful.

What are some of those methods? (I thought you'd never ask!) Well, I'll offer you a "scarification menu" in a minute, but first, a bit

of background: I'd like to put this art form into context by briefly explaining how and why the body creates a scar.

The skin is the body's primary protection from the outside world, so when it's damaged, the body immediately rushes to plug the hole. The first step is a scab, often followed by various types of scar tissue. Scar tissue grows not only according to the nature of the wound but also according to the treatment it gets during healing.

Have you ever seen a scar that rises high in some areas but not in others? It may not be due to the configuration of the original wound. An even wound will not always result in an even scar. Here's why: Imagine a scar that travels from your shoulder to your chest. When you raise your arm, different parts of the scar move in different ways: Some areas twist, some stretch, some compress, and some don't move at all. In natural scarring, this can result in a scar of uneven height, and in deliberate scarification every one of these areas and the gradual transition between them must be compensated for with subtle differences in technique across them. (And though we're talking here about the shoulder because it's an obvious example, this is an issue to some extent all over the body.)

Okay—now that you have a better understanding of the scarring process, here's that look at different methods of scarification:

CUTTING

It's true that anyone can pick up a scalpel and carve a design into his drunken buddy and it will probably be permanent and it will proba-

BY SHANNON LARRATT

Unfortunately, as romantically appealing as chemical branding seems, it is not realistically possible for it to be precisely controlled; and, at present, it is not a good method for achieving consistently pleasing results. [Editor's note: See the article on branding, "A Special Brand of Body Mod," on page 76.]

STRIKE BRANDING

Strike branding—popularized by Fakir Musafar in the 1980s with his series of *Body Play* magazines and then expanded upon by artists such as Blair—is a relatively simple procedure. A piece of metal is heated with a blowtorch, and is then momentarily applied to the skin, vaporizing what it touches and burning the surrounding tissue. Because of this collateral damage, strike brands generally spread as they heal, resulting in a minimum line thickness of about 3/16 of an inch. However, the advantage to this spread is that using multiple overlapping strikes can create a contoured shape.

One of the less obvious things that makes strike branding (and, to some extent, scarification of all kinds) particularly difficult is that the body begins responding to the "attack" almost immediately. As soon as the first strike is done, the skin in the area contracts, deforming the surrounding tissue. A second strike next to the first one, applied with identical heat and pressure, will have a slightly different effect on the body.

It's true that one could probably ignore this, but attention to these details is what makes a person an artist, rather than just someone hitting someone else with a hot piece of metal.

"CAUTERY" BRANDING

All branding is, of course, by definition using cautery, but typically when people use the term "cautery branding," they are

referring to branding done using electrically heated tools—essentially more refined versions of a soldering iron. In a process almost like creating a wood-burning, the tool is used like a brush, burning the pattern into the skin.

With experience, it's possible to achieve remarkably fine lines, but healed results tend to be faint and, as with all heat-based scarring, there is some spreading and blurring of the design. In addition, the less expensive cautery pens are barely powerful enough, being designed to control bleeding rather than perform actual cutting, making procedures far more lengthy than need be.

"LASER" BRANDING

"Laser" branding, as popularized by Steve Haworth (well known for his pioneering efforts in implant art) actually has nothing to do with lasers; the tool used is a medical electrocautery unit. An electrocautery unit is effectively an arc welder for skin and is used by doctors as a powerful and relatively bloodless

scalpel (since it burns small blood vessels closed as it cuts). Scarification artists often buy the units through medical surplus suppliers. They work by passing an electric current through the body, which arcs between the skin and an electric pen, and the tissue in between is literally vaporized.

The end result is not significantly different from strike branding, but it's far easier for the artist to control line thickness. In addition, depth can be controlled, allowing the artist to create different textures of scarring. It should be mentioned that damage to surrounding tissue is extremely minimal. For that reason, nerves are not destroyed, and most people describe laser branding as the most profoundly painful thing they have ever experienced.

INJECTION

Injection scarring is one of the rarest forms of scarification, and probably for good reason. It is less predicicable than most forms, has relatively limited results, and is probably not particularly safe.





Art: Gary Pygdon, Tattoo, of Amsterdam

The procedure is quite simple: Inject a noxious but relatively non-toxic substance (for example, alcohol) under the skin with a syringe. This will then blister, burst, and scar, leaving a result analogous to an inoculation scar. (I'm not kidding, by the way. As odd as this sounds, it really is a method people use!)

SKINNING

As I mentioned above, cutting offers precise control over design but not over scar contour. First popularized by Toro and Sandrine, a pair of scarification artists from Spain who traveled the world extensively, skinning attempts to add the ability to create large areas of filled-in scar to the detail provided by cutting. The solution is obvious: Cut the outline, and then just peel off the area you'd like filled.

It's sort of like making cookies. Imagine the fresh, rolled-out

sheet of dough as skin, and the countertop as the subcutaneous tissue. The cookie cutter (scalpel) cuts out a shape in the dough (skin), which is then peeled off. If it really was skin, a scar would appear in the place of the removed dough.

Of all the forms of scarification, this one is likely the most invasive, not to mention the most disturbing to watch being done. I mentioned earlier that cutting leaves you with a blood print; skinning takes it a big step farther and, if the artist is skilled enough, leaves you with the removed skin as a single mountable icon of physical misery begetting beauty.

CLAMP AND CUT

Clamp and cut was a brief precursor to skinning. It's exactly what it sounds like: Small circles of skin were tented up with a clamp and then amputated. The result was a pattern of biopsies that healed as even, raised bumps. Skinning has effectively replaced clamp-and-cut scarring since it has the same result but is far more versatile.

TATTOO MACHINE

I'm sure you all know someone who's got a crappy, scarred-up tattoo done by some heavy-handed scratcher. If you were looking for just a tattoo, that's a bad thing; but this scarring can be controlled and used as a valid method of scarification.

The tattoo machine is run with just plain water, or water and a minor abrasive substance, and the design is literally ground into the flesh, using the tattoo machine to tear up the skin in the shape of the desired design. This method allows for very precise control over the scarring, but in general the results are fairly faint. Often the healed result appears almost identical to normal skin, with only a slight tonal

difference, almost as if the design were tanned on.

ABRASION

Abrasion scarring (also known as the "Mamiya Technique" after Eizo Mamiya, a body artist in Tokyo) takes the concepts of tattoo machine scarring and brings them up to a larger scale by using more powerful tools. The principle is the same, but a Dremel tool or even a glass-engraving tool is used to grind off the top layers of skin. Using a rotating abrasive tip (such as a carving tip), the procedure can get quite bloody, and extreme care must be taken to avoid contamination. The healed result is quite similar to tattoo machine scarring: very little raising, with only a subtle variation in color.

BRAIDING

To the best of my knowledge, braiding is non-existent, but it's one of the longest-running urban legends in scarification. The concept is that three strips of skin are lifted up and left attached at one end (sort of like the start of a skinning). Then, these strips are braided and packed down close to the body. The stories go on to say that when healed, the resulting scar looks very much like braided bread.

Unfortunately, that's just not the way the body heals. If someone actually attempted this, the braided skin would not get adequate blood supply on top of not being able to adhere to the tissue below, resulting in necrosis. In a best-case scenario, it would be an aesthetic nightmare, as well as the potential start of serious medical repercussions.

•••

Does that seem like quite a few different methods of scarification? Well, believe it or not, I've barely even scraped the surface (so to speak) of scarification methods; I've left out liquid nitrogen branding and any num-

ber of other fascinating (and dangerous) techniques. My hope, though, is that in offering you this brief glimpse at scarification methods, I've illustrated not only the range of techniques and results scarification has to offer but also shown you that scarification is a deeply complex and rich art form, requiring immense amounts of

knowledge and a deep understanding of the body.

None of this is intended as a how-to. If you're interested in scarification, please seek out an artist with as much experience as possible. When you look through his or her portfolio, make sure that you see healed as well as fresh photos. Anyone can make a scar that looks good

unhealed. The real art is in making it heal and heal attractively. Good luck, and good cutting!

Shannon Larratt is the publisher of the online body modification magazine bmezine.com, and wears what would measure nearly a yard each of brandings and cuttings if they were laid in a line.

IBM

HOT! EXPLICIT!

Xtreme body mod videos at popular prices! The hottest, most bizarre tattooing and piercing videos ever produced—play piercings, genital tattoos, fetish play & more! Order yours today!



SIZZLING FLASH VIDEOS!

**Only \$29.95 each
Any 4 for only \$99**

**FOR
FAST
SERVICE
CALL
TOLL FREE
1-800-964-6247
credit card orders only**

#1. PAINLESS STEEL/TATTOO EXPO

Erotic body piercing, sexy tattooed ladies & more! This video was ruled obscene in England! PLUS: scenes from the Tattoo Expo at London's Hammersmith Palace. 65 minutes

#2. PAINLESS STEEL—PART 2

At last, a real-hot mix of consensual pain and pleasure, and forbidden tattooing! PLUS: World's wildest body piercings! 65 minutes

#3. PAINLESS STEEL—PART 3

All women, all-hot piercing action! 60 minutes

#4. PAINLESS STEEL—PART 4

Seductive Simone's outrageous piercings and more! Shocking scenes that will fry your eyeballs! 60 minutes

#5. PAINLESS STEEL—PART 6 (NEW!)

Close-up shots of the wildest, sexiest piercings ever! See why this is our best-selling series! 60 minutes

#6. EROTIC TATTOOING & BODY PIERCING—PART 4

WOW! See the wild piercing scene in "Bizarre Rituals" that was snipped by censors. Plus: cutting, play piercings, rare Charles Gatewood photos & more! 60 minutes

#7. EROTIC TATTOOING & BODY PIERCING—PART 5

Shocking body piercings! Tattooed faces & hands! Pierced & split genitals! Tantric tattooing & more! 55 minutes

#8. FANGS OF STEEL/CUTTING

Explore the cutting edge of forbidden body play! Seeing is believing! 75 minutes

SEND TO: Body Mod Productions, PO Box 392, White Plains, NY 10602

YES! Send me video nos. _____ @ \$29.95 (plus \$3 shipping per video, total \$32.95; CA residents add 8.25% tax, total \$35.42; NY residents add 7.75% tax, total \$35.27. BEST DEAL: Order any 4 videos for only \$99 (plus shipping). Enclosed is \$ _____ Check Money Order or charge my credit card:

CC Type _____ Exp. _____

CC # _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Prov _____ Zip/postal _____

Signature _____
I am over 21 years of age. I believe this material does not violate my community standards. I am not an agent or employee of any government agency unless noted for purposes of enforcement.