Draw Tribal Tattoo Bands: Curved Taper and Point Construction

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a straight band 8 cm long with a hypothetical 10 mm width and a 20 mm taper at the right end. The centerline is a straight horizontal line. Describe your construction and checks.

Answer: Draw a horizontal centerline. Mark 10 mm above and below at the left, middle, and right. Connect with straight edges. Mark the taper start 20 mm before the right end. At the taper midpoint, mark equal distances from the centerline to each edge, then draw straight tapered edges to the end point. Check width at three points and taper symmetry at the midpoint.

Reason: A straight centerline isolates width and taper control. Equal offsets keep the taper centered, and measuring at three points catches drift.

Check: Measure the gap between edges at left, middle, and right; each should be within about 1 mm of 10 mm. Measure left and right taper distances at the midpoint; they should be equal within about 1 mm.

Task 2

Draw a curved band with a hypothetical 14 mm width and tapers at both ends, each 30 mm long. The centerline is a shallow S-curve about 12 cm long. Describe how you keep both tapers centered.

Answer: Draw the S-curve centerline. Mark 14 mm on both sides at several points and connect with smooth offset curves. Mark each taper start 30 mm from its end. At each taper midpoint, mark equal distances from the centerline to each edge, then draw smooth curves to each end point. Use short straight final segments to meet the points. Check width at three places and symmetry at both taper midpoints.

Reason: Double tapers require two independent symmetry checks. Keeping the centerline unchanged and moving both edges equally prevents lopsided ends.

Check: Measure width at three places; each within about 1 mm of 14 mm. At each taper midpoint, left and right distances should be equal within about 1 mm. Confirm both points meet cleanly.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Draw two mirrored bands separated by a vertical mirror line. Each band has a hypothetical 12 mm width and one 25 mm taper pointing toward the mirror line. Describe the transfer and comparison steps.

Answer: Draw the first band on one side. Mark the mirror line and transfer the taper start, taper midpoint, and point location to the other side. Construct the second band from those marks. Compare width at the middle, taper length, and point offset from the mirror line. Small differences are acceptable if the pair looks balanced.

Reason: Transferring key marks rather than tracing teaches the construction and makes symmetry checkable. The comparison focuses on measurable features.

Check: Measure middle width of each band; both within about 1 mm of 12 mm. Measure taper length of each; both within about 2 mm of 25 mm. Measure point offset from the mirror line; offsets should be equal within about 1 mm.

Task 4

Draw a band that splits into two tapered branches at a smooth curve. The main band has a hypothetical 16 mm width; each branch tapers over 20 mm to a point. Describe how you place the split and check both points.

Answer: Draw the main centerline and mark 16 mm width. At the split, create two branch centerlines that diverge smoothly. Mark each branch taper start 20 mm before its point. At each taper midpoint, mark equal distances from the branch centerline to its edges, then draw smooth curves to each point. Check main width at three places and each branch taper symmetry.

Reason: Splitting requires separate centerlines so each branch can taper symmetrically. Checking each branch independently prevents one point from dominating.

Check: Measure main band width at three places; each within about 1 mm of 16 mm. For each branch, measure left and right taper distances at the midpoint; equal within about 1 mm. Confirm both points meet cleanly without rounded caps.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Strip width is consistent within about 1 mm at three measured points.
- [ ] Taper is centered: left and right distances at the taper midpoint are equal within about 1 mm.
- [ ] Point follows the convention: final 5 mm edges are straight enough to show no bulge under a ruler, and edges meet cleanly.
- [ ] Curves are smooth and the centerline is not kinked at the point.
- [ ] Mirrored bands, if used, have comparable width, taper length, and point offset; small hand-drawn differences are acceptable.

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