Negative Space Hair Drawing: See Gaps, Draw Silhouette

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

On a blank 80 mm by 80 mm square, draw two enclosed gaps: one 8 mm wide and 5 mm tall, another 6 mm wide and 9 mm tall. Label each with measurements.

Answer: Two closed shapes: an oval 8 mm by 5 mm and a vertical oval 6 mm by 9 mm, both labeled in millimeters.

Reason: The task asks for negative shapes only; each gap is a closed region with stated dimensions.

Check: Measure each shape's widest horizontal and vertical extents; they should match the given values within 1 mm.

Task 2

A silhouette has a dip 12 mm deep from a straight line connecting two outer points. Draw the negative shape of the dip and mark its depth.

Answer: A curved wedge shape with a marked depth of 12 mm from the connecting line to the deepest point.

Reason: Silhouette gaps are measured from a reference line; the negative shape is the empty region inside the dip.

Check: Place a ruler along the connecting line and measure to the deepest point; it should read 12 mm.

Task 3

In a 40 mm by 40 mm comparison box, sketch a positive hair cluster on the left and its gaps on the right. Measure one gap width on each side and state the difference.

Answer: Left side shows strands; right side shows at least one closed gap. The measured gap widths are stated, and the difference is calculated (for example, 7 mm and 6 mm, difference 1 mm).

Reason: Comparing positive and negative shapes reveals whether the gap was drawn consistently.

Check: Re-measure both gap widths with the same ruler; the difference should match your stated value.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Using the convention that x-height is baseline to midline, draw a letter 'a' with x-height 5 mm and a letter 'o' with x-height 5 mm. Then draw one hair gap 5 mm tall beside them.

Answer: Two letters with x-height 5 mm (any style) and one closed gap 5 mm tall. All three share the same vertical measurement.

Reason: The convention fixes x-height measurement while allowing letter style variation; the gap uses the same unit.

Check: Measure from baseline to midline on each letter and the gap height; all should read 5 mm within 1 mm.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Identifies at least three enclosed gaps and two silhouette gaps.
- [ ] Records measurements in consistent units with labels.
- [ ] Draws gap outlines as closed shapes without individual hair lines.
- [ ] Compares positive and negative shapes in a box and notes differences.
- [ ] Uses the stated x-height convention (baseline to midline) where letters appear; accepts varied letter styles.

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