

Sight-Size Method

Art & Design

Measuring a subject at its apparent size, using a plumb line and a held pencil.

One fixed position. Move, and every measurement taken so far is void.

1

Fix your position

Mark the floor. Same eye level, same distance, every session.

2

Hang a plumb line

A weighted string gives true vertical to measure every angle against.

3

Take one unit

Arm locked straight, pencil upright. Head height is the usual unit.

4

Step off the whole

Count units down and across before drawing a single contour.

5

Check by comparison

Two points at a time: what lines up with what, vertically and across.

A bent elbow changes the unit. If the arm moves, every measurement after it is at a different scale.