Draw a Carpenter Figure: Pose and Tool-Handling Practice

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

A carpenter holds a saw horizontally at waist height. The dominant hand grips the handle; the support hand guides a plank. Using x-height 6 units and a hypothetical figure height of 45 units, describe the pose construction and one grip check.

Answer: Baseline and midline; x-height 6 units; figure height 45 units equals 7.5 x-heights. Block head, ribcage, pelvis. Draw the dominant arm to the saw handle at waist height; wrap the hand with the index finger along the side. Place the support hand on the plank. Grip check: the saw handle is not floating and the index finger contact is visible.

Reason: The arithmetic is simple: 45 divided by 6 equals 7.5. The pose is built from masses, then the tool is drawn before the hand wraps it. The grip check confirms contact.

Check: Measure x-height on your paper; confirm 7.5 x-heights equals your figure height. Trace the saw handle to the hand and confirm at least two contact points.

Task 2

Draw a carpenter using a plane with both hands on the tool. The tool is diagonal. State a hypothetical x-height of 5 units and a figure height of 35 units. Describe how you would show both hands and check the grip.

Answer: Baseline and midline; x-height 5 units; figure height 35 units equals 7 x-heights. Block the figure leaning slightly forward. Draw the plane diagonally; place the dominant hand on the rear handle and the support hand on the front knob. Show both wrists and finger masses. Grip check: both hands contact the plane and the tool angle matches the forearm lines.

Reason: 35 divided by 5 equals 7. The two-hand grip is plausible for a plane. Drawing the tool first makes hand placement checkable.

Check: Confirm the arithmetic 35 divided by 5 equals 7. Check that both hands touch the plane and that neither wrist is broken at an impossible angle.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

A left-handed carpenter holds a hammer diagonally. The support hand holds a nail. Use x-height 7 units and a hypothetical figure height of 49 units. Describe the construction and one valid alternative.

Answer: Baseline and midline; x-height 7 units; figure height 49 units equals 7 x-heights. Block the figure with the left arm as the tool arm. Draw the hammer diagonally; wrap the left hand near the handle end. The right hand holds the nail at chest height. A valid alternative is a right-handed grip if the pose is mirrored consistently.

Reason: 49 divided by 7 equals 7. Hand dominance is a convention; mirroring is a valid alternative when the grip and pose remain consistent.

Check: Check the arithmetic and confirm the tool hand matches the stated dominance. For the alternative, confirm the mirror is consistent and the nail hand does not overlap the hammer head.

Task 4

Draw a carpenter kneeling on one knee while holding a screwdriver vertically. Use x-height 4 units and a hypothetical figure height of 30 units. Describe the pose and a grip check.

Answer: Baseline and midline; x-height 4 units; figure height 30 units equals 7.5 x-heights. Block the kneeling pose: one knee near the baseline, the other leg forward. Draw the screwdriver vertically in the dominant hand; wrap the hand around the handle with the thumb visible. The support hand steadies a small block. Grip check: the screwdriver is vertical and the hand contact is clear.

Reason: 30 divided by 4 equals 7.5. Kneeling changes the leg construction but the mass-building sequence remains. The vertical tool is easy to check against the midline.

Check: Confirm the arithmetic and that the kneeling knee contacts the baseline. Check that the screwdriver is vertical and the thumb contact is visible.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Pose reads clearly from the silhouette without facial detail.
- [ ] Baseline, midline, and x-height are used consistently with stated units.
- [ ] Tool is clearly held with at least one visible contact point.
- [ ] Grip matches the chosen tool and hand dominance is consistent.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted when internally consistent and plausible.
- [ ] Clothing folds appear only at movement points and do not obscure the grip.

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