French Braid Drawing: Strand Overlap Sequence

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a three-overlap braid starting with L over C, then alternating. List the outer strand for each overlap and the center strand after each step.

Answer: Overlap 1: L over C; center becomes L. Overlap 2: R over C; center becomes R. Overlap 3: L over C; center becomes L. Outer strand sequence: L, R, L.

Reason: Starting with L sets the alternation pattern; each overlap moves the outer strand to the center, so the center label changes each time.

Check: Read the listed outer strands and confirm they alternate. Confirm the center strand after each step matches the strand just moved.

Task 2

A drawing shows overlaps labeled 1: R over C, 2: R over C, 3: L over C. Identify the error and state the corrected sequence for three overlaps starting with R over C.

Answer: The error is repeating R over C twice. Corrected sequence: 1: R over C, 2: L over C, 3: R over C.

Reason: The convention requires alternating outer strands; two consecutive R overlaps break alternation.

Check: List the outer strands and confirm the pattern alternates without repeats.

Task 3

Using a hypothetical strand width of 8 mm baseline-to-midline, describe how to check three strands for consistent width. State what you would measure and the acceptable result.

Answer: Measure each strand from baseline to midline at its widest point. All three should read 8 mm in this hypothetical example. If one reads 10 mm, redraw that strand to 8 mm or restate the chosen width and apply it to all strands.

Reason: Consistency is checked by comparing measured widths to the stated convention; the numerical value is a hypothetical example, not a standard.

Check: Measure each strand at three points and compare to the chosen width. Accept only if all measurements match the stated convention.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Draw a five-overlap braid using the convention R over C, L over C, alternating. Number each overlap and state the center strand after overlap 5.

Answer: Overlaps: 1 R over C, 2 L over C, 3 R over C, 4 L over C, 5 R over C. After overlap 5, the center strand is R.

Reason: Five overlaps follow the alternating pattern; the fifth overlap uses R, so R becomes the center.

Check: Confirm the outer strand sequence is R, L, R, L, R and that the center label after step 5 is R.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Overlap order alternates outer strands correctly (R, L, R, L or the stated convention).
- [ ] Each overlap shows the outer strand fully on top with no gap.
- [ ] Strand width follows the stated baseline-to-midline x-height convention.
- [ ] Center strand label is updated after each overlap.
- [ ] Valid alternatives in curvature or minor width variation are accepted if the sequence and convention remain consistent.

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