Draw Celtic Interlace Bands and Spiral Motifs: Over-Under Construction

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw one band that crosses another band three times. Mark the first crossing as over on the left-to-right band. Continue alternating along that band and state the pattern.

Answer: The left-to-right band reads over, under, over across the three crossings. The other band reads under, over, under.

Reason: Alternation means each band switches at every crossing. Starting with over gives over, under, over for three crossings.

Check: Trace the left-to-right band with your finger and confirm the ticks alternate. Then trace the other band and confirm it also alternates.

Task 2

Construct a spiral with a hypothetical step of 4 mm. Place center and outward points at 4 mm, 8 mm, and 12 mm. After drawing, measure two gaps between turns. What should you expect, and what would you adjust if one gap is 6 mm?

Answer: Expect both measured gaps to be close to 4 mm. If one gap is 6 mm, move the outward point at that turn inward and redraw the curve so the gap returns near 4 mm.

Reason: A consistent step keeps the spiral even. A 6 mm gap is 2 mm wider than the chosen step, so the point is too far out.

Check: Measure the gap at two different turns with a ruler. Compare each to 4 mm; adjust any point that is off by more than a small drawing margin.

Task 3

In a blank band frame, plan two bands that cross twice. At the first crossing the top-to-bottom band goes over. At the second crossing the left-to-right band goes over. Describe the ticks and the alternation on each band.

Answer: Tick the top-to-bottom band at crossing 1 and the left-to-right band at crossing 2. The top-to-bottom band reads over then under; the left-to-right band reads under then over. Both alternate.

Reason: Each band has two crossings, so alternation means one over and one under per band. The chosen ticks give exactly that.

Check: Trace each band and list its crossings in order. Confirm one over and one under on each band.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A student draws a band with four crossings and marks them over, over, under, under along the same band. Identify the error and give a corrected pattern that still starts with over.

Answer: The error is that the first two crossings are both over, so the band does not alternate. A corrected pattern starting with over is over, under, over, under.

Reason: Alternation requires a switch at every crossing. Over, over breaks the switch; over, under, over, under restores it.

Check: List the four ticks in order and confirm each adjacent pair is different. Then trace the band to ensure the under-band edges are continuous.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Every crossing has a clear over-under tick, and each band alternates over and under along its length.
- [ ] Under-band edges remain continuous through crossings; over-band edges are interrupted at the tick.
- [ ] Spiral turns use a consistent step, and two measured gaps between turns are close to the chosen value.
- [ ] Construction marks are erased or light, and the final drawing is readable without color.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted: different band routes, crossing angles, and spiral steps are allowed if the checks pass.

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