Drawing Snake Scales on a Cylindrical Dowel: Curvature and Foreshortening

Topic reference / ordinary illustration



Ordinary topic reference. Hypothetical dimensions in the four tasks are supplied in their own text; this illustration is not their measured answer.

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Worked example / complete source key

A dowel has a measured circumference of 48 mm. You choose 8 scales around and a scale height of 3 mm with one-third overlap. Calculate the arc width per scale and the visible row spacing, then describe how the pattern should look at the front center and near the silhouette.

Answer: Arc width per scale is 48 divided by 8, which equals 6 mm. Visible row spacing is 3 mm minus one third of 3 mm, which equals 2 mm. At the front center, draw scales about 6 mm wide along the arc. Near each silhouette, taper the apparent width gradually toward zero and stop side edges that would fall behind the dowel. Keep the one-third overlap consistent. These values are hypothetical examples based on the measured circumference.