Hand Grip Drawing: Palm, Wrapping Fingers, and Thumb Placement

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

A hand grips a horizontal rounded box. The palm block is behind the box, and the knuckle line runs along the box's top edge. Describe where the index finger should be drawn first and how its contour should stop if it passes behind the box.

Answer: Draw the index finger first from the knuckle line across the box's top surface, bending at its visible joint. If the finger passes behind the box, stop its contour at the box's near edge and do not continue it unless the fingertip reappears on the far side.

Reason: The index finger sets spacing for the other fingers, and stopping the contour at the object's edge preserves the overlap so the finger does not appear to pass through the box.

Check: Confirm the index finger starts at the knuckle line, crosses the box surface, and has no contour segment that contradicts the box's near edge.

Task 2

In a side view, the thumb is drawn on the same side as the wrapping fingers and points away from them. State the correction and describe one check line that would confirm the fix.

Answer: Move the thumb to the opposite side of the object and angle its tip toward the index or middle finger. Draw a short line from the thumb tip to the nearest fingertip; it should cross the object's surface and show compression.

Reason: The thumb must oppose the fingers to create a believable grip. A thumb on the same side as the wrap removes opposition and makes the hand look twisted.

Check: Verify the thumb base connects near the palm heel on the opposite side, and the thumb-to-fingertip line crosses the object rather than running parallel to it.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

A grip drawing shows four fingers as equal-length parallel tubes with no joint bends, and the fingertips float above the object. List two specific changes that would improve the grip.

Answer: Taper each finger toward its tip and bend it at the visible joint so it follows the object's curve. Curve each fingertip slightly into the object's surface and darken the contact point so the fingers appear to press rather than float.

Reason: Parallel equal tubes ignore taper and joint structure, while floating tips remove contact. Tapering, bending, and curving the tips restore the wrap and pressure.

Check: Check that each finger narrows toward the tip, shows at least one joint bend, and has a marked contact point on the object.

Task 4

A small object is gripped so tightly that the fingertips curl past its far edge. The thumb is placed near the palm heel and angles toward the middle finger. Describe how to check that the object still reads as one solid shape and that the grip is believable.

Answer: Lightly redraw the object's hidden edges and confirm that each finger either contacts the visible surface or is hidden behind the far edge. Draw a line from the thumb tip to the nearest fingertip and confirm it crosses the object. Darken contact edges at the palm heel and at each fingertip that presses the object.

Reason: A small object can be partly hidden by curled fingers, so the object's solidity must be checked through hidden edges and consistent overlaps. Thumb opposition and contact edges confirm pressure.

Check: Verify no finger contour passes through the object, the thumb-to-fingertip line crosses the object, and at least one contact edge is marked at the palm heel and at a fingertip.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Palm block is present and the object touches the palm heel.
- [ ] Knuckle line is curved and roughly parallel to the object's long axis.
- [ ] Four fingers are drawn in sequence with taper and visible joint bends.
- [ ] Fingertips contact the object or are clearly hidden behind it.
- [ ] Thumb opposes the fingers and its tip angles toward the index or middle finger.
- [ ] Overlaps are consistent: no finger passes through the object.
- [ ] Contact edges are marked to show pressure.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted when structure and contact remain consistent, including varied finger lengths and foreshortening.

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