Piccolo Drawing Guide: Body, Keys, and Embouchure Outline

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Using a 20-unit body length, place the embouchure center 3 units from the top and the footjoint flare at 17 units. Draw two key rails and place five keys total, alternating rails at 2-unit intervals starting at 7 units. Describe your layout.

Answer: The body tapers from top to bottom. The embouchure oval is centered 3 units from the top. The front rail starts at 7 units and the side rail is offset by 1 unit. Five keys alternate rails at 2-unit intervals, so keys sit at 7, 9, 11, 13, and 15 units. The footjoint flares at 17 units.

Reason: The intervals are regular and the rails are distinct, so the key pattern reads clearly. The embouchure is centered and the flare is placed before the bottom cap.

Check: Measure from the top: embouchure at 3, first key at 7, last key at 15, flare at 17. Confirm five keys alternate rails and the body is narrowest at the top.

Task 2

A student draws a piccolo with equal-width body lines, six keys scattered without rails, and a large circular embouchure. Identify three fixes using the guide's convention.

Answer: Fix one: taper the body so the headjoint is narrower than the footjoint. Fix two: draw two faint rails and place keys at regular intervals along them. Fix three: redraw the embouchure as a small oval wider than tall, centered on the headjoint axis, with a thin lip plate outline.

Reason: Each fix addresses a specific convention: taper, rail-based key layout, and centered oval embouchure. These make the drawing readable without requiring a specific model.

Check: Check that the widest point is at the footjoint, keys follow two rails, and the embouchure oval is centered and unshaded.

Task 3

Draw a piccolo with a 16-unit body. Place three front keys at 6, 8, and 10 units and two side keys offset by 1 unit at 7 and 9 units. Where is the midpoint of the body, and how many keys are on each rail?

Answer: The midpoint is at 8 units. There are three front keys and two side keys, for five keys total.

Reason: Midpoint is half of 16, which is 8. Counting the listed positions gives three front and two side keys. The offset keeps the side keys visually distinct.

Check: Divide 16 by 2 to confirm 8. Count front positions (6, 8, 10) and side positions (7, 9) separately.

Piccolo Drawing Guide: Body, Keys, and Embouchure Outline

Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Using an 18-unit body, place the embouchure at 2 units, the first front key at 6 units, and four front keys spaced 2 units apart. What is the position of the last front key, and how far is it from the footjoint flare at 15 units?

Answer: The last front key is at 12 units. It is 3 units from the flare at 15 units.

Reason: Four keys starting at 6 with 2-unit spacing sit at 6, 8, 10, and 12. Subtracting 12 from 15 gives 3 units to the flare.

Check: List the positions 6, 8, 10, 12 and subtract the last from 15. Confirm the embouchure at 2 is centered on the axis.

Piccolo Drawing Guide: Body, Keys, and Embouchure Outline

Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Body outline is tapered, with the narrowest point at the headjoint and the widest at the footjoint.
- [ ] Two key rails are visible and keys are placed at regular intervals along them.
- [ ] Key circles decrease slightly in size toward the footjoint and include inner pad circles.
- [ ] Embouchure is a small oval wider than tall, centered on the headjoint axis, with a thin lip plate outline.
- [ ] Line weights clearly separate body outline, keys, and construction guides.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted: key count, exact spacing, and letter style may vary if the pattern remains regular and readable.

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