Draw Clay Coil and Shape-Built Forms from Play-Doh-Style Steps

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a sphere form 40 mm diameter with light from upper left. Describe construction and shading.

Answer: Draw a circle 40 mm diameter. Mark midline at 20 mm. Add a base shadow ellipse aligned with baseline. Add a curved shading panel on the lower right covering about 13 mm of width, darkest near the bottom. Add a soft highlight on the upper left.

Reason: Sphere width equals height, so 40 mm by 40 mm. Shading panel about one third of 40 mm is about 13 mm. Midline at half height is 20 mm.

Check: Measure width and height both 40 mm within 2 mm. Confirm shading panel about 13 mm on lower right. Confirm highlight upper left and shadow touches baseline.

Task 2

Draw a slab form 50 mm wide, 30 mm tall, 10 mm thick, light from upper left. Describe construction and shading.

Answer: Draw a rounded rectangle front face 50 mm by 30 mm. Add a narrow side face 10 mm wide on the right and a top face 10 mm deep. Round all edges. Shade the side face darker than the front, with a curved panel on the lower right of the front face covering about 17 mm. Add a soft highlight on the upper left of the front face.

Reason: Thickness 10 mm appears as side and top faces. Shading panel about one third of 50 mm is about 17 mm. Side face darker shows thickness.

Check: Measure front face 50 mm by 30 mm. Confirm side and top faces about 10 mm. Check shading panel about 17 mm and side face darker than front.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Draw a coil form 48 mm tall with 4 coils, width 24 mm, light from upper left. Describe construction and shading.

Answer: Draw a vertical center line 48 mm tall. Mark baseline and midline at 24 mm. Sketch a bulging cylinder 24 mm wide. Divide height into 4 bands of 12 mm each. Curve band edges and overlap by about 2 mm. Add a curved shading panel on the lower right covering about 8 mm, darkest near bottom. Add a soft highlight upper left. Align base shadow with baseline.

Reason: 48 divided by 4 equals 12 mm per band. Width 24 mm gives 2:1 ratio. Shading panel about one third of 24 mm is 8 mm.

Check: Measure height 48 mm and width 24 mm. Confirm 4 bands each about 12 mm. Check shading panel about 8 mm and shadow touches baseline.

Task 4

Draw a coil form 36 mm tall with 6 coils, width 18 mm, light from upper left. Describe construction and shading.

Answer: Draw a vertical center line 36 mm tall. Mark baseline and midline at 18 mm. Sketch a bulging cylinder 18 mm wide. Divide height into 6 bands of 6 mm each. Curve band edges and overlap by about 1 mm. Add a curved shading panel on the lower right covering about 6 mm, darkest near bottom. Add a soft highlight upper left. Align base shadow with baseline.

Reason: 36 divided by 6 equals 6 mm per band. Width 18 mm gives 2:1 ratio. Shading panel about one third of 18 mm is 6 mm.

Check: Measure height 36 mm and width 18 mm. Confirm 6 bands each about 6 mm. Check shading panel about 6 mm and shadow touches baseline.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Silhouette reads as the intended form (coil, sphere, or slab).
- [ ] Coil bands are curved and overlap slightly; slab edges are rounded.
- [ ] Shading panel follows contour and covers about one third of width.
- [ ] Highlight is soft and placed opposite the darkest area.
- [ ] Base shadow aligns with baseline.
- [ ] Proportions match stated dimensions within 2 mm.
- [ ] Valid alternatives accepted if volume cues and proportions are consistent.

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