# Tattoo Practice Plate: Linework, Shading, and Stencil Transfer Drills

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw three horizontal lines, each 4 cm long, spaced 1 cm apart. Aim for equal thickness and clean ends.

Answer: Three straight lines of equal thickness with clean endpoints, spaced 1 cm apart.

Reason: Short straight lines isolate pressure control and endpoint discipline without the added challenge of length or curve.

Check: Use a ruler to confirm 4 cm length and 1 cm spacing. Compare thickness at the start, middle, and end of each line. Mark any line with visible thickness change or hooked ends.

Task 2

Create a shading strip 8 cm long and 2 cm wide, fading from dark at the left to light at the right.

Answer: A smooth gradient with dark tone at the left, gradually fading to the paper tone at the right, with no visible bands.

Reason: A gradient strip trains gradual pressure control and blending, which are essential for smooth shading.

Check: Divide the strip into four equal sections. Compare adjacent sections: each should be slightly lighter than the previous. Mark any sudden jump or dark spot.

Task 3

Draw a 3 cm equilateral triangle on thin paper. Rub soft graphite over the back of the paper, place it graphite-side down on a blank area, and trace the outline with a ballpoint pen using light pressure to transfer it.

Answer: A thin, continuous triangle outline that matches the original in size and shape, with no double lines or smears.

Reason: A simple closed shape makes alignment and line continuity easy to check.

Check: Compare the transferred triangle's side lengths with a ruler and check that corners are sharp. Look for gaps, double lines, or smears. Repeat once if any issue is visible.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Draw a 5 cm gentle curve bending about 2 cm. Repeat three times, trying to keep the curve smooth and the thickness even.

Answer: Three smooth curves of equal length and bend, with even thickness and clean endpoints.

Reason: Curves train shoulder movement and smooth speed changes, which are harder to control than straight lines.

Check: Place the three curves side by side. Compare bend depth and thickness. Mark any curve with a visible kink or thickness change.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Line width consistency: lines are even in thickness along their length.
- [ ] Smoothness: lines and curves have no visible wobble or sudden changes.
- [ ] Endpoint control: line ends are clean, with no hooks or fading.
- [ ] Shading transition: gradient is even with no visible bands or dark spots.
- [ ] Stencil transfer: outline is thin, continuous, and aligned with the original.
- [ ] Self-evaluation: notes identify one specific issue and one adjustment per attempt.

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