Leg Drawing Practice: Proportion and Perspective Construction

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Front view: L = 16 grid squares. Place knee at 0.50 L, calf widest at 0.70 L, ankle at 0.90 L. Use hypothetical widths: thigh top 0.18 L, knee 0.14 L, calf 0.15 L, ankle 0.08 L. Mark landmarks and outline the leg.

Answer: Landmarks at 8, 11.2, and 14.4 squares from the top. Widths: thigh top 2.88 squares total, knee 2.24, calf 2.40, ankle 1.28. Outline connects these ticks with tapered forms.

Reason: Multiply each fraction by L: 0.50 times 16 equals 8; 0.70 times 16 equals 11.2; 0.90 times 16 equals 14.4. Widths: 0.18 times 16 equals 2.88; 0.14 times 16 equals 2.24; 0.15 times 16 equals 2.40; 0.08 times 16 equals 1.28.

Check: Count grid squares between landmarks and compare with 8, 11.2, and 14.4. Measure width ticks and compare with the computed totals. Adjust any mark off by more than one square.

Task 2

Side view: L = 20 grid squares. Use hypothetical depths: thigh 0.16 L, calf 0.13 L, ankle 0.08 L. Place knee at 0.50 L and ankle at 0.90 L. Draw the centerline, depth ticks along one diagonal, and outline.

Answer: Knee at 10 squares, ankle at 18 squares. Depth ticks: thigh 3.2 squares, calf 2.6 squares, ankle 1.6 squares. Outline tapers from thigh to ankle along the diagonal ticks.

Reason: 0.50 times 20 equals 10; 0.90 times 20 equals 18. Depths: 0.16 times 20 equals 3.2; 0.13 times 20 equals 2.6; 0.08 times 20 equals 1.6.

Check: Verify landmark positions by counting squares. Measure depth ticks and compare with 3.2, 2.6, and 1.6. Confirm all ticks run along the same diagonal direction.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Bent pose: L = 24 grid squares. Knee at 0.50 L. Rotate the calf centerline 30 degrees from vertical at the knee. The calf points toward the viewer, so the apparent knee-to-ankle length is 0.30 L instead of 0.40 L. Mark the apparent ankle position and outline the bent leg.

Answer: Knee at 12 squares. Apparent ankle at 12 plus 7.2 equals 19.2 squares along the rotated centerline. The calf outline follows the rotated centerline with a hypothetical calf width of 0.15 L, or 3.6 squares total.

Reason: 0.50 times 24 equals 12. The apparent calf length is 0.30 times 24 equals 7.2, so the ankle mark is 19.2 squares from the top along the rotated line. Calf width: 0.15 times 24 equals 3.6.

Check: Measure the angle of the calf centerline (about 30 degrees from vertical). Count squares from knee to apparent ankle and compare with 7.2. Confirm the apparent calf segment is shorter than the thigh segment (12 squares).

Task 4

Front view with a different convention: L = 18 grid squares. Place knee at 0.45 L, calf widest at 0.68 L, ankle at 0.88 L. Use hypothetical widths: thigh top 0.20 L, knee 0.15 L, calf 0.16 L, ankle 0.09 L. Mark landmarks, outline, and state one check you performed.

Answer: Landmarks at 8.1, 12.24, and 15.84 squares. Widths: thigh top 3.6 squares total, knee 2.7, calf 2.88, ankle 1.62. Check: landmark spacing matches the chosen fractions within one grid square.

Reason: 0.45 times 18 equals 8.1; 0.68 times 18 equals 12.24; 0.88 times 18 equals 15.84. Widths: 0.20 times 18 equals 3.6; 0.15 times 18 equals 2.7; 0.16 times 18 equals 2.88; 0.09 times 18 equals 1.62.

Check: Count grid squares between landmarks and compare with 8.1, 12.24, and 15.84. Measure width ticks against the computed totals. Confirm the convention is stated and applied consistently.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Landmarks are clearly marked and labeled with their fractions of L.
- [ ] Landmark spacing matches the chosen convention within one grid square.
- [ ] Widths or depths are expressed consistently as fractions of L or in the same unit.
- [ ] Perspective pose uses a rotated centerline and shows foreshortening where segments point toward the viewer.
- [ ] Construction lines are checked before erasing.
- [ ] Valid alternative conventions are accepted if defined, consistent, and checked against a reference.

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