Proposal for Bookkeeping System

Proposal for which bookkeeping system would be most effective for a local tattoo shop that is owned and operated by one person, currently with no other people working in the shop, but should include a way to accommodate new growth if desired.

Need a way to keep track of receipts for tattoo services and jewelry sales from the front of the store. Also needs to record the renovations done and any business expenses for taxes. Could be beneficial to have contracts in the same system.

Works with Pinnacle Bank for personal and business banking and works with Clover for customer transactions.

Quickbooks

Simple Start: Simple Start ($38/month): Best for startups and service-based small businesses. Includes 1 user plus accountant access, basic reporting (40+ types), and unlimited invoicing.
- Target: Solopreneurs and new startups.
- Core Limitations: Restricted to 1 user (plus 2 accountant firms). It cannot track unpaid bills or record time.
- Key Features:
  - Invoicing: Create and send unlimited custom invoices and estimates.
  - Automation: Connects to bank feeds to automatically categorize transactions using AI-powered tools like Intuit Assist.
  - Tax Ready: Includes mileage tracking via GPS and basic receipt capture to maximize deductions.
  - Reporting: Access to ~20 basic reports, including Profit & Loss and Balance Sheets.

Essentials: Essentials ($75/month): Ideal for growing service businesses. Supports up to 3 users and adds bill management and time tracking.
- Target: Service-based businesses that are growing or have a small team.
- Key Upgrades:
  - Users: Supports up to 3 users with unique logins and an audit log to track changes.
  - Bill Management: Unlike Simple Start, you can enter bills as they arrive and track when they are due, helping manage cash flow.
  - Time Tracking: Employees or contractors can enter their own hours, which you can then pull directly into invoices for client billing.
  - Multi-Currency: Essential if you deal with international clients or vendors.
  - Reporting: Expanded to 40+ reports, adding "Accounts Payable" aging and "Unbilled Time" reports.

Plus: Plus ($115/month): The "customer favorite" for businesses managing physical goods or multiple projects. Supports up to 5 users and adds inventory tracking and project profitability tools.

- Target: Businesses with physical inventory or those managing multiple client projects.
- Key Upgrades:
    - Users: Supports up to 5 users.
    - Inventory Tracking: Tracks quantities on hand, alerts you when stock is low, and automatically calculates the Cost of Goods Sold (COGS).
    - Project Profitability: Provides a dedicated "Projects" center to track labor, material costs, and income per job to see exactly which projects are making money.
    - Budgeting: Create annual budgets and run "Budget vs. Actual" reports.
    - Class/Location Tracking: Deeply categorize transactions by department or office location for granular reporting.

Recommendation

I would recommend either the Plus plan due to the ability to track inventory, which would be helpful for tracking jewelry and tattoo supply sales, or the Essentials plan due to the reduced cost. Since its price is $40/per month over the Essentials plan, I could see the desire to stay with that plan since the main difference is that it allows for inventory tracking in the Inuit system, and integrating with the Clover system will be an extra cost. The Essential plan will also be able to handle the workload needed for your shop. It is best for service shops, so it would be great for the tattooing side of the shop. Since the Clover system also covers inventory tracking, the Essentials plan would be enough to cover your needs. The main draw of the Plus plan would be the ability to track inventory through the Inuit system.

Integration With Clover

From initial information, it looks like the systems integrate well with each other, and some programs can integrate them more, but there are mixed reviews of them.

Integrating QuickBooks with Clover POS is achieved through third-party connector apps found in the Clover App Market or the QuickBooks App Store. This connection automates the flow of sales data into your accounting software, eliminating manual entry.

Key Features of Integration

- Automatic Sales Sync: Transactions, including gross sales, discounts, and tips, are transferred daily—often as a "Daily Summary" to keep your books clean.
- Tax & Fee Mapping: Automatically tracks sales tax collected and identifies Clover processing fees, categorizing them into your chosen expense accounts.

- Inventory Management: Some advanced apps sync stock levels in real-time, updating QuickBooks whenever a sale or refund occurs on Clover.
- Reconciliation: Aligns payouts and deposits, helping you match your bank statements to your POS records more quickly.

Different Apps for Integration

App	Best For	Typical Pricing
Commerce Sync	Standard daily sales summaries; supports Desktop and Online.	~$20–$40/mo
PayTraQer	High-volume stores need real-time sync and detailed error logs.	Varies by volume
QuickSync	Multi-channel sellers requiring deep inventory and product variant syncing	~$19–$69/mo

Clover System

Since I mentioned the Clover's Inventory system earlier, here is a rundown of what the system allows you to do.

Clover's native inventory tools allow you to do:
- Real-Time Tracking: Automatically update stock counts with every sale or return.
- Low Stock Alerts: Set reorder thresholds and receive automated notifications when items are running low.
- Variants & Modifiers: Manage different versions of a product (e.g., small vs. large, red vs. blue) within a single item entry.
- Barcode Scanning: Use the built-in camera or a handheld scanner to quickly add or look up items.
- Categories & Labels: Organize your stock into categories for cleaner reporting and easier navigation on the POS screen

Plan Specific Tracking:
- Essentials Plan: Offers basic tracking (item-level entry and categories) but lacks advanced tools like variants or detailed cost tracking.
- Retail/Services Growth Plans: Unlock full inventory management, including variants, item-level cost tracking, and profitability reporting.

Overview

For a solo-operated tattoo and jewelry shop, a recommended bookkeeping strategy involves a Hybrid System utilizing Clover for sales and inventory management and QuickBooks Online (QBO) Essentials for financial tracking. This approach leverages Clover's existing capabilities for jewelry sales, service receipts, and inventory tracking, making the QuickBooks Plus plan possibly redundant as it duplicates inventory management features, but if it proves to be an issue in the future, it will be easier to upgrade to the Plus plan at a future date. QBO Essentials, at $75/month, is sufficient for handling tattooing services, managing renovation and business expenses for tax purposes, and accommodating potential growth with support for up to 3 users. The overall cost per month ends up being between $95-$145/per month, depending on the integration system used.