Draw the Letter A: Block and Serif Construction

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Construct a block A with cap height 40 mm, leg spread 24 mm, stroke width 4 mm, and crossbar height 12 mm. State the crossbar-to-cap-height ratio.

Answer: The crossbar-to-cap-height ratio is 12 divided by 40, or 0.3. Draw the baseline and top guide 40 mm apart, place the apex on the center axis, mark feet 12 mm each side of the axis, draw 4 mm legs, and place the crossbar at 12 mm above the baseline.

Reason: The ratio is a simple division using consistent units. The construction follows the block sequence and keeps symmetry by equal foot offsets.

Check: Measure the crossbar height and cap height, divide, and compare to 0.3. Measure from the axis to each leg at crossbar height and confirm they match within 1 mm.

Task 2

Construct a serif A with cap height 60 mm, leg spread 36 mm, thick left leg 8 mm, thin right leg 4 mm, crossbar height 20 mm, and foot serifs 8 mm long. Describe how to check serif consistency.

Answer: Draw the skeleton with apex on the axis and feet 18 mm each side. Thicken the left leg to 8 mm and keep the right leg at 4 mm. Place the crossbar at 20 mm above the baseline. Add 8 mm foot serifs centered on each foot. Check serif consistency by measuring each serif from its foot point and comparing lengths.

Reason: The serif A uses the same skeleton as the block A but adds controlled thick-thin contrast and measured serifs. Equal foot offsets preserve symmetry.

Check: Measure both serifs and confirm they are 8 mm within 1 mm. Measure the crossbar height and confirm 20 mm. Compare left and right leg widths to the chosen values.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

A block A has cap height 50 mm and leg spread 30 mm. Calculate the leg-spread-to-cap-height ratio and explain how to use it as a proportion check.

Answer: The ratio is 30 divided by 50, or 0.6. To use it, measure the actual leg spread and cap height on your drawing, divide, and compare to 0.6. A small difference such as 0.02 is a reasonable hypothetical tolerance for hand drawing.

Reason: The ratio converts two measurements into one checkable number. Consistent units make the division valid.

Check: Measure leg spread and cap height in millimeters, divide, and compare to 0.6. Repeat the measurement at least once to catch reading errors.

Task 4

You are drawing a serif A and the left foot serif measures 9 mm while the right foot serif measures 7 mm. Your chosen serif length is 8 mm. State the fix and the check you would perform after correcting it.

Answer: Adjust both serifs to 8 mm, centered on their foot points. After correcting, measure each serif from its foot point and confirm both are 8 mm within 1 mm. Also confirm both feet still rest on the baseline.

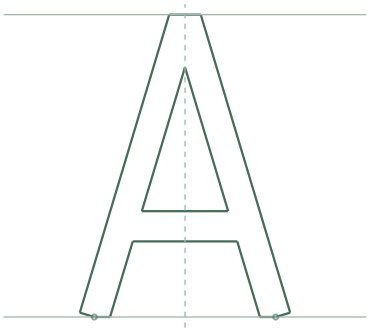
Reason: Unequal serifs break the consistency of the style. Correcting both to the chosen length restores the planned convention.

Check: Measure each serif length and compare to 8 mm. Check that each serif is centered on its foot and that the baseline contact is unchanged.

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Task 1 / answers

A construction / all labelled mm print 1:1 / foot spread is between skeleton marks



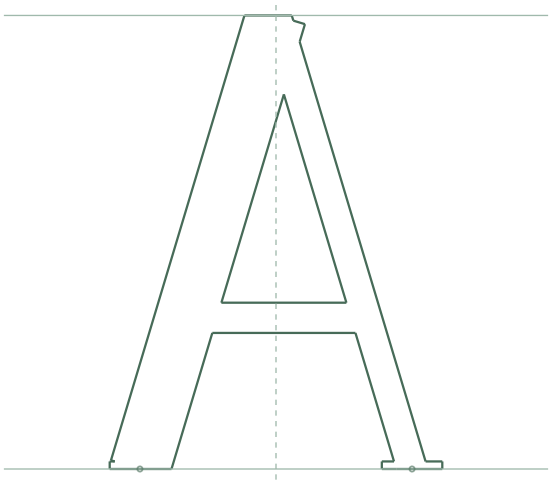
Cap height 40 mm; skeleton foot separation 24 mm. Left/right perpendicular leg widths 4/4 mm; crossbar 12 mm above baseline.

Crossbar/cap = 12/40 = 0.3.

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Task 2 / answers

A construction / all labelled mm print 1:1 / foot spread is between skeleton marks

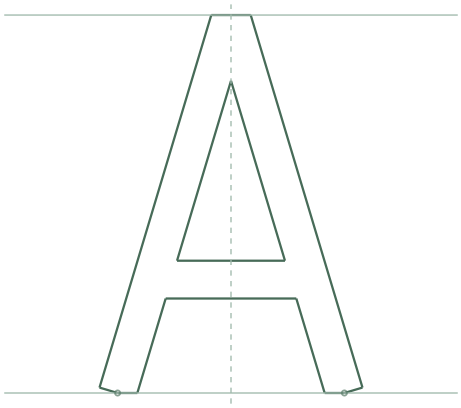


Cap height 60 mm; skeleton foot separation 36 mm. Left/right perpendicular leg widths 8/4 mm; crossbar 20 mm above baseline. The flat foot bars are 8 mm long, centered on the marked feet; the selected bar thickness is 1 mm.

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Task 3 / answers

A construction / all labelled mm print 1:1 / foot spread is between skeleton marks



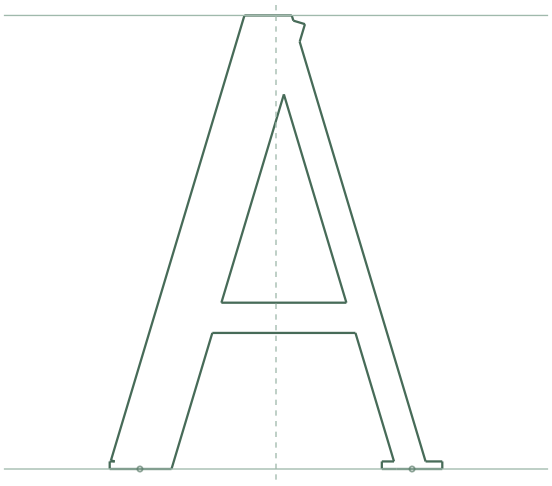
Cap height 50 mm; skeleton foot separation 30 mm. Left/right perpendicular leg widths 5/5 mm; crossbar 15 mm above baseline.

Spread/cap = 30/50 = 0.6. Other stroke/bar choices here reuse the worked construction and do not replace the given proportion check.

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Task 4 / answers

A construction / all labelled mm print 1:1 / foot spread is between skeleton marks



Both foot serifs are corrected to 8 mm and centered on their respective skeleton foot marks; both stay on the common baseline.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Apex lies on the center axis within the chosen tolerance.
- [ ] Both feet rest on the baseline and are equidistant from the axis.
- [ ] Crossbar height matches the recorded value.
- [ ] Stroke widths match the chosen block or serif plan.
- [ ] Serif lengths, if used, are consistent and measured.
- [ ] Stroke order follows left leg, right leg, crossbar, then serifs.
- [ ] Proportion ratios are recorded and reproducible.

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