Draw a Guitar Player: Posture, Hold, and Hand Placement

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a seated guitar player. Use a horizontal seat line, place the hips slightly behind the knees, and rest the guitar body on the right thigh. Angle the neck about 35 degrees above horizontal. Place the fretting hand on the neck and the strumming hand near the sound hole.

Answer: A seated figure with a balanced torso, the guitar body on the right thigh, the neck angled up and away from the body, and both hands placed on the instrument.

Reason: The seat line and hip position create a stable base. Resting the guitar on the thigh and angling the neck keeps the hold natural. Hand placement follows the instrument: fretting hand on the neck, strumming hand near the sound hole.

Check: Check that the head is over the shoulders, the guitar body does not cover the whole torso, the neck is not vertical, and both hands can reach the instrument without raising the shoulders.

Task 2

Draw a standing guitar player. Use a vertical spine line and a floor line. Hang the guitar body in front of the torso with a simple strap line over the left shoulder. Angle the neck about 30 degrees above horizontal. Keep the feet about shoulder-width apart.

Answer: A standing figure with a vertical spine, the guitar body in front of the torso, a strap line over the left shoulder, the neck angled up and away, and the feet shoulder-width apart.

Reason: The vertical spine and floor line give a stable standing posture. The strap line explains how the guitar is supported. The neck angle and foot position keep the figure balanced and the hold believable.

Check: Check that the figure is not leaning far to one side, the guitar body is in front of the torso, the strap line connects the shoulder to the guitar, and the neck is not vertical.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Draw a seated guitar player with the guitar body on the left thigh instead of the right. Keep the neck angled about 40 degrees above horizontal. Show the fretting hand on the neck and the strumming hand near the bridge. Check that the shoulders are relaxed.

Answer: A seated figure with the guitar body on the left thigh, the neck angled up and away, the fretting hand on the neck, the strumming hand near the bridge, and relaxed shoulders.

Reason: Changing the thigh side tests whether you can adapt the hold without twisting the torso. Keeping the neck angle and hand placement consistent maintains a believable hold. Relaxed shoulders prevent the figure from looking tense.

Check: Check that the torso is not twisted too far, the guitar body rests on the left thigh, the neck angle is comfortable, and the shoulders are not raised.

Task 4

Draw a seated guitar player and add a simple check: measure the guitar body width against the torso width. If the guitar body is less than half the torso width, enlarge it. If it is wider than the torso, shrink it. Keep the neck angled about 35 degrees above horizontal and place the hands correctly.

Answer: A seated figure with a guitar body that is roughly half to equal the torso width, a comfortable neck angle, and hands placed on the neck and near the sound hole.

Reason: Comparing the guitar body to the torso helps catch a toy-like or oversized guitar. Adjusting the size before adding details keeps the proportions believable. The neck angle and hand placement remain the same.

Check: Check that the guitar body is not too small or too large, the neck is angled away from the body, and the hands can reach the instrument. Use the rubric to confirm the posture is balanced.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Posture is clear: seated or standing, with the head over the shoulders and the torso balanced.
- [ ] Guitar body sits naturally against the torso and thigh or hangs in front of the torso for standing.
- [ ] Neck angle looks comfortable, not straight up or straight down.
- [ ] Fretting hand is on the neck with the thumb behind, and the strumming hand is near the sound hole or bridge.
- [ ] Shoulders are relaxed and elbows are slightly bent, not locked straight.
- [ ] Guitar body is in proportion to the figure and does not hide the posture.
- [ ] Construction lines are light or erased, and final lines are clear.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted: hand shapes and exact angles may vary as long as the hold looks believable.

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