Side Nose Drawing: Profile Construction with Bridge, Tip and Nostril Line

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a profile nose with bridge height 1 unit, tip angle 0 degrees (straight), and a nostril dip of 0.3 units. Describe the three stages and the final contour.

Answer: Stage 1: Face guide with brow and chin marks; bridge starts below brow, bows outward 1 unit to the peak, returns to a temporary lower bridge mark. Stage 2: Draw a short straight segment forward from the bridge peak to a new tip point, horizontal (0 degrees), about one-third the bridge length. Stage 3: Nostril line dips 0.3 units from the tip point and rises to the face guide below the bridge start. Final contour runs from bridge start to nostril meeting point.

Reason: A 1-unit bridge is short, so the tip segment and nostril dip are kept small to stay proportional. A zero angle means the tip segment is horizontal, which is a valid straight-tip profile.

Check: Verify the bridge peak is 1 unit from the guide, the tip segment is horizontal, and the nostril line does not cross the tip segment.

Task 2

Draw a profile nose with bridge height 3 units, tip angle -10 degrees (downturned), and a nostril dip of 0.7 units. Describe the three stages and one proportional adjustment you made.

Answer: Stage 1: Bridge bows outward 3 units to the peak and returns to a temporary lower bridge mark. Stage 2: Draw a short straight segment forward from the bridge peak to a new tip point, angled downward at -10 degrees, about one-third the bridge length. Stage 3: Nostril line dips 0.7 units from the tip point and rises to the face guide. Proportional adjustment: because the bridge is tall, the tip segment and nostril dip are slightly larger than in a 1-unit bridge.

Reason: A taller bridge needs a slightly longer tip segment and wider nostril dip to keep the nose from looking pinched. The negative angle makes the tip point downward.

Check: Confirm the bridge peak is 3 units from the guide, the tip segment slopes downward, and the nostril dip is wider than in the 1-unit example.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

A student draws a bridge height of 2 units but makes the tip segment as long as the bridge curve. Identify the likely visual problem and describe how to fix it using the three stages.

Answer: The tip segment is too long, so the nose will look like a beak. Fix: redraw Stage 2 with a short straight segment forward from the bridge peak to a new tip point, about one-third the bridge length, keeping the same tip angle; then redraw Stage 3 so the nostril line starts at the new tip point and stays beneath the tip segment.

Reason: The tip segment should be short relative to the bridge. Lengthening it distorts the profile and pushes the nostril line out of proportion.

Check: Measure the tip segment against the bridge curve; it should be roughly one-third. Check that the nostril line still meets the face guide below the bridge start.

Task 4

Draw two profile noses side by side: one with bridge height 2 units and tip angle +15 degrees, the other with bridge height 2 units and tip angle -15 degrees. Keep the nostril dip at 0.5 units for both. Describe how the nostril line differs.

Answer: Both have the same bridge height and nostril dip. In the +15-degree profile, the tip segment points upward, so the tip point sits higher and the nostril line starts higher and dips less steeply. In the -15-degree profile, the tip segment points downward, so the tip point sits lower and the dip appears deeper relative to the tip. The nostril line still meets the face guide below the bridge start in both.

Reason: Tip angle changes the starting height of the nostril line even when the dip value is the same. The downward tip lowers the start point, making the dip look deeper.

Check: Compare the tip heights: the +15-degree tip should be higher than the -15-degree tip. Check that both nostril lines stay under their tip segments and meet the face guide at the same relative point.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Bridge curve is a smooth shallow S with a single most outward point.
- [ ] Tip segment is short, about one-third the bridge length, and its angle matches the chosen direction.
- [ ] Nostril line starts at the tip, dips, and meets the face guide without crossing the tip segment.
- [ ] Bridge height is consistent with the stated unit and the nostril dip is proportional.
- [ ] Final contour is darkened only after the three stages are checked.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted: any tip angle, any bridge height, and any nostril dip that stays proportional and does not cross the tip segment.

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