Choosing Graph-Paper Grid Size for Calligraphy Stroke Practice

Worked example / complete source key

A pen makes a stroke 2 mm wide. The intended x-height is 12 mm. Compare a 5 mm grid and a 1 cm grid: how many squares does the x-height span on each, and which grid makes counting simpler?

Answer: On the 5 mm grid, 12 mm divided by 5 mm equals 2.4 squares. On the 1 cm grid, 12 mm divided by 10 mm equals 1.2 squares. Neither is a whole number, but the 1 cm grid gives a smaller, easier-to-estimate span. The stroke width is 2/5 of a square on the 5 mm grid and 1/5 of a square on the 1 cm grid. The 1 cm grid makes counting simpler for this x-height.