How to Draw a Snake's Spiky Scales: Pointed Overlap Practice

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw one row of five spiky scales on a 60 mm guide line with bases 12 mm apart. Point all tips upward. State the base width and length you used.

Answer: A row of five pointed scales with bases about 12 mm apart and tips about 18 mm from the base line, all pointing upward. Exact shape may vary.

Reason: Five bases at 12 mm spacing fit a 60 mm line. Pointing upward follows the stated convention. Length is a hypothetical example.

Check: Count five scales, measure base spacing near 12 mm, and confirm every tip is sharper than its base.

Task 2

Draw two staggered rows of spiky scales pointing right. Row 1 has bases 10 mm apart on a 50 mm line. Row 2 is offset by 5 mm. Estimate scales per row and check overlap.

Answer: Row 1: about 5 scales. Row 2: about 4 or 5 scales depending on edges. Each row 2 scale should cover about one-third of a row 1 scale, with tips visible.

Reason: 50 divided by 10 gives 5 bases. Offset by half the base width staggers the rows. Overlap proportion is a hypothetical guide.

Check: Count scales in each row, confirm offset near 5 mm, and verify no row 2 scale hides a full row 1 tip.

Task 3

Create a three-row practice panel 90 mm wide with bases 15 mm apart. Row 1 starts at the left edge; rows 2 and 3 are each offset by 7.5 mm. Estimate scales per row and list one mistake to avoid.

Answer: Row 1: about 6 scales. Rows 2 and 3: about 5 or 6 scales depending on edges. Avoid aligning rows directly, which creates vertical gaps.

Reason: 90 divided by 15 gives 6 bases. Half-width offset is 7.5 mm. Edge treatment changes counts by one.

Check: Measure row width and base spacing, count scales, and check that rows are staggered rather than aligned.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Draw a small panel with three rows of spiky scales pointing left. Use bases 8 mm apart on a 40 mm line and offset each row by 4 mm. State how you would check that tips remain visible.

Answer: Row 1: about 5 scales. Rows 2 and 3: about 4 or 5 scales. Check visibility by confirming that each new scale covers only part of the scale behind and that every tip can be seen.

Reason: 40 divided by 8 gives 5 bases. Offset by half the base width staggers rows. Visibility check follows the overlap rule.

Check: Count scales, measure offset near 4 mm, and trace each tip to confirm it is not fully covered.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Spiky character: tips are clearly pointed and narrower than bases.
- [ ] Overlap order: rows are staggered and each new row covers a consistent portion.
- [ ] Visibility: every tip remains visible after layering.
- [ ] Consistency: scale sizes and pointing direction follow the chosen convention.
- [ ] Valid alternatives: softer or sharper points are acceptable if the spiky character and overlap are intentional.

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