Get a Painless Tattoo

By JP Kabala

In our first Displacement Map project, Add Ripples to a Flag, we created a black and white displacement map by painting on a white canvas to put ripples and shadows on a flag. In this project, we're going to apply a painless tattoo to the arm of a friend. You're going to need a few resources for this one.

What you'll need:

■ Jasc® Paint Shop™ Pro® 9

■ Sample image SteveBeach.jpg. While you're welcome to use your own photo, he's in the perfect pose to admire a new tattoo!

■ Dragon Clipart. I've converted this to .png format, but just about any kind of line drawing or clipart will work.
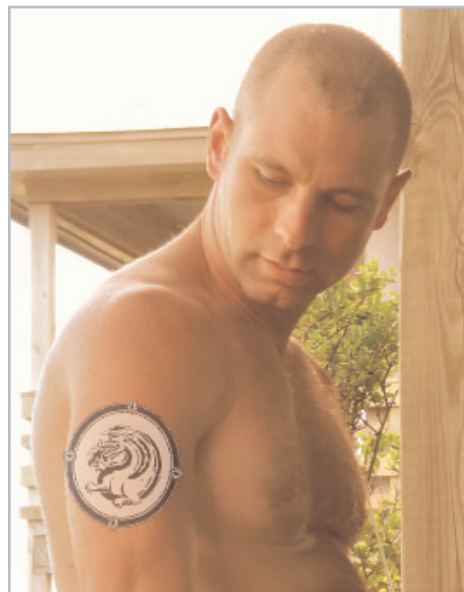
Open the Sample Images

1. Choose **Start > Programs > Jasc Software > Jasc Paint Shop Pro** or double click the Paint Shop Pro Icon on your desktop to open Paint Shop Pro.

2. Choose **File > Browse**, to open the Paint Shop Pro Browser. Use the Browser to navigate to your desktop, or the folder where you stored the sample images. Once you locate them, double-click to open in Paint Shop Pro.

Paste the Dragon Image as a New Layer

3. Make Dragon your active image. Copy Dragon.png to the clipboard by pressing **CTRL+C**.

4. Make SteveBeach.jpg your active image. Paste Dragon into SteveBeach as a new layer by pressing **CTRL+L**. Name this new layer **Dragon**. You can close Dragon.png now if you like. You won't need it again.

5. On the Layer Palette, lower the opacity of the Dragon layer to about **50%** to make positioning and resizing easier.

Rotate & Resize the Dragon

6. Using the Deform Tool, rotate and resize Dragon so that it fits on to Steve's arm.

7. Choose Window>Duplicate to tell Paint Shop Pro to
create an exact copy of your document.
When the copy is made:

- Delete the Dragon layer
- Choose **Adjust > Hue and Saturation > Colorize**.
  When the dialog opens, set the
  Saturation value to **0** and click **OK**. You should
  now have a black and white image
- Choose **Adjust > Brightness and Contrast >
  Clarify**. When the dialog opens, set the
  Clarify value to **5** and click **OK**. Repeat this step
  three more times for a total of four.

8. Switch back to the color version of the SteveBeach image and increase the opacity of the
Dragon layer back to **100%**.

Add Text

9. Select the **Text** Tool. Reset to the default settings, then make these changes:

- Set Stroke to **0**
- Choose a font you like (The one I used here is called Antique)
- Place Black in the background color swatch and click once on the image to open the
  dialog box. When the box opens, type in "**MOM**" (or whatever else amuses you) and
  click **Apply**
- Paint Shop Pro will have automatically created a new vector layer for your text.
  Select the **Vector Object Selection** Tool to place, scale and rotate your text into position.

10. When your text is in place, choose **Layers > Merge > Merge Down** to combine the text with the dragon. Note that the Raster 1 layer, with the text and dragon, is the active layer.
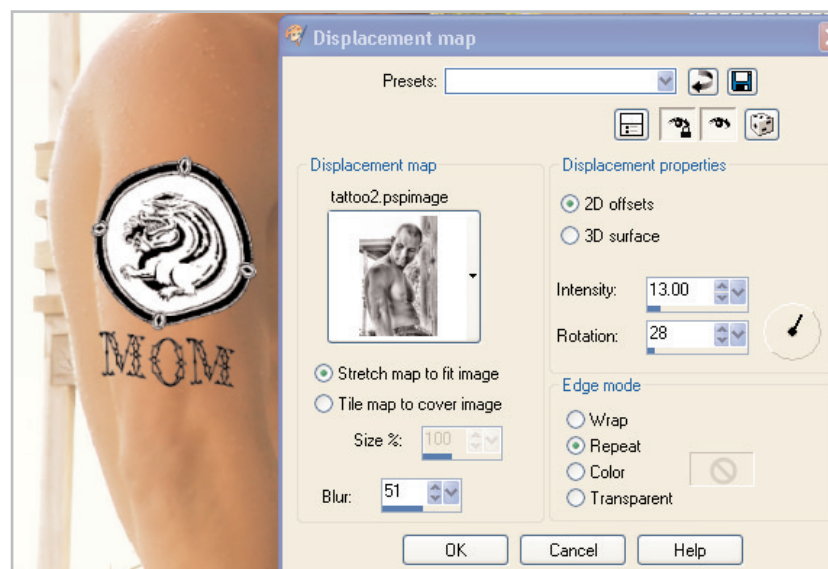

Add the Displacement Map

11. Choose **Effects > Distortion Effects > Displacement Map**. When the dialog box opens, set the parameters as shown. Things to note:

- In the map picker, locate and choose the high-contrast grayscale version of the image created in Step 6
- Blur: **51**
- Displacement Properties: **2D**
- Intensity: **13**
- Rotation: **28**

The Stretch and Edge Mode values are not really important in this image because of the amount of empty space around the tattoo. Click **OK**.

Notice how the tattoo now follows the curvature of his arm in a more natural way. There is a tiny eraser touchup to be done on the left edge – where the text M extends completely past the arm-in the next step.

Make the Tattoo Look Realistic

12. Change the Layer Blend Mode of Raster 1 to **Burn** and set the Opacity at **25%**. Duplicate the Raster 1 layer. Change the Layer Blend Mode of Copy of Raster 1 to **Multiply** and set the Opacity at **50%**.

13. Choose **Adjust > Brightness and Contrast > Brightness & Contrast.** Set the Brightness value to **40** and the Contrast value to **-40** (minus 40) Click **OK**. This step is necessary because you cannot Colorize a pure black and white image. By decreasing the Contrast and increasing the Brightness the tattoo changes from black and white to gray and white.

14. Choose **Adjust > Hue and Saturation> Colorize**. Set the Hue to **177** and the Saturation to **255**. Click **OK**.

15. Use a very small Eraser on both Raster 1 and Copy of Raster 1 to erase the stray pixels on the left edge of the first M in Mom.

16. Copy the high contrast grayscale image created in Step 6 to the clipboard. Paste it into SteveBeach as a new layer. On the Layer Palette, set the Layer Blend Mode to **Overlay** and the Opacity to **34%**. This step increases the overall contrast in the image. And now Steve's all set to admire his new tattoo!

Next Steps:

Now that you know how to create this optical illusion you can bend images around all kinds of things. Next time try top wrap a logo around a photo of a coffee mug, or add a tattoo to an arm.