Hand with Nails Drawing: Nail Shapes and Fingertip Detail

Original tasks 1 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a single index finger viewed from above (top view), palm down, with a square nail. Use a fingertip width of 2 units and a fingertip length of 2 units. Nail width is 0.6 of fingertip width and nail length is 0.5 of fingertip length. Add a free-edge line and one highlight. Describe the finger as a tapered tube with two joint marks between the fingertip and the base.

Answer: A top-view finger drawn as a tapered tube with two joint marks, ending in a fingertip 2 units wide and 2 units long. The square nail is 1.2 units wide and 1 unit long, centered on the fingertip, with a free-edge line near the tip and one highlight in the upper left of the nail.

Reason: The ratios give the nail size directly from the fingertip dimensions: width 0.6 x 2 = 1.2 units, length 0.5 x 2 = 1 unit. Centering and a single highlight keep the detail checkable.

Check: Measure the nail width and length against the fingertip in the top view; confirm the nail is 1.2 units wide and 1 unit long, centered, and stays inside the fingertip outline. Confirm the finger shows two joint marks and a tapered tube shape.

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Original tasks 2 / complete keys

Task 2

Draw a palm-down hand with four fingers and a thumb using a palm 3 by 4 units, then add oval nails to all fingers. Use middle finger 1.2 times palm height, index and ring 1.1 times, little finger 0.9 times. Mark four finger bases evenly along the top edge and the thumb base on the left side, lower than the finger bases. Use nail width 0.6 of fingertip width and nail length 0.5 of fingertip length. Add one pad line and one highlight per nail. Keep each nail centered on its fingertip and inside the fingertip outline. Check the fingertip arc.

Answer: A palm-down hand with palm 3 by 4 units, finger lengths index 4.4, middle 4.8, ring 4.4, and little 3.6 units, and a thumb angled from the left side with its tip about 1.5 units below the index fingertip (a chosen example value, noted beside the drawing; 1.5 is roughly one-third of the 4.4-unit index finger length, but the vertical drop is not itself one-third of the finger length). Four finger bases are marked evenly along the top edge and the thumb base sits lower on the left side. Each finger shows two joint marks, the first about one-third and the second about two-thirds of the finger length below the fingertip. The fingertips form a gentle arc. Five centered oval nails are sized by the ratios, each with a free-edge line, one pad line below the nail, and one highlight in the same relative position. The thumb nail is wider and more oval than the finger nails, and the little finger nail is the smallest.

Reason: Multiplying the palm height by the ratios gives checkable lengths, and the arc check ensures the hand reads naturally. Consistent nail sizing and placement make the nails look intentional, and the pad line connects each nail to its fingertip.

Check: Measure each finger length and compare to the calculated values (4.4, 4.8, 4.4, 3.6 units); confirm the fingertips are not in a straight line and that the thumb tip is about 1.5 units below the index fingertip, with the chosen height noted beside the drawing. Check each nail is centered and inside its fingertip; confirm one pad line and one highlight per nail, that the thumb nail is wider than the finger nails, and that the little finger nail is the smallest.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Draw a single index finger viewed from above (top view), palm down, with a squoval nail. Use a fingertip width of 2 units and a fingertip length of 2 units. Nail width is 0.6 of fingertip width and nail length is 0.5 of fingertip length. Add a free-edge line, one pad line, and one highlight. Describe the finger as a tapered tube with two joint marks between the fingertip and the base.

Answer: A top-view finger drawn as a tapered tube with two joint marks, ending in a fingertip 2 units wide and 2 units long. The squoval nail is 1.2 units wide and 1 unit long, centered on the fingertip, with a free-edge line near the tip, one pad line below the nail, and one highlight in the upper left of the nail.

Reason: The ratios give the nail size directly from the fingertip dimensions: width 0.6 x 2 = 1.2 units, length 0.5 x 2 = 1 unit. Centering, a single pad line, and a single highlight keep the detail checkable. Squoval is a valid alternative style because the convention is stated.

Check: Measure the nail width and length against the fingertip in the top view; confirm the nail is 1.2 units wide and 1 unit long, centered, and stays inside the fingertip outline. Confirm the finger shows two joint marks and a tapered tube shape, and that the pad line and highlight are present.

Task 4

Draw a thumb viewed from above (top view) with a rounded nail. Use a fingertip width of 3 units and a fingertip length of 3 units. Nail width is 0.6 of fingertip width and nail length is 0.5 of fingertip length. Add a shadow line under the free edge. Describe the thumb as a tapered tube with two joint marks above the fingertip.

Answer: A top-view thumb drawn as a tapered tube with two joint marks, ending in a fingertip 3 units wide and 3 units long. The rounded nail is 1.8 units wide and 1.5 units long, centered, with a free-edge line and a soft shadow line under the free edge.

Reason: The thumb nail is wider than finger nails, and the ratios scale correctly: width 0.6 x 3 = 1.8 units, length 0.5 x 3 = 1.5 units. The shadow line adds fingertip detail.

Check: Measure the nail against the fingertip dimensions in the top view; confirm the nail is 1.8 units wide and 1.5 units long, centered, and that the shadow line sits just under the free edge without crossing the nail. Confirm the thumb shows two joint marks and a tapered tube shape.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Finger length ratios match the guide within a small margin.
- [ ] Nails are centered on fingertips and stay inside the outline.
- [ ] Nail style is consistent or follows a stated rule.
- [ ] Fingertip detail includes pad line, highlight, and free-edge shadow.
- [ ] Line quality is clean and shading is light and simple.
- [ ] Valid alternatives (e.g., squoval nails) are accepted if the convention is stated.

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