Drawing Hips in Perspective: Foreshortening Front, Side, and Angled Poses

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a front-view pelvis with hip points 10 cm apart. Add a top rim whose midpoint rises 1 cm above the hip-point line, and a lower arch whose midpoint sits 3 cm below the hip-point line. Label the center line.

Answer: A front-view pelvis with a shallow top rim, nearly vertical side seams, and a visible lower arch. The hip points are 10 cm apart, the rim midpoint is 1 cm above the hip-point line, and the arch midpoint is 3 cm below the hip-point line.

Reason: The front view has minimal foreshortening, so the hip width is full and the rim is shallow. The center line confirms symmetry.

Check: Measure the hip-point distance with a ruler; it should be 10 cm. Check that the rim midpoint is about 1 cm above the hip-point line and the arch midpoint is about 3 cm below the hip-point line. Confirm the center line divides the width equally.

Task 2

Draw a side-view pelvis. Make the top rim a short curve rising 2 cm, and draw one dominant side seam 6 cm long. Add a compressed lower arch near the bottom.

Answer: A narrow side-view pelvis with a steep, short top rim rising about 2 cm, one clear dominant side seam about 6 cm long, and a compressed lower arch near the bottom.

Reason: In side view, the front plane is seen edge-on, so the width is narrow and the rim appears steeper. One side seam dominates.

Check: Measure the side seam; it should be about 6 cm. Check that the rim rise is about 2 cm and that the lower arch is close to the bottom. Confirm the drawn width is narrow relative to the 6 cm side seam and that only one side seam dominates.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Draw an angled pelvis rotated 20 degrees away from the viewer about its vertical axis. Use a front-view width of 9 cm. Calculate the expected angled width using the cosine of 20 degrees (about 0.94). Draw the near side seam longer than the far side seam, and tilt the top rim as a separate visual feature.

Answer: An angled pelvis rotated 20 degrees away from the viewer, with an angled hip width of about 8.5 cm (9 cm times 0.94, a hypothetical check), a longer near side seam, a shorter far side seam, and a top rim drawn tilted to show the turn.

Reason: A 20-degree rotation away from the viewer compresses the apparent width slightly. The near side is closer, so its seam appears longer. The far side is compressed. The top rim tilt is a separate visual cue of the turn, not the angle used in the cosine calculation.

Check: Measure the angled hip width; it should be close to 8.5 cm. Confirm the near seam is longer than the far seam. Check that the top rim is visibly tilted to show the turn. To confirm the direction is away from the viewer, check that the near hip point is drawn lower and larger and the far hip point higher and smaller; the width ratio only confirms the magnitude of foreshortening, not the direction.

Task 4

Draw two angled pelvis views side by side: one rotated 15 degrees about the vertical axis and one rotated 45 degrees about the vertical axis. Use the same front-view width of 8 cm. Compare the hip-point widths and the side-seam lengths.

Answer: The 15-degree view has a wider hip-point distance (about 7.7 cm) and less difference between side seams. The 45-degree view has a narrower hip-point distance (about 5.7 cm) and a greater difference between near and far side seams.

Reason: Greater rotation about the vertical axis increases foreshortening, so the width shrinks and the near-far difference grows. The cosine values are hypothetical checks: 8 cm times cosine 15 degrees is about 7.7 cm; 8 cm times cosine 45 degrees is about 5.7 cm.

Check: Measure both hip-point widths and compare them to the calculated values. Check that the 45-degree view has a shorter width and a larger near-far seam difference than the 15-degree view. Use a ruler to confirm the tilt angles.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Top rim is tilted in angled views and curved in side views, not always horizontal.
- [ ] Near side seam is longer than the far side seam in angled views.
- [ ] Hip-point width in angled views is shorter than in front views at the same scale.
- [ ] Lower arch is present and compresses as the form turns.
- [ ] Construction lines are light and consistent; final contours are clear.
- [ ] Measurements use consistent units and are checked with a ruler.
- [ ] Valid alternative styles are accepted if the foreshortening checks pass.

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