Contour Line Drawing of a Soda Can: A Focused Study

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A hypothetical can is 110 mm tall and 55 mm wide. Draw a slow contour of its outline. Measure your drawing: it is 108 mm tall and 54 mm wide. Compute both ratios and state whether the drawing passes the ratio check.

Answer: Can ratio: 110 ÷ 55 = 2.0. Drawing ratio: 108 ÷ 54 = 2.0. Difference is 0.0, so it passes.

Reason: Divide height by width for both the can and the drawing. Compare the two ratios. A difference of about 0.1 or less is acceptable.

Check: Re-measure height and width with a ruler. Recalculate both ratios. Confirm the difference is ≤ 0.1.

Task 2

A hypothetical can is 130 mm tall and 60 mm wide. A drawing measures 125 mm tall and 58 mm wide. Compute the ratios and the difference. Does it pass? If not, suggest one adjustment.

Answer: Can ratio: 130 ÷ 60 ≈ 2.17. Drawing ratio: 125 ÷ 58 ≈ 2.16. Difference ≈ 0.01, so it passes. No adjustment needed.

Reason: Use height divided by width for each. Subtract the smaller ratio from the larger. If the difference is ≤ 0.1, the drawing passes.

Check: Recalculate with a calculator or long division. Confirm the difference is ≤ 0.1. If it were larger, adjust the drawing’s height or width slightly.

Task 3

During a blind contour of a can, you notice your drawing’s height is much shorter than the can’s measured height. State one likely cause and one fix for the next attempt.

Answer: Likely cause: your hand moved too fast along the body edges, compressing the height. Fix: slow down and keep the pencil moving at a steady pace while tracing the full height from rim to base.

Reason: Blind contour prioritizes looking at the can. Speeding up often shortens vertical edges. A steady, slower pace helps maintain the full height.

Check: After the next blind contour, compare the drawing’s height to the can’s measured height. Note whether the height is closer.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A slow contour drawing shows tab edges extending beyond the top rim. The can’s measured height is 115 mm and width is 62 mm. The drawing measures 114 mm tall and 61 mm wide. Compute the ratio difference and state one fix for the tab edges.

Answer: Can ratio: 115 ÷ 62 ≈ 1.85. Drawing ratio: 114 ÷ 61 ≈ 1.87. Difference ≈ 0.02, so the ratio passes. Fix: redraw the tab edges as shorter lines that stay inside the top rim area.

Reason: The ratio check uses overall height and width, not the tab. The tab error is separate. Redrawing the tab lines inward corrects the contour without changing the overall proportions.

Check: Re-measure the drawing’s height and width to confirm the ratio difference is ≤ 0.1. Visually check that all tab lines are inside the top rim.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Contour only: no shading, label design, or ellipse perspective.
- [ ] Rim, body sides, base curve, and tab edges are present and follow visible edges.
- [ ] Height-to-width ratio of the drawing is within about 0.1 of the can’s measured ratio.
- [ ] Tab edges stay within the top rim area.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted: rim curve depth and tab edge shape may vary if they match observation.
- [ ] Blind contour task shows sustained looking at the can, even if distorted.

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