Rooster Negative Space Drawing: Fill the Gaps, Not the Bird

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 silhouette has a leg gap measured at 14 mm and a beak gap at 7 mm. The background is filled evenly, but the leg gap looks narrower than the beak gap. What is the likely error and how do you check it?

Answer: The likely error is that the background tone has crept into the leg gap, narrowing it visually. Check by measuring the leg gap again at its narrowest point; it should still be about 14 mm, twice the beak gap. If the measured gap is correct but the tone is uneven, lighten the fill in that gap and re-check at arm's length.