# Bold Contour Outlines for Japanese-Style Wave and Fish Tattoo Drawing

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a wave-band spiral with four turns. Use an x-height of 2 cm and keep the gap between turns equal to one x-height. Trace the outer edge with a bold contour, leaving a small opening at the center.

Answer: A four-turn spiral with gaps of 2 cm between turns, a bold outer contour, and a small opening at the center. The bold line is clearly heavier than the thin guide.

Reason: The x-height sets a consistent gap. Four turns require three gaps, so the spiral spans about 6 cm outward from the center. The bold contour follows the outer edge without closing the center.

Check: Measure the gap between each pair of turns; each should be about 2 cm. Confirm the bold line is continuous and the center opening is present.

Task 2

Draw a fish body with a centerline 10 cm long. Mark the middle width as three x-heights and the tail width as one x-height, using an x-height of 1 cm. Add a dorsal fin mark on the upper edge and a pectoral fin mark near the lower front.

Answer: A fish body 10 cm long, 3 cm wide at the middle, and 1 cm wide at the tail, with dorsal and pectoral fin marks placed along the body and connected by flowing bold contours.

Reason: The centerline gives length. The x-height of 1 cm makes the middle width 3 cm and the tail width 1 cm. Fin marks are placed on the upper and lower edges and connected smoothly.

Check: Measure the body length and widths at the marked points. Check that fin connections are smooth and that the bold contour is continuous.

Task 3

On scrap paper, draw one thin line and one bold line. Compare them and state a working bold-to-thin ratio. Then draw a short wave band using that ratio, keeping the bold contour on the outer edge only.

Answer: A stated working ratio, such as three-to-one, with a short wave band whose outer edge uses the bold line and whose internal guide uses the thin line.

Reason: Testing line weights first makes the bold contour deliberate. The ratio is a working note, not a standard. The wave band applies the chosen weights to outer and inner lines.

Check: Compare the two lines at a glance; the bold line should be obviously heavier. Confirm the wave band uses the bold line only on the outer edge.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Redraw a wave-fish pairing from memory using only baseline and midline marks. Keep a gap of one x-height between the wave band and the fish. Use an x-height of 1.5 cm and state where you placed the gap.

Answer: A redrawn pairing with a 1.5 cm gap between the wave band and the fish, using baseline and midline marks for spacing and bold contours for both outlines.

Reason: The x-height of 1.5 cm sets the gap. Baseline and midline marks replace the traced guide. The redraw should match the traced version in spacing and line weight.

Check: Measure the gap between the wave and fish; it should be about 1.5 cm. Check that both outlines are bold and continuous and that spacing follows the marks.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Bold contour lines are visibly heavier than thin detail lines and remain continuous.
- [ ] Wave-band spiral turns are evenly spaced using the chosen x-height convention.
- [ ] Fish body contour tapers smoothly and fin connections are flowing, not sharply hooked.
- [ ] Wave band and fish are separated by a clear gap and do not overlap.
- [ ] Redrawn version uses x-height marks and matches the traced version in spacing and line weight.
- [ ] Valid alternative proportions are accepted if the x-height convention is stated and applied consistently.

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