Pen and Ink Tree Drawing: Hatching Bark and Stipple Foliage

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a trunk 4 cm wide at the base and 2 cm wide at the first branch. Light from the right. Use vertical hatch on the left and cross-hatch on the right. Check hatch line counts in a 1 cm square on each side.

Answer: A trunk with two converging lines from 4 cm to 2 cm. Left side: vertical hatch only. Right side: vertical hatch plus diagonal cross-hatch. The right square has more lines than the left.

Reason: The taper is checkable with a ruler. Cross-hatch is restricted to the shadow side, so the right square should have more lines.

Check: Measure base and branch widths. Count hatch lines in one 1 cm square on each side; the shadow side count should be higher.

Task 2

Draw a canopy with a light side on the left and shadow on the right. Stipple two 1 cm squares: target about 10 dots on the left and about 30 on the right. Do not outline the canopy.

Answer: A canopy shape marked with short contour strokes, then stippled. Left square has about 10 dots; right square about 30. No continuous outline around the canopy.

Reason: Stipple density defines the foliage. The dot counts are hypothetical targets that make the density checkable.

Check: Count dots in each square. Confirm there is no continuous outline around the canopy.

Task 3

Draw a branch junction where a side branch meets the trunk. Use a heavier line on the shadow side of the trunk and a lighter line on the branch. Check that the branch angle alternates from the previous branch.

Answer: A clear junction with the side branch meeting the trunk at an angle. The trunk contour on the shadow side is heavier; the branch contour is lighter. The branch angle is opposite the previous branch.

Reason: Line weight is controlled by pressure. Alternating branch angles keeps the structure readable.

Check: Compare line weight by eye or by measuring line width if needed. Confirm the branch angle is opposite the previous one.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Render a small tree with a 3 cm base taper to 1.5 cm, light from the left, cross-hatch on the right, and stipple foliage. Check three things: taper, hatch side, and dot counts in two 1 cm squares.

Answer: A complete tree with the specified taper, cross-hatch on the right, and stipple foliage. The right square has more dots than the left. The taper measures 3 cm to 1.5 cm.

Reason: The task combines contour, bark, foliage, and line weight. Each check is simple and independent.

Check: Measure the taper. Confirm cross-hatch is only on the right. Count dots in two squares and compare.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Silhouette reads as a tree with a clear trunk taper and alternating branches.
- [ ] Bark hatch follows the trunk direction; cross-hatch appears only on the shadow side.
- [ ] Foliage is rendered with stipple, not outlines; density is higher on the shadow side.
- [ ] Line weight is heavier on the shadow contour and lighter on branches and foliage.
- [ ] Checks are documented: taper measured, hatch direction confirmed, dot counts recorded.

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