Psychedelic Drawing: Warped Contours and Repeating Motifs

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a 4 by 4 grid. Warp all horizontal lines downward by hypothetical offsets of 0, 1, 2, and 3 units from top to bottom (chosen example, not a standard). Repeat a small circle motif in every cell. Apply this bounded variation rule: keep the first copy at base size, scale every third copy by 1.1, and keep all other copies at base size. Keep each motif inside its cell and keep line weight even.

Answer: Four warped horizontal contours bend downward with smooth curves. Sixteen circles appear in the cells. The first copy is base size; every third copy is 1.1 times base size; all other copies are base size. Because the scale is bounded, no circle grows beyond 1.1 times base size; choose a base size small enough that the 1.1-times copies still fit inside their cells. Overlap is consistent and line weight is even.

Reason: The offsets create a gradual warp; the bounded scaling rule gives controlled variation without compounding growth. A 4 by 4 grid yields sixteen motifs, enough to show rhythm while keeping each motif inside its cell.

Check: Trace each contour with your finger for kinks. Compare a base-size circle and a scaled circle visually or by overlaying/tracing; the scaled one should be slightly larger (about 1.1 times base if measuring). Confirm that only every third copy is scaled and that all circles fit inside their cells. Squint to confirm the pattern reads as warped rows.

Task 2

Design one motif using three strokes. Repeat it in a 3 by 3 panel along warped diagonal contours. Rotate every second copy by 30 degrees. State your variation rule in one sentence.

Answer: A three-stroke motif repeats nine times along warped diagonals. Every second copy is rotated 30 degrees. The stated rule matches the drawing, and contours bend smoothly.

Reason: A simple motif keeps repetition clear; rotation every second copy creates rhythm without chaos. Warped diagonals add controlled distortion.

Check: Count nine motifs and check alternating rotations. Confirm the written rule matches at least three copies. Trace diagonals for smoothness.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Draw a 5 by 5 panel. Warp vertical contours leftward with hypothetical offsets 0, 1, 2, 3, and 4 units (chosen example, not a standard). Repeat a square motif in every cell, but skip the third and fifth cells in the rightmost column. Keep the center motif darkest.

Answer: Five warped vertical contours bend leftward smoothly. Twenty-three squares appear (25 cells minus 2 skipped); the third and fifth cells in the rightmost column are skipped. The center square is darkest and reads as focal.

Reason: Skipping cells creates an open region for contrast. Darkening the center gives a clear focal point. Offsets increase gradually for smooth warping.

Check: Confirm the third and fifth cells in the rightmost column are skipped. Compare center square darkness to neighbors. Trace contours for kinks.

Task 4

Create a 4 by 4 panel with warped contours in two directions: bend vertical lines right by hypothetical offsets 0, 1, 2, and 3 units left to right, and bend horizontal lines down by hypothetical offsets 0, 1, 2, and 3 units top to bottom (chosen example, not a standard). Repeat a triangle motif in every cell, mirroring every second copy. Keep overlap consistent: contours behind motifs.

Answer: The panel shows two warped contour families crossing smoothly. Sixteen triangles repeat with alternating mirrored copies. Contours pass behind motifs consistently.

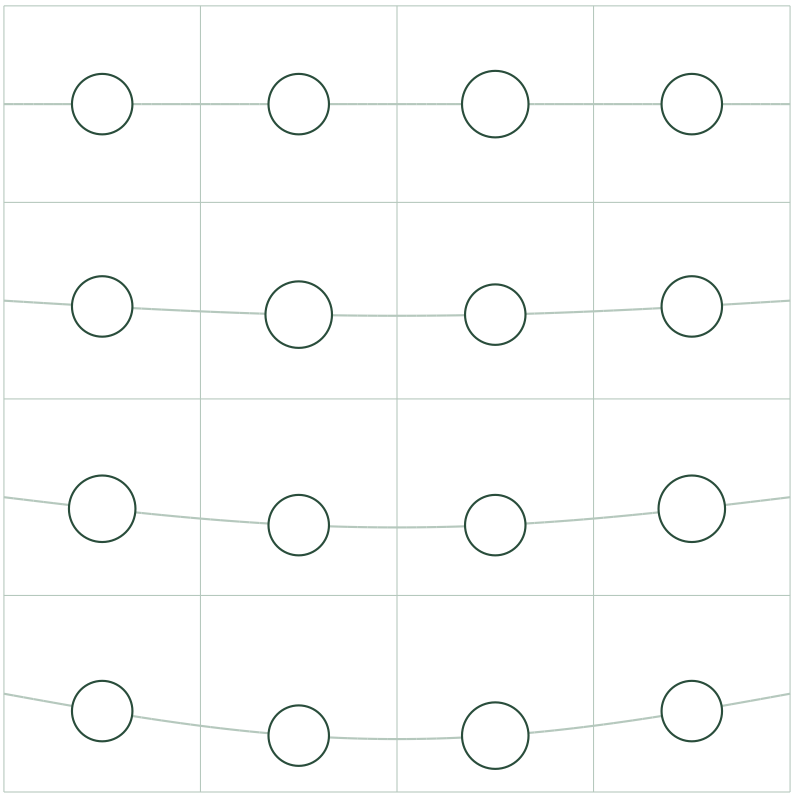
Reason: Two-direction warping increases complexity but stays controlled if offsets are small. Mirroring every second copy is a simple variation rule. Consistent overlap prevents visual confusion.

Check: Check that vertical and horizontal contours cross without kinks. Verify alternating mirrored triangles. Confirm contours are behind motifs in at least three cells.

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Task 1 / answers

Warped primary CENTER-contours / separate light cell guides / chosen warp unit = 2 mm

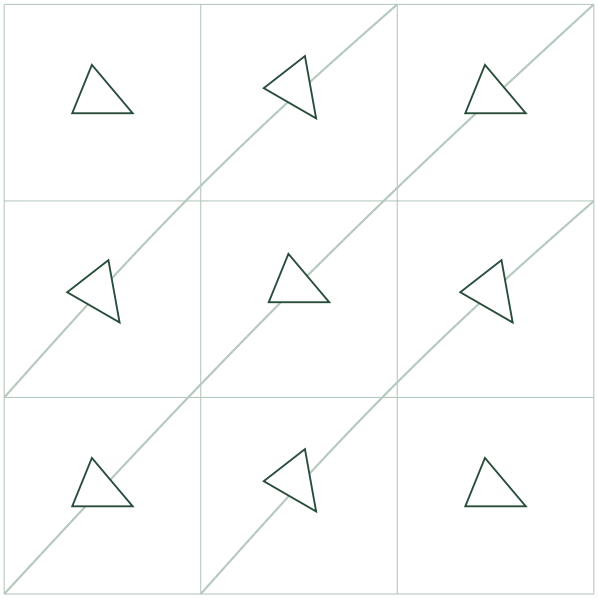


Sixteen circles. Copy 1 is base size; copies 3, 6, 9, 12, 15 are 1.1 times base, all others base. This does not compound. Primary center-contours carry the N given offsets; the light N-by-N cell guide is a separate construction aid.

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Task 2 / answers

Warped primary CENTER-contours / separate light cell guides / chosen warp unit = 2 mm

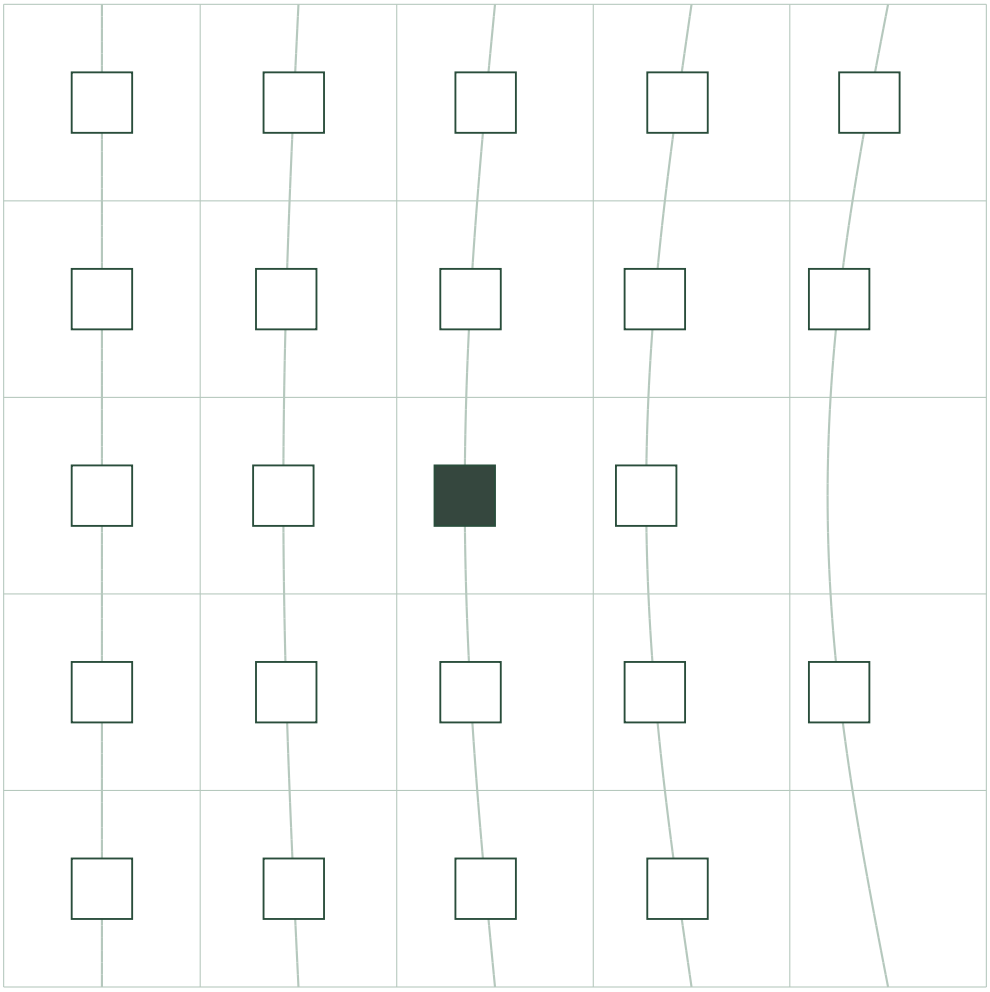


One chosen three-stroke triangle repeats nine times. Copies 2, 4, 6, 8 rotate 30 degrees; the other copies keep the base orientation. Primary center-contours carry the N given offsets; the light N-by-N cell guide is a separate construction aid.

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Task 3 / answers

Warped primary CENTER-contours / separate light cell guides / chosen warp unit = 2 mm

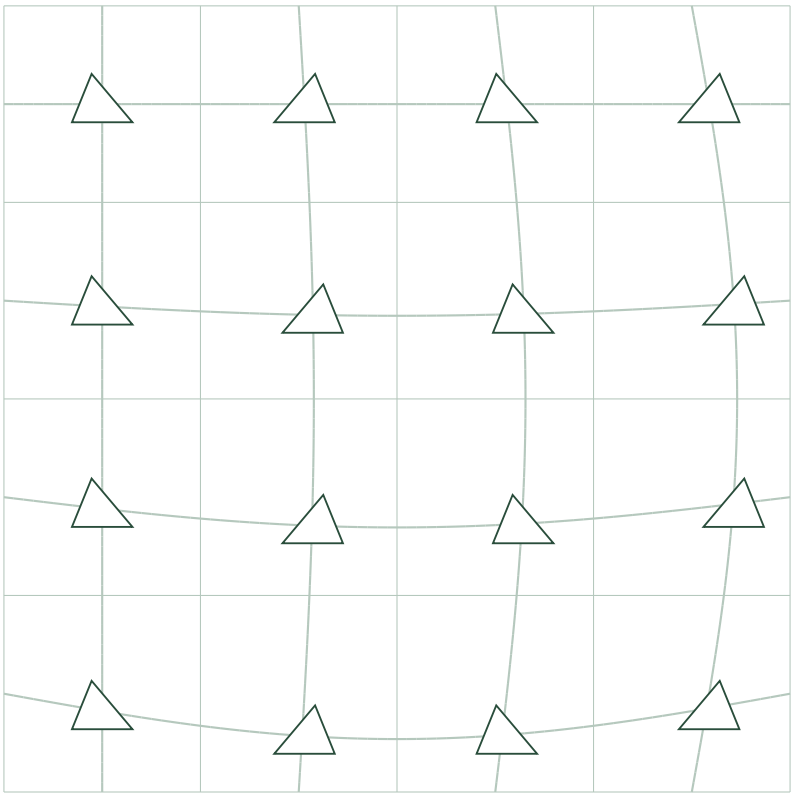


Twenty-three squares: skip rows 3 and 5 in rightmost column; center square is the darkest. Primary center-contours carry the N given offsets; the light N-by-N cell guide is a separate construction aid.

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Task 4 / answers

Warped primary CENTER-contours / separate light cell guides / chosen warp unit = 2 mm



Sixteen asymmetric triangles; copies 2, 4, ... 16 are mirrored, with real opaque fills hiding the contours behind them. Primary center-contours carry the N given offsets; the light N-by-N cell guide is a separate construction aid.

Psychedelic Drawing: Warped Contours and Repeating Motifs

Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Contours bend smoothly with no kinks.
- [ ] Motif repeats at least nine times with a clear variation rule.
- [ ] One focal region is distinguishable by size, density, or line weight.
- [ ] Overlap order is consistent across the panel.
- [ ] The motif cell and variation rule are stated and followed consistently.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted if the variation rule is stated and followed.

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