Practice Drawing Tattoo Flash: Motif Layout and Color Blocking

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

On a 150 by 200 mm sheet with 10 mm margins, use a 130 by 180 mm drawing area whose origin is its upper-left corner; x increases right and y increases down. Divide it into 2 columns and 3 rows, so each cell is 65 by 60 mm. Put a 40 by 50 mm weight-3 anchor in cell B2 with its center 10 mm right of the cell center. Put a 20 by 20 mm weight-1 accent in cell A1 with its outline spanning x=40–60 mm and y=35–55 mm. State the shortest gap between outlines and whether it meets a hypothetical minimum gap of 8 mm.

Answer: With 10 mm margins the drawing area is 130 by 180 mm, so each of the 2 columns is 65 mm wide and each of the 3 rows is 60 mm tall. Cell B2 spans x = 65 to 130 mm and y = 60 to 120 mm; its center is (97.5, 90). Placing the anchor center 10 mm right gives center (107.5, 90), so the anchor outline spans x = 87.5 to 127.5 mm and y = 65 to 115 mm. Cell A1 spans x = 0 to 65 mm and y = 0 to 60 mm; placing the accent near its lower-right corner with outline spanning x = 40 to 60 mm and y = 35 to 55 mm gives a shortest gap to the anchor of about 29.3 mm, measured diagonally from (60, 55) to (87.5, 65), which meets the 8 mm minimum.

Reason: The anchor is the heaviest motif, so it goes in a central cell with an offset to avoid stiffness. The accent is light and placed in a corner cell to guide the eye. The gap is measured between the closest outline points and compared to the chosen minimum.

Check: Measure the diagonal gap with a ruler and confirm it is at least 8 mm. Confirm the anchor cell is central and the accent cell is a corner.

Task 2

A sheet has three motifs with weights 3, 2, and 1. The weight-3 motif is in cell A1 and the weight-2 motif is in cell C3. The shortest gap between them is 6 mm. The chosen minimum gap for heavy motifs is 10 mm. Identify the problem and give one measurable fix.

Answer: The gap is 4 mm below the 10 mm minimum. Fix: move the weight-2 motif to cell B3 or reduce the weight-3 motif outline by 4 mm on the facing side, then remeasure to at least 10 mm.

Reason: Heavy motifs need more breathing room. The measured gap is compared to the chosen minimum, and the fix changes either position or size so the gap meets the minimum.

Check: Remeasure the shortest gap after the fix and confirm it is 10 mm or more.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

You have a base color, an accent color, and a dark color. On a small test sheet, fill three rectangles: one large, one medium, and one small. Estimate the area split by counting grid squares. State whether the split is close to 60/30/10 and give one adjustment if not.

Answer: Example: large rectangle 12 squares base, medium 6 squares accent, small 2 squares dark. Total 20 squares gives 60/30/10. If the dark area is 4 squares, reduce it to 2 squares by shrinking the dark region.

Reason: Counting grid squares gives a simple area estimate. The roles are assigned to rectangle sizes, and the split is checked against the target. The adjustment changes the area of one role.

Check: Recount squares after the adjustment and confirm the new split is closer to 60/30/10.

Task 4

On a 3 by 3 grid labeled A1 to C3, design a one-line intent for a flash sheet with four motifs: two weight-2 and two weight-1. State the primary cell, the color roles, and one spacing rule you will measure. Then list the order of color passes.

Answer: Intent: 'two medium motifs flanking a light pair with one accent color.' Primary cell: B2. Color roles: base on all large areas, accent on one weight-2 motif, dark on outlines of both weight-2 motifs. Spacing rule: keep at least 7 mm between all outlines. Color passes: base, accent, dark.

Reason: The intent states the composition in one line. The primary cell anchors the sheet. Color roles are assigned before drawing. The spacing rule is measurable. The pass order prevents mixing flat color with shading.

Check: Confirm the intent names the motif weights and color count. Measure one gap to confirm the 7 mm rule. Confirm the pass order is base, accent, dark.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Layout: 3 = clear primary cell and readable path; 2 = primary cell present but path weak; 1 = no clear primary cell.
- [ ] Weight: 3 = one weight-3 motif and supporting lighter motifs; 2 = weights assigned but one heavy motif competes; 1 = all motifs similar weight.
- [ ] Spacing: 3 = all measured gaps meet chosen minimums; 2 = one gap below minimum; 1 = two or more gaps below minimum.
- [ ] Color blocking: 3 = three roles used consistently and area split near target; 2 = roles used but one area dominates; 1 = colors mixed without roles.
- [ ] Valid alternatives: centered, asymmetric, or border-heavy compositions pass if weight and spacing checks are met.

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