Fancy Cross Drawing: Flourishes, Borders, and Shading

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a cross 8 units tall and 4 units wide with arm thickness 1 unit. Add one C-curve flourish on the right side of the top arm and mirror it to the left. Describe how you check symmetry.

Answer: The cross has equal opposite arms: top and bottom 8 units, left and right 4 units, thickness 1 unit. The C-curve is anchored at the same distance from the center on both sides. Check symmetry by folding the page along the vertical center line or using a mirror; the two flourishes should align.

Reason: Equal measurements on opposite arms and mirrored anchor points produce symmetry. The fold or mirror test confirms alignment without relying on a single universal style.

Check: Measure each arm and thickness with a ruler; fold or mirror to compare flourish positions.

Task 2

A cross has a border offset of 1 unit on the top and left, but 2 units on the bottom and right. What is the mistake, and how do you fix it?

Answer: The border offset is inconsistent. Fix it by measuring one offset value, marking it at several points around the cross, and redrawing the border so the gap is equal on all sides.

Reason: A border must frame the cross evenly; unequal offsets make the frame look lopsided. Measuring and marking before drawing prevents drift.

Check: Measure the gap between border and cross at four sides; all values should match.

Task 3

You shade a cross with light from the upper right. On the top arm, the dark band is on the left edge; on the right arm, the dark band is on the top edge. Is the shading consistent? Explain.

Answer: No. With light from the upper right, the dark band should be on the lower-left side of every arm. The top arm's left edge is acceptable only if it is the lower-left side; the right arm's top edge is not consistent. Redraw the dark bands on the lower-left side of each arm.

Reason: A single light direction produces the same tonal order on all arms. Checking each arm against the light-direction arrow reveals inconsistency.

Check: Draw a light-direction arrow and compare the dark band position on each arm; squint to see the overall pattern.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Design a decorative border with 12 equal segments around a cross. You place one dot per segment. If you count 10 dots, what is likely wrong, and how do you check?

Answer: Two segments are missing dots. Check by counting the segments and dots separately; the counts should match at 12. If they do not, mark the empty segments and add the missing dots.

Reason: Equal segments require one mark each. A mismatch means the spacing or counting drifted, which is easy to fix by recounting.

Check: Count segments and dots aloud; compare totals and inspect any segment without a dot.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Cross armature uses equal opposite arms and consistent arm thickness.
- [ ] Flourishes are anchored on arm edges and mirrored across center lines.
- [ ] Border offset is equal on all sides and does not touch flourishes.
- [ ] Shading uses one light direction with a consistent light-medium-dark order on every arm.
- [ ] Valid stylistic alternatives, such as rounded or squared arm ends, are accepted if proportions and symmetry are maintained.

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