Practice Drawing Tattoo Flash: Motif Layout and Color Blocking

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 210 by 297 mm sheet with 15 mm margins has a 3 by 3 grid. Place three motifs: a large rose (weight 3), a medium dagger (weight 2), and a small star (weight 1). Use a base color, one accent, and one dark. Describe cell placement, gaps, and color roles.

Answer: Use the 180 by 267 mm drawing area, so each grid cell is 60 mm wide and 89 mm tall. Give the motifs hypothetical sizes: rose 50 mm wide and 50 mm tall, dagger 30 mm wide and 60 mm tall, star 20 mm wide and 20 mm tall. Place the rose in B2 with its center 10 mm left of the cell center, so its outline spans roughly x = 55 to 105 mm and y = 108.5 to 158.5 mm (measuring from the top-left of the drawing area). Place the dagger in B1 with its bottom edge at y = 85 mm and its horizontal center aligned with the rose center at x = 80 mm, so its outline spans x = 65 to 95 mm and y = 25 to 85 mm. The shortest outline-to-outline gap between dagger and rose is then 23.5 mm vertically (85 to 108.5 mm), which meets the hypothetical 10 mm heavy-to-medium minimum. Place the star in C3 near its upper-left corner, with its outline spanning x = 125 to 145 mm and y = 185 to 205 mm. The shortest gap to the rose is the diagonal from the rose's lower-right corner (105, 158.5) to the star's upper-left corner (125, 185): about 33 mm, which meets the 5 mm light minimum. Leave A1, A2, A3, B3, and C1 empty by choice to keep the sheet uncluttered; the method's 'fill remaining cells' step is optional when the intent calls for a sparse sheet. Color: base fills the rose petals and dagger blade; accent fills the star and one small rose leaf area; dark outlines the dagger handle and rose stem. For a checkable estimate, count grid squares: treat the rose as about 12 squares of base, the dagger blade as about 4 squares of base, the star as about 2 squares of accent, the small leaf as about 1 square of accent, and the dark outlines and stem as about 2 squares of dark. That gives roughly 16 base, 3 accent, and 2 dark out of 21 counted squares, about 76/14/10 percent; adjust by enlarging accent areas or shrinking base areas if you want to approach the hypothetical 60/30/10 target.