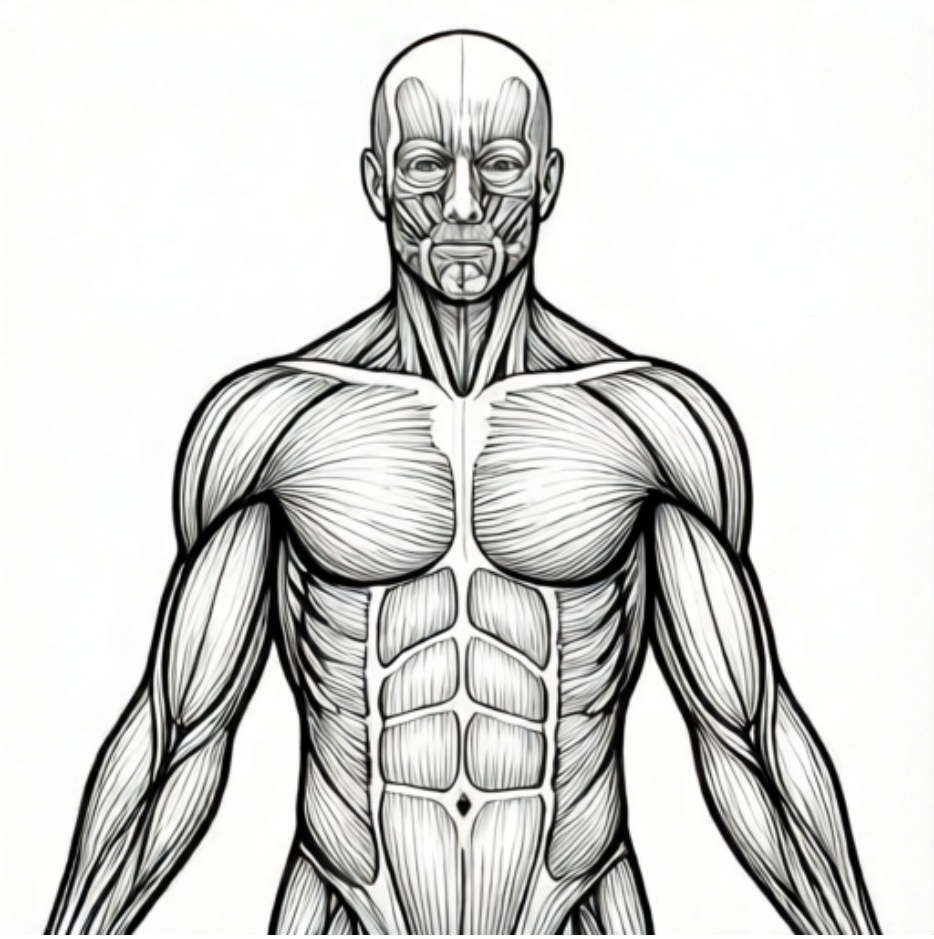
Cross-Contour Figure Drawing: Surface Lines for Limbs and Torso

Topic reference / ordinary illustration



Ordinary topic reference. Hypothetical dimensions in the four tasks are supplied in their own text; this illustration is not their measured answer.

Cross-Contour Figure Drawing: Surface Lines for Limbs and Torso

Worked example / complete source key

A standing figure's upper arm is drawn as a tapered cylinder 12 units long. Place four cross-contour wraps at nominal spacing, then adjust for a bulge near the middle. Describe the spacing and curvature convention.

Answer: Nominal spacing is 12 divided by 4, or 3 units. Place wraps at 3, 6, 9, and 12 units from the shoulder. At the middle bulge, move the second and third wraps slightly closer, for example to 5.5 and 8.5 units, and increase spacing near the ends to keep the total about 12 units. Each wrap bows toward the viewer at its midpoint and tightens near the silhouette. The convention: every line curves outward at the form's closest point and compresses where the surface turns away.