Side-View Hand Drawing: Finger Contour Guides

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a side-view hand with palm length 30 mm and finger length 25 mm. Add three contour lines and a thumb mark. State the total length.

Answer: Total length is 30 + 25 = 55 mm. The silhouette is narrow, three contour lines sit inside the finger block, and the thumb mark is forward of the palm.

Reason: The ratio 30:25 keeps the hand compact. Three contours suggest stacked fingers without a front view. The thumb must sit forward to match side-view anatomy.

Check: Measure the drawn total length against 55 mm and confirm the thumb mark is forward of the palm front.

Task 2

A drawing shows a wide hand with five fully separate fingers and a thumb behind the palm. Identify two errors and describe the fix.

Answer: Error one: the hand is too wide for a side view. Fix: narrow the silhouette. Error two: the thumb is behind the palm. Fix: move the thumb mark forward of the palm front.

Reason: Side-view hands are narrow and the thumb sits forward. Separate fingers belong to a front or angled view.

Check: Compare the silhouette width to the palm length and check the thumb mark against the palm front.

Task 3

Using palm length 40 mm and finger length 35 mm, draw the side silhouette and four contour lines. Explain why the contour lines stay inside the finger block.

Answer: Total length is 40 + 35 = 75 mm. Contour lines stay inside because they represent stacked fingers within the silhouette; crossing the edge would break the side-view shape.

Reason: Contours are internal guides, not separate finger outlines. Keeping them inside preserves the tapered finger block.

Check: Trace each contour line and confirm it does not cross the silhouette edge.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Draw the same side-view hand at three angles by rotating the paper slightly each time. Keep the palm-to-finger ratio constant and note one change in the thumb position.

Answer: The ratio stays constant, for example 40:35. As the paper rotates, the thumb mark shifts slightly but remains forward of the palm. Contour lines stay inside the finger block.

Reason: Rotating the paper tests whether the side-view structure holds. The thumb remains forward because it is a fixed anatomical position in side view.

Check: Measure P and F on each drawing and confirm the ratio matches; check the thumb mark is forward in all three.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Silhouette is narrow enough to read as a side view.
- [ ] Palm and finger lengths are marked and total length equals P plus F.
- [ ] Three or four finger contour lines sit inside the finger block.
- [ ] Thumb mark is forward of the palm front and does not cross contours.
- [ ] Construction marks are erased or clearly subordinate.
- [ ] Valid alternatives in contour spacing and letter style are accepted.

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