Pen Cat Drawing: Contour, Line Weight, and Hatching

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a cat head only (no body) with a light source from the upper right. Use thin lines on the top and left, thick lines on the right and underside, and hatch the right side with lines parallel to the head curve. State your convention.

Answer: A cat head with thin top and left contour, thick right and underside contour, and hatching on the right side following the head curve. The convention is stated: thin = one light pass; thick = one firm pass.

Reason: The light source from the upper right means the right side is shadowed. Thick lines on the shadow side and underside follow the weight rule. Hatching parallel to the head curve follows the direction rule.

Check: Check that the top and left are thin, the right and underside are thick, hatching follows the head curve, and the convention is stated. Count thick lines and confirm each has a reason.

Task 2

Draw a cat tail curling to the left. Use thin lines on the outer curve and thick lines on the inner curve. Hatch the inner curve with lines parallel to the tail's curve. State your convention.

Answer: A tail curling left with thin outer curve, thick inner curve, and hatching on the inner curve parallel to the tail. Convention stated.

Reason: The inner curve is the shadow side, so it gets thick lines and hatching. The outer curve is lit, so it stays thin. Hatching follows the tail curve.

Check: Check that the outer curve is thin, the inner curve is thick, hatching is parallel to the tail curve, and the convention is stated.

Task 3

Draw a cat paw with four toes. Use thin lines on the top of the paw and thick lines on the bottom and between the toes. Hatch the bottom with short vertical lines. State your convention.

Answer: A paw with thin top contour, thick bottom and toe separations, and short vertical hatching on the bottom. Convention stated.

Reason: The bottom is the shadow side and contact point, so it gets thick lines. Toe separations are major contours, so they get thick lines. Vertical hatching is a consistent angle for a flat area.

Check: Check that the top is thin, the bottom and toe separations are thick, hatching is vertical and evenly spaced, and the convention is stated.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Draw a complete seated cat with a light source from the upper left. Use thin lines on the top and back, thick lines on the underside and paws, and hatch the right side and underside with lines parallel to the nearest contour. State your convention and list three thick lines with their reasons.

Answer: A complete seated cat with thin top and back, thick underside and paws, and hatching on the right side and underside following the nearest contour. Convention stated. Three thick lines listed with reasons: underside of body (shadow), paws (contact with ground), right side of head (shadow).

Reason: The light source from the upper left makes the right side and underside shadowed. Thick lines and hatching go there. The top and back are lit, so they stay thin. Listing thick lines with reasons makes the drawing checkable.

Check: Check that the top and back are thin, the right side and underside are thick, hatching follows the nearest contour, the convention is stated, and three thick lines are listed with reasons.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Contour is clean with no unintended gaps or double lines.
- [ ] Line-weight convention is stated and followed consistently.
- [ ] Every thick line has a stated reason (shadow, contact, or major contour).
- [ ] Hatching direction follows the stated rule (parallel to nearest contour or consistent angle).
- [ ] Hatching spacing is even within each area.
- [ ] One shadow side is chosen and the lit side is left open or lightly hatched.
- [ ] The drawing is checkable against the stated conventions, allowing valid alternative poses and shapes.

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