Flour Sack Contour Drawing: Blind and Slow Practice

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Blind-contour a text-only flour-sack reference that is 10 cm tall, 7 cm wide at the base, about 5 cm wide at its gathered top, and has gently bowed sides with rounded lower corners. Draw at the same scale, start at the top-right, and move counterclockwise. Keep your eyes on the reference until you return to the start.

Answer: A continuous contour that begins and ends near the top-right. The outline narrows at the gathered top, bows gently at the sides, and reaches a 7 cm base. The line may be distorted; the task checks observation and continuity.

Reason: Blind contour trains hand-eye coordination by forcing the hand to follow the eye. Distortion is expected and does not indicate failure. The check is whether attention stayed on the reference for the whole contour.

Check: After finishing, measure and note the gap between the start and end points without applying a threshold. Note where your eye sped up. Count how many times your hand moved while your eye was still.

Task 2

Slow contour of one major fold. Imagine a flour sack 10 cm tall and 7 cm wide at the base. A fold starts at the left silhouette 4 cm above the base, curves upward and rightward to a high point near the center about 7 cm above the base, then descends to the right silhouette 6 cm above the base. Draw this fold as a single contour, pausing at each direction change. Check the paper after every short segment.

Answer: A line that starts at the left silhouette 4 cm above the base, rises to a high point near the center about 7 cm above the base, and descends to the right silhouette 6 cm above the base. Counting convention for this exercise: count only changes in direction along the interior of the contour, excluding the start and end points. Under that convention there is one interior direction change, at the high point where the ascent turns to descent. Corrections may be drawn beside the first line but not erased.

Reason: Slow contour builds deliberate observation. Pausing at direction changes prevents rushing. Describing the fold's path in words makes the task solvable without an image, and the defined start, high point, and end give clear checkpoints.

Check: Verify the start point is about 4 cm above the base on the left silhouette and the end point about 6 cm above the base on the right silhouette. Confirm the high point is near the center and roughly 7 cm above the base. Using the stated convention (interior changes only, excluding start and end), confirm there is one direction change at the high point and that it was checked against the described path. Check that corrections are visible and not erased.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Blind-contour a second fold on the same 10 cm by 7 cm sack, whose gathered top is about 5 cm wide. The fold begins at the top edge about 3 cm from the left corner, runs diagonally down-left to the left side about 5 cm above the base, and has one slight bend near the middle. Keep your eyes on the reference and the tool on the paper.

Answer: A continuous line from the top silhouette about 3 cm from the left corner to the left silhouette about 5 cm above the base, passing through one slight bend near the middle. The line may overshoot or stop short. The important result is that the tool stayed on the paper and the eyes stayed on the reference until the end point was reached.

Reason: This exercise isolates a diagonal fold, which is harder to follow than the outer silhouette. Describing the route and the single bend makes the contour checkable from the text alone. Keeping the tool down maintains continuity and reveals where the hand tends to rush.

Check: Check that the line is continuous with no lifted-tool gaps. Compare the start point to about 3 cm from the left corner on the top silhouette and the end point to about 5 cm above the base on the left silhouette. Confirm the line passes through one slight bend near the middle. Note whether the line overshot or stopped short and by how much, using a simple measurement on the page.

Task 4

Slow-contour a text-only sack silhouette 9 cm tall and 6 cm wide at the base, with a 4 cm gathered top, gently bowed sides, and rounded lower corners. Start at the top-left, trace down the left side, across the base, up the right side, and close across the top. Tally only interior direction changes, excluding the start and end.

Answer: A closed silhouette about 9 cm tall and 6 cm wide at the base. Under the stated counting rule, there are three major interior changes: bottom-left, bottom-right, and top-right. Any smaller changes along a curved side can be listed separately if actually observed.

Reason: The specified route and counting rule make the outline task solvable without an absent picture. Slow contour checks each segment against the described reference and leaves corrections visible.

Check: Measure the 9 cm height, 6 cm base, and 4 cm top. Confirm the contour closes at the starting point and count only the three major interior turns, excluding the endpoints.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Blind contour attempt keeps eyes on the reference for the full contour.
- [ ] Slow contour attempt pauses at direction changes and checks against the reference.
- [ ] Lines follow observed edges rather than invented shapes.
- [ ] Corrections are left visible rather than erased.
- [ ] Comparison notes identify at least one specific difference between blind and slow results.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted: different line weights, starting points, and fold interpretations are allowed if edges are observed.

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