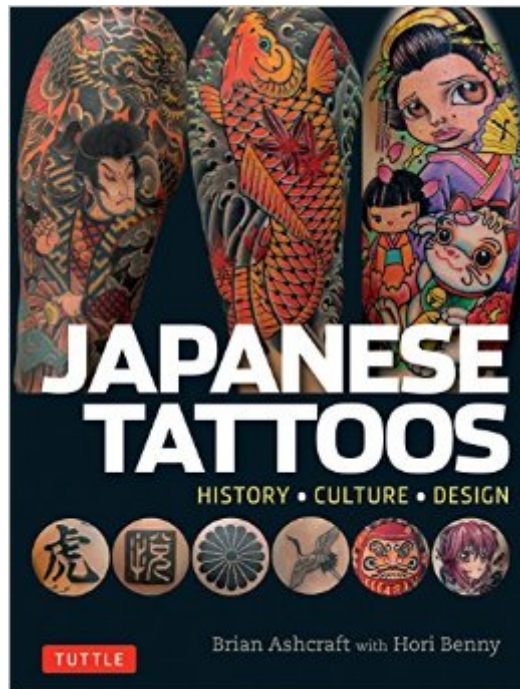


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# Japanese Tattoos: History \* Culture \* Design



## Synopsis

Thinking of getting a Japanese-style tattoo? Want to avoid a permanent mistake? *Japanese Tattoos* is an insider's look at the world of Japanese irezumi (tattoos). *Japanese Tattoos* explains the imagery featured in Japanese tattoos so that readers can avoid getting ink they don't understand or, worse, that they'll regret. This photo-heavy book will also trace the history of Japanese tattooing, putting the iconography and kanji symbols in their proper context so readers will be better informed as to what they mean and have a deeper understanding of irezumi. Tattoos featured will range from traditional tebori (hand-poked) and kanji tattoos to anime-inspired and modern works "as well as everything in between. For the first time, Japanese tattooing will be put together in a visually attractive, informative, and authoritative way. Along with the 350+ photos of tattoos, *Japanese Tattoos* will also feature interviews with Japanese tattoo artists on a variety of topics. What's more, there will be interviews with clients, who are typically overlooked in similar books, allowing them to discuss what their Japanese tattoos mean to them. Those who read this informative tattoo guide will be more knowledgeable about Japanese tattoos should they want to get inked or if they are simply interested in Japanese art and culture.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

*Japanese Tattoos: History \* Culture \* Design* In his fourth book, *Japanese Tattoos: History \* Culture \* Design*, Brian Ashcraft teams up with Osaka artist Hori Benny to tackle a traditionally dense subject and make it accessible to everyone. While there are other books covering the subject, this is easily the most approachable. The book is available in digital and paperback formats;

for the purposes of this view, I relied mostly on my paperback copy. That said, one advantage of the digital version is that you can zoom in on the photos. However, this doesn't take away from the paperback version, which is printed in full colour on good quality paper. Inside, the text is immediately engaging. The introduction is extensive, providing background on the history and culture of tattoos, and how the latter has changed. This makes a solid foundation for first chapter, which covers kanji tattoos and takes the reader much further back than they might expect! Did you know that before being used for punishment, tattoos could denote rank, or social status? That they were sometimes used to mark pledges, or to identify fallen warriors? Or maybe you're looking to get a kanji tattoo, yourself--advice on that can be found here, too. The next three chapters cover other designs and motifs common to the artform. Every example is provided with an in-depth explanation of its significance and history, complete with pictorial examples. Often, idiosyncrasies of language that might be lost on a non-native speaker are brought to light.

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