Four-Line Bass Guitar Tab Paper: Design, Use, and Check

Original tasks 1, 2, 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 1

A hypothetical staff row is 120 mm wide. Bar lines are placed every 24 mm starting at the left edge. How many measures fit in the row?

Answer: Five measures.

Reason: 120 divided by 24 equals 5. The first bar line is at 24 mm, the fifth at 120 mm, so five complete measures fit.

Check: Multiply 5 by 24 to get 120 mm, matching the row width.

Task 2

A page has 200 mm usable width. You want measures of 25 mm. How many measures fit, and how much width remains unused?

Answer: Eight measures fit; 0 mm remains.

Reason: 200 divided by 25 equals 8 exactly, so no width is left over.

Check: Multiply 8 by 25 to get 200 mm.

Task 3

A staff row plus gap is 18 mm. Usable height is 90 mm. How many rows fit?

Answer: Five rows.

Reason: 90 divided by 18 equals 5. Each row consumes 18 mm including the gap.

Check: Multiply 5 by 18 to get 90 mm.

Task 4

You draw four lines with 6 mm spacing between adjacent lines. What is the total distance from the top line to the bottom line?

Answer: 18 mm.

Reason: Four lines have three gaps between them. Three gaps times 6 mm equals 18 mm.

Check: Count the gaps: line 1 to 2, 2 to 3, 3 to 4; three gaps of 6 mm each.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Four lines are present and evenly spaced.
- [ ] String order is labeled and matches the written fret numbers.
- [ ] A bass clef indicator appears at each staff start.
- [ ] Rhythm marks sit in a separate row and align with fret numbers.
- [ ] Bar lines cross all four lines at consistent intervals.
- [ ] Any numerical spacing values are labeled as measured or hypothetical.
- [ ] Alternative conventions are allowed if stated clearly and used consistently.

Reflection: What did you check, what did you change, and what will you try next?