Raven Head Drawing: Beak Wedge, Eye Placement, and Head Angles

Ordinary topic reference / separately checked pixels



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Original worked example / unchanged complete key

Prompt: Draw a raven head in side view facing right. Use a skull oval 60 mm long and 30 mm tall. Place the beak wedge with a base at the front midline and a length of 35 mm. Place the eye center 20 mm back from the front edge and 2 mm above the midline. Use an eye diameter of 8 mm and offset the pupil forward by 1.6 mm. Check the proportions.

Answer: The beak length is 35 mm, which is between one-half (30 mm) and two-thirds (40 mm) of the 60 mm skull, so it passes. The eye center is 20 mm back, which is exactly at the front-third boundary (20 mm), so it is acceptable, and it sits 2 mm above the midline, which is one-quarter of the 8 mm eye diameter. The eye radius is 4 mm, so the eye edge nearest the beak is at $20 - 4 = 16$ mm from the front, giving a gap of 16 mm, which is two eye diameters. This is above the suggested range of one-half to one-and-a-half eye diameters, so move the eye forward by 4 mm. The eye center then sits 16 mm back, the near eye edge is at 12 mm, and the gap is 12 mm, or one-and-a-half eye diameters. The pupil offset of 1.6 mm is one-fifth of the eye diameter, matching the convention. Final check: beak length 35 mm, skull 60 mm, eye gap 12 mm, pupil offset 1.6 mm.