



Google Eyes Smart Tattoos That Turn Skin Into Touchpad

Technocrats invent because they can, not because there is a real need to do so. In this case, that age-old dream of merging technology with the human condition is clearly seen. Doesn't everyone need a touchpad on their arm? □ TN Editor

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Part of [Google](#) Research, the wearable project is called "SkinMarks" that uses rub-on tattoos.

The project is an effort to create the next generation of wearable technology devices, the CNET reported citing white papers and demo videos,

Here's how the technology works.

The sensor-driven tattoos are applied to a part of the body.

The sensors can then be triggered by traditional touch or swipe gestures, like we perform on smartphones.

There are a few gestures that are more specific to working on the skin's surface.

"You could squeeze the area around the tattoo or bend your fingers or limbs to activate the sensors".

The researchers at Saarland University in Germany wrote in a white paper that the benefit of using skin as an interface "is tapping into the fine motor skills that human beings naturally have".

The project is partly funded through [Google](#) Faculty Research Awards.

Interacting with your own skin and limbs also means you can do it without looking.

The tattoos are made by screen printing conductive ink onto tattoo paper.

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