Realistic Donut Drawing: Torus Form and Glaze Highlights

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a donut from directly above. Show the torus form with a centered hole and a glaze band. Place one highlight on the upper left of the ring.

Answer: A top view shows two concentric ovals: a larger outer oval and a smaller inner oval for the hole. The glaze band sits between them, slightly wavy. The highlight is a soft light shape on the upper left of the glaze, following the ring's curve. Shading is minimal but the inner edge is slightly darker to show depth.

Reason: From above, the torus appears as a ring. The hole is centered, and the glaze covers the top surface. A single highlight on the upper left matches light from that direction. Darkening the inner edge suggests the hole's depth.

Check: Check that the hole is centered and the highlight is on the upper left. The glaze edge should be slightly irregular, not a perfect circle. The inner edge should be darker than the top surface.

Task 2

Draw a donut tilted so the hole appears as an ellipse. Light comes from the right. Add a glaze highlight on the right side and a cast shadow to the left.

Answer: The outer edge is an oval, and the hole is a smaller ellipse shifted toward the top. The right side of the ring is lighter, and a soft highlight sits on the right curve. The left underside is darker, and a cast shadow extends to the left. The glaze band follows the tilted surface.

Reason: Tilting the donut makes the hole elliptical. Light from the right means highlights on the right and shadow on the left. The cast shadow falls opposite the light. Shading the left underside reinforces the tilt.

Check: Verify that the hole is elliptical and shifted up. The highlight should be on the right, and the shadow on the left. The glaze should follow the tilt, not appear flat.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Draw a donut with a thick glaze that drips slightly over the outer edge. Use light from above. Show one main highlight on the top and a smaller one near the hole. Add a simple cast shadow.

Answer: The torus form is drawn with a clear hole. The glaze covers the top and drips down the outer edge in small, downward curves. The main highlight is a soft shape on the top curve, and a smaller highlight sits near the inner edge. The cast shadow is directly under the donut, slightly darker at the contact point.

Reason: Light from above places highlights on the top and near the inner edge. Drips follow gravity and the outer curve. The cast shadow under the donut grounds it. Keeping drips small maintains realism.

Check: Check that drips point downward and are not too large. Highlights should be on the top and near the hole. The shadow should be under the donut and darker at the base.

Task 4

Draw two donuts side by side, both seen from a slight angle. Light comes from the upper left. Give each a glaze highlight and a cast shadow. Keep the forms consistent.

Answer: Both donuts have similar outer ovals and shifted holes. The left donut's highlight is on its upper left curve, and its shadow falls to the lower right. The right donut has a highlight on its upper left and a shadow to the lower right, slightly overlapping the left donut's shadow if close. Shading is consistent on both.

Reason: Consistent light direction means highlights on the upper left and shadows to the lower right for both donuts. Similar proportions keep the forms believable. Overlapping shadows can show spatial relationship.

Check: Compare both donuts: highlights should be on the upper left, shadows to the lower right. Holes should be similarly shifted. Check that the glaze bands follow each torus surface.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Torus form is clear: outer curve and hole read as a ring with thickness.
- [ ] Shading shows curvature: top lighter, underside and inner edge darker.
- [ ] Glaze follows the surface and has a believable edge.
- [ ] Highlights are placed consistently with a single light direction.
- [ ] Cast shadow grounds the donut and matches the light.
- [ ] Edges are mostly soft; hard outlines are avoided.
- [ ] Valid alternatives: any light direction is acceptable if consistent; glaze color and drip style may vary; highlight shapes may differ as long as they follow the form.

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