Shaking Hands Drawing: Grip and Sleeve Construction

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Construct a handshake on a 10 cm grip axis. Use palm masses 6 cm long and 4 cm wide, overlapping 1.2 cm at the midpoint. Draw crossed thumbs and four finger bands per hand. Describe the placement of each element.

Answer: Draw a 10 cm axis angled slightly upward. Mark the midpoint at 5 cm. Place the lower palm mass below the axis, centered near 4 cm along the axis, and the upper palm mass above the axis, centered near 6 cm, overlapping 1.2 cm at the midpoint. Draw the lower thumb over the upper palm edge and the upper thumb crossing the lower thumb base in a shallow X. Add four curved finger bands along each far palm edge, following the axis. Keep the grip outline darker than the finger bands.

Reason: The overlap ensures compression at the midpoint, and the offset centers keep one hand slightly forward. Crossed thumbs on opposite sides prevent the common same-side error. Finger bands follow the axis so the grip reads as a clasp rather than two flat hands.

Check: Measure the axis and palm masses with a ruler. Confirm the overlap is about 1.2 cm and that each thumb sits on a different side of the grip. Cover the finger bands and check that palms and thumbs still explain the handshake.

Task 2

Add sleeves to the handshake from the previous task. Draw flattened oval openings 3.5 cm wide and 1.8 cm tall at each wrist, cuff bands 1 cm wide, and three folds per sleeve. State where each fold starts and ends.

Answer: At each wrist, draw a flattened oval 3.5 cm wide and 1.8 cm tall. Add a parallel cuff band 1 cm wide behind each opening. Extend each sleeve body away from the grip with a gentle curve. Draw three folds per sleeve: one compression fold starting at the inner elbow side of the opening and ending 3 cm along the sleeve; one diagonal fold crossing the forearm from the opening edge; and one short fold near the cuff, about 1.5 cm long. Keep all folds lighter than the grip outline.

Reason: Flattened ovals read as fabric openings rather than rigid circles. Cuff bands clarify sleeve type. Folds radiating from the opening explain compression and keep the sleeve from looking like a straight tube.

Check: Measure each opening and cuff band. Confirm three folds per sleeve and that each fold starts near the opening. Check that folds are lighter than the grip outline by comparing line darkness.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

A student draws both thumbs on the upper side of the grip and makes both sleeve openings perfect circles 4 cm in diameter. Identify the structural errors and describe a corrected construction using a 9 cm grip axis.

Answer: The thumbs are on the same side, so the grip cannot read as two hands clasping. Correct by placing the lower thumb over the upper palm edge and the upper thumb crossing the lower thumb base on the opposite side. The circular sleeve openings ignore fabric flattening. Replace them with flattened ovals about 3 cm wide and 1.5 cm tall at each wrist. Use a 9 cm axis, mark the midpoint at 4.5 cm, and overlap the palm masses by about 1 cm.

Reason: Thumb placement is the primary grip signal; same-side thumbs collapse the structure. Circular openings read as rigid tubes, while flattened ovals read as cloth. A defined axis and midpoint keep the corrected construction checkable.

Check: Trace the grip axis and confirm thumbs sit on opposite sides. Measure the oval openings to confirm they are wider than tall. Check that the palm overlap is about 1 cm at the midpoint.

Task 4

Design a handshake with a jacket sleeve on the lower hand and a shirt cuff on the upper hand. Use a 12 cm grip axis, palm masses 7 cm long and 4.5 cm wide, and four finger bands per hand. Describe the sleeve differences and list three checks.

Answer: Draw a 12 cm axis and mark the midpoint at 6 cm. Block the lower palm mass below the axis and the upper palm mass above, overlapping about 1.5 cm. Draw crossed thumbs and four finger bands per hand. For the lower hand, draw a larger jacket sleeve opening about 4.5 cm wide and 2.2 cm tall with a seam line and four folds. For the upper hand, draw a shirt cuff opening about 3.5 cm wide and 1.8 cm tall with a parallel cuff band 1 cm wide and three folds. Keep the jacket folds slightly heavier than the shirt folds but lighter than the grip outline. Checks: confirm thumbs are on opposite sides; confirm the jacket opening is larger than the shirt opening; confirm the grip still reads when sleeves are covered.

Reason: Different sleeve types require different opening sizes and fold counts. The jacket opening is larger and has a seam, while the shirt cuff has a parallel band. Keeping folds lighter than the grip preserves hierarchy. The three checks test grip structure, sleeve differentiation, and focus.

Check: Measure both openings and compare widths. Count folds per sleeve. Cover the sleeves and verify the grip reads as a handshake. Confirm thumb sides by tracing the axis.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Grip axis is visible and both palm masses sit on opposite sides with a clear overlap.
- [ ] Thumbs cross on opposite sides of the grip, forming a shallow X or parallel pair.
- [ ] Four finger bands per hand follow the grip axis and do not contradict the thumb placement.
- [ ] Sleeve openings are flattened ovals wider than the wrist and narrower than the palm.
- [ ] Sleeve folds are lighter than the grip outline and limited to three to five per sleeve.
- [ ] Valid alternatives in thumb crossing, cuff style, and finger spacing are accepted if structural clarity is maintained.

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