Sketch a Realistic Dinosaur: Proportions and Scale Texture

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A dinosaur plan uses torso 5 units, tail 4 units, leg 6 units, and neck 2 units, with one unit equal to one x-height. Your drawing shows torso 5 units, tail 4.5 units, leg 6 units, and neck 2 units. Using a half-unit tolerance, is the tail acceptable?

Answer: No. The tail is 0.5 units over the planned 4 units, which equals the half-unit tolerance boundary. Shorten it to 4 units to stay inside.

Reason: Subtract planned from drawn: 4.5 minus 4 equals 0.5. The tolerance is 0.5, so the difference is at the limit, not inside it.

Check: Re-measure the tail in x-height units and confirm the difference is less than 0.5 units.

Task 2

On a flank, you count 6 scale rows across one x-height. Your target range is 3 to 5 rows. Describe one adjustment and how to check it.

Answer: Reduce the number of rows by making each scale slightly larger, then recount across the same x-height. Aim for 3 to 5 rows.

Reason: Six rows exceeds the target maximum of five. Enlarging scales reduces row count without changing the zone boundaries.

Check: Count rows again across one x-height on the same flank and confirm the count is between 3 and 5.

Task 3

A scale row on the belly curves away from the nearest body edge. According to the convention, is this valid? What is the fix?

Answer: It is not valid. Redraw the row so it curves toward the nearest body edge.

Reason: The convention states a valid row bends toward the nearest body edge. Curving away breaks consistency with other zones.

Check: Trace the row and confirm the curve points toward the closest outline edge.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Your near foot sits on the baseline, but your far foot also sits on the baseline. What depth cue is missing, and how do you check the fix?

Answer: The far foot should sit slightly above the baseline to suggest depth. Raise it by a small amount, such as half an x-height, and check that it no longer touches the baseline.

Reason: Both feet on the baseline flatten the pose. Offsetting the far foot upward creates a simple depth cue.

Check: Measure the gap between the far foot and the baseline and confirm it is greater than zero and consistent with your chosen offset.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Torso, tail, leg, and neck lengths match recorded x-height units within the chosen tolerance.
- [ ] Shoulder and hip guides sit at the planned fractions of torso length.
- [ ] Near foot lands on the baseline and far foot sits slightly above it.
- [ ] Scale rows curve toward the nearest body edge in all three zones.
- [ ] Scale size varies gradually and neighbors touch without gaps.
- [ ] Row count across one x-height on the flank falls within the chosen target range.
- [ ] Guide lines are erased and the body outline is clear.

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