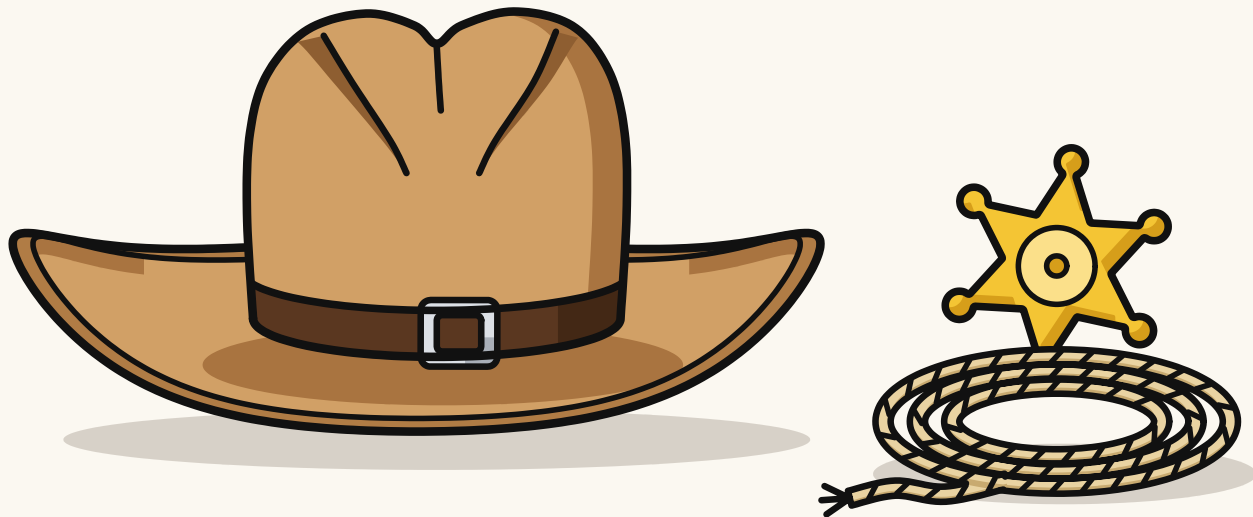


How to Draw a Cowboy Hat

11 easy steps for beginners



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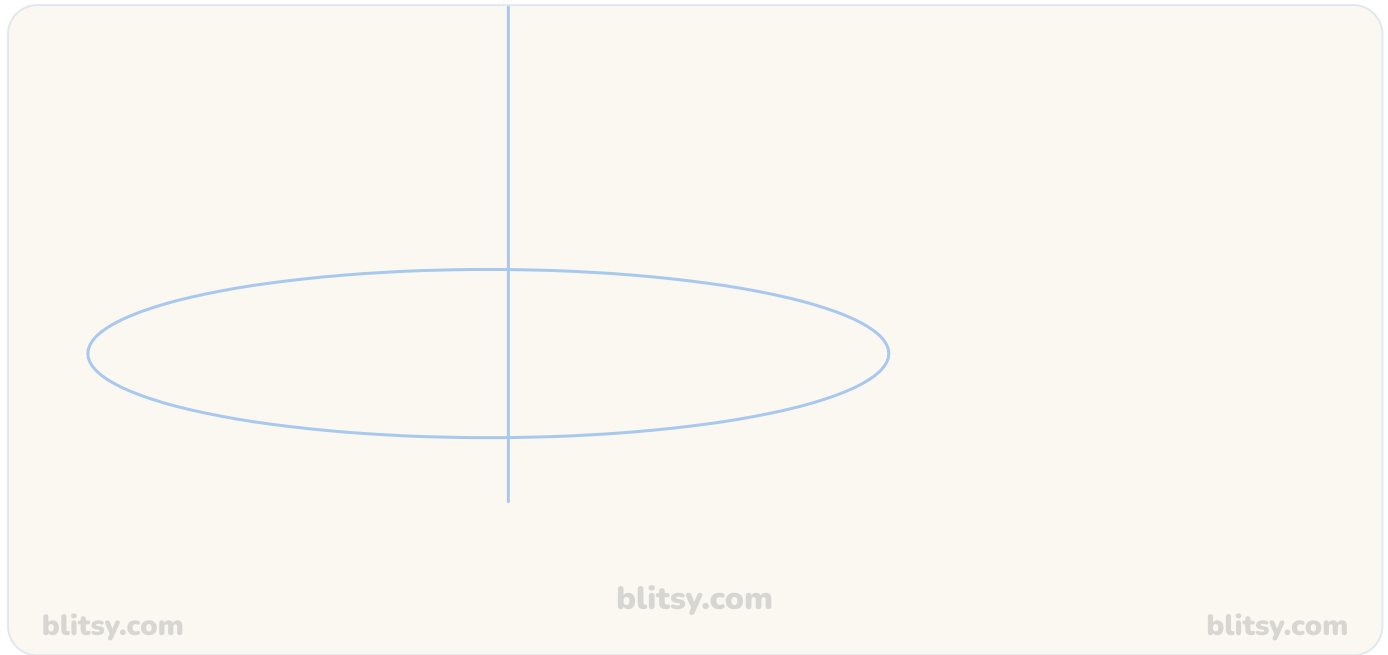
What you'll need

- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black pen
- Colored pencils
- Paper

How to use this guide

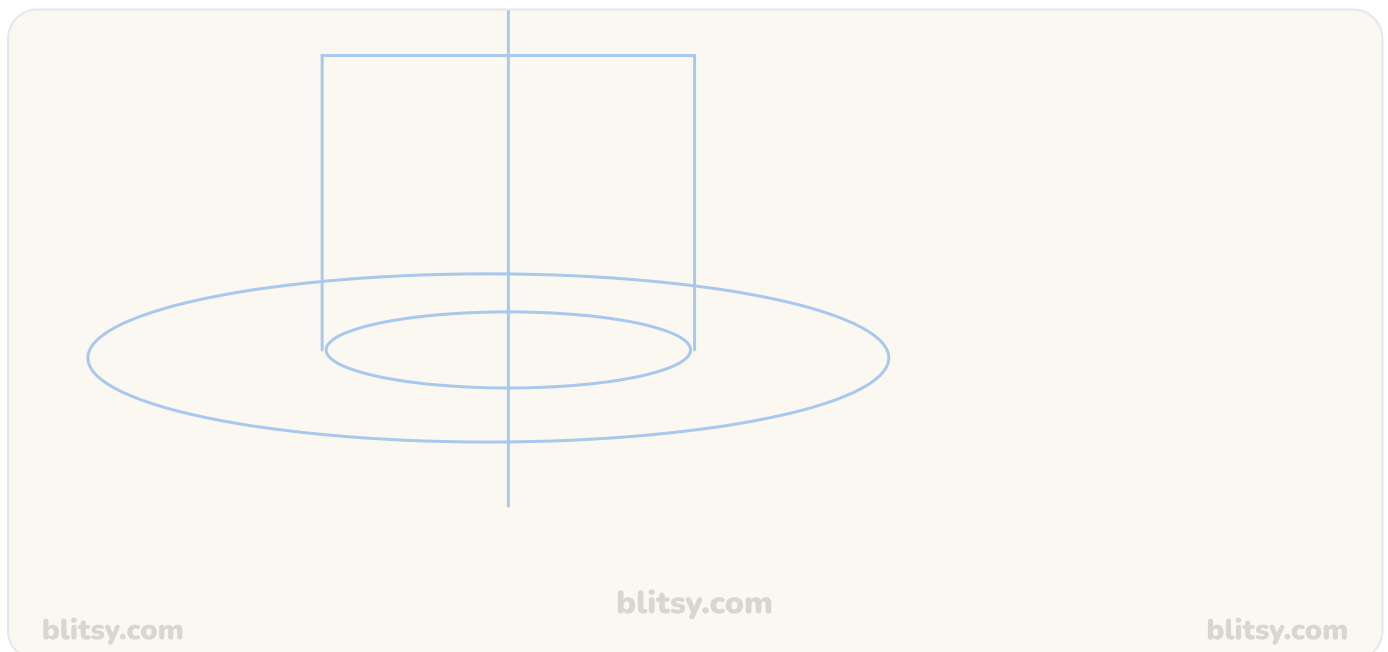
New lines for each step are shown in **blue**; lines you already drew are gray. Draw lightly first, then ink and erase near the end.

[Read the full tutorial online →](#)

STEP 1 Sketch a flat oval for the brim

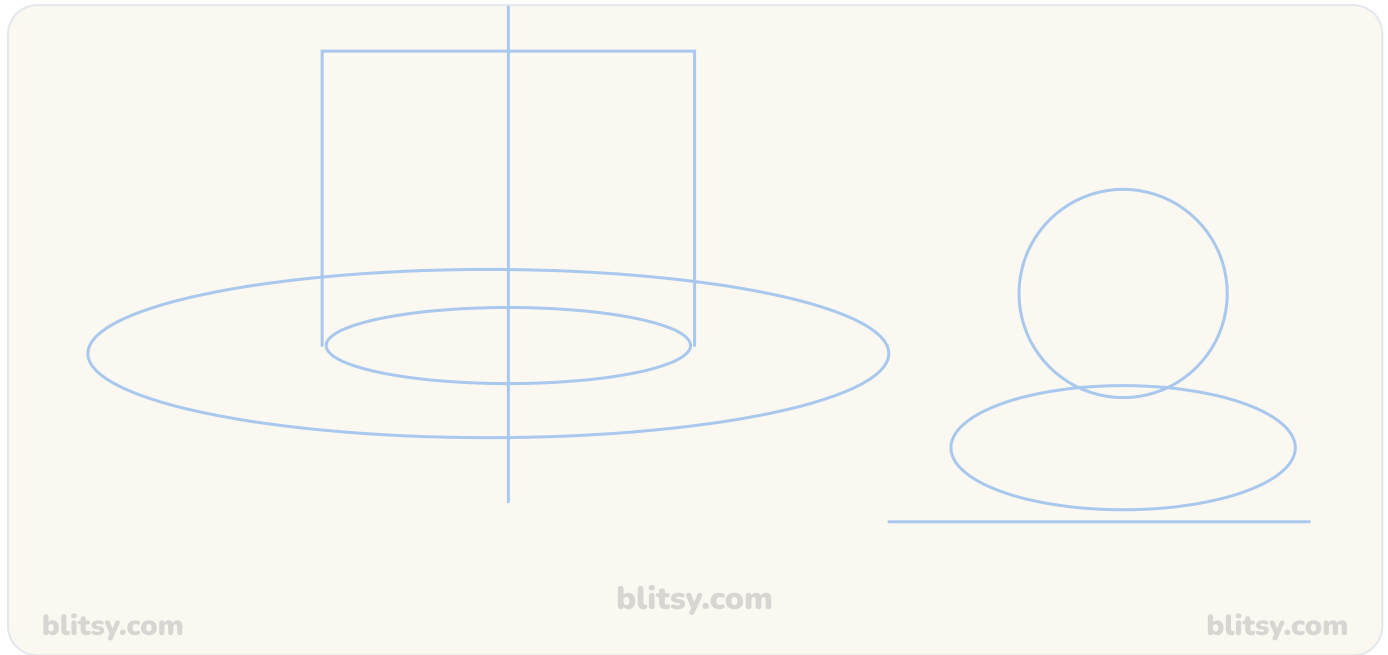
Draw a long, flat oval across the left two thirds of the page, about four times wider than it is tall. Then add a light vertical line through its middle. That oval is the brim before it curls, and the line keeps the crown centred.

 **Tip:** Swing your whole arm for the oval instead of just your wrist; the curve stays smoother.

STEP 2 Add the crown oval and a crown box

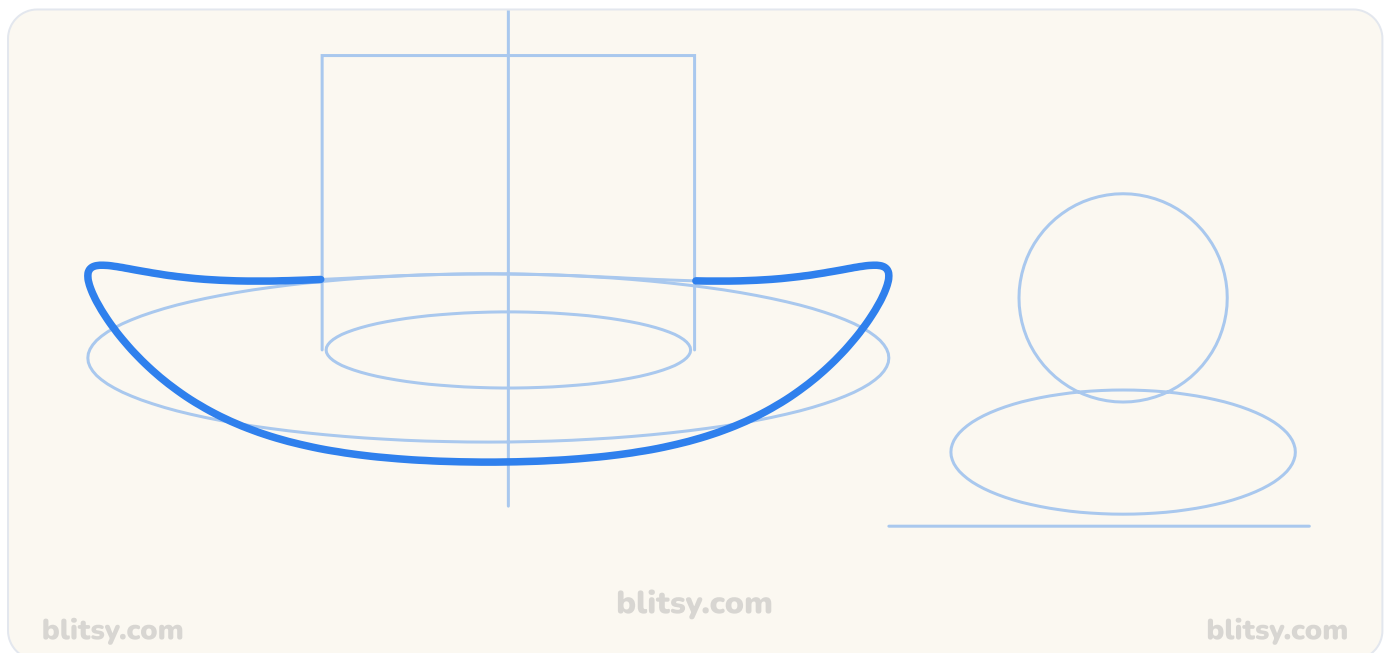
Inside the brim oval, a little above its centre, sketch a smaller oval about half as wide. This is where the crown sits on the brim. From its two ends, draw straight lines up and join them with a flat top to make a tall box. I make the box a bit taller than it is wide, since cowboy hats have high crowns.

 **Tip:** Keep the small oval slightly toward the back of the brim, so there's more brim in front of the hat than behind it.

STEP 3 Place guides for the rope and the star

On the right side of the page, near the bottom, draw a wide oval for the coiled rope and a flat ground line under it. Above that oval, sketch a circle that dips into its back edge. The star badge will stand there, tucked behind the coil.

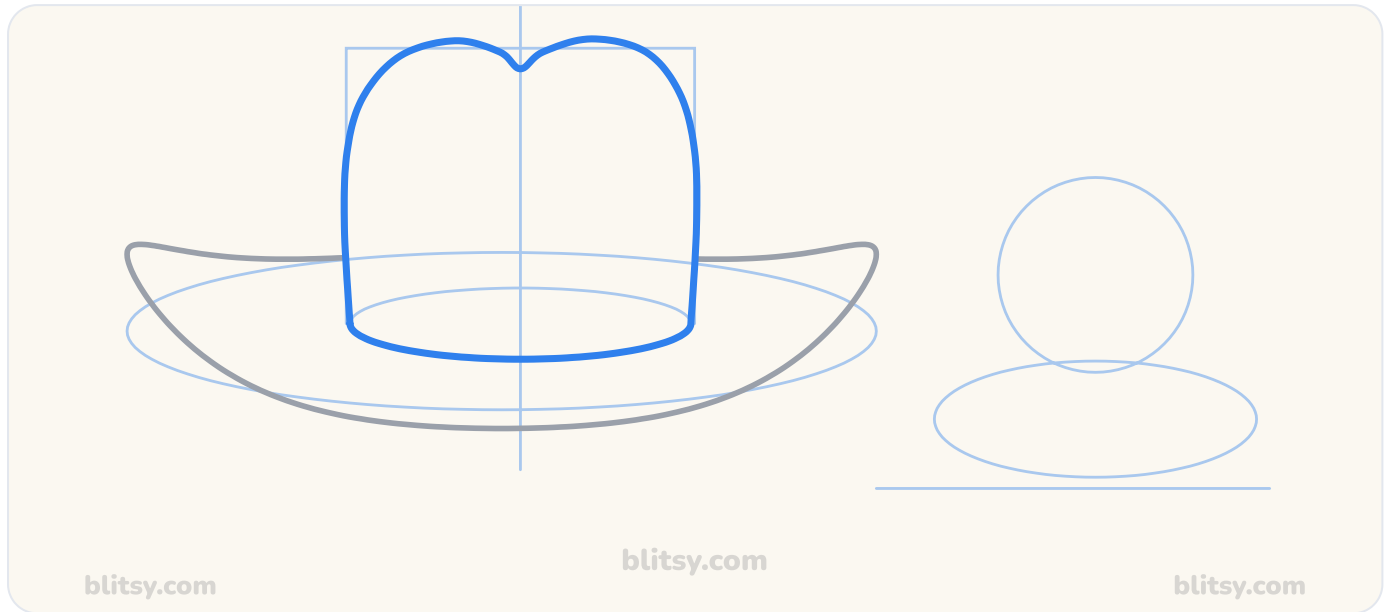
Tip: Leave a clear gap between the brim and the rope oval so the two objects don't crowd each other.

STEP 4 Curl up both ends of the brim

This is the step that makes it a cowboy hat. Follow the front of the flat oval, but let your line dip slightly lower in the middle. As you reach each end, lift the line well above the oval into a rounded tip, then come back along the top edge. Both tips should rise to the same height.

Tip: Mark the height of both tips with a small dot first, then draw toward the dots.

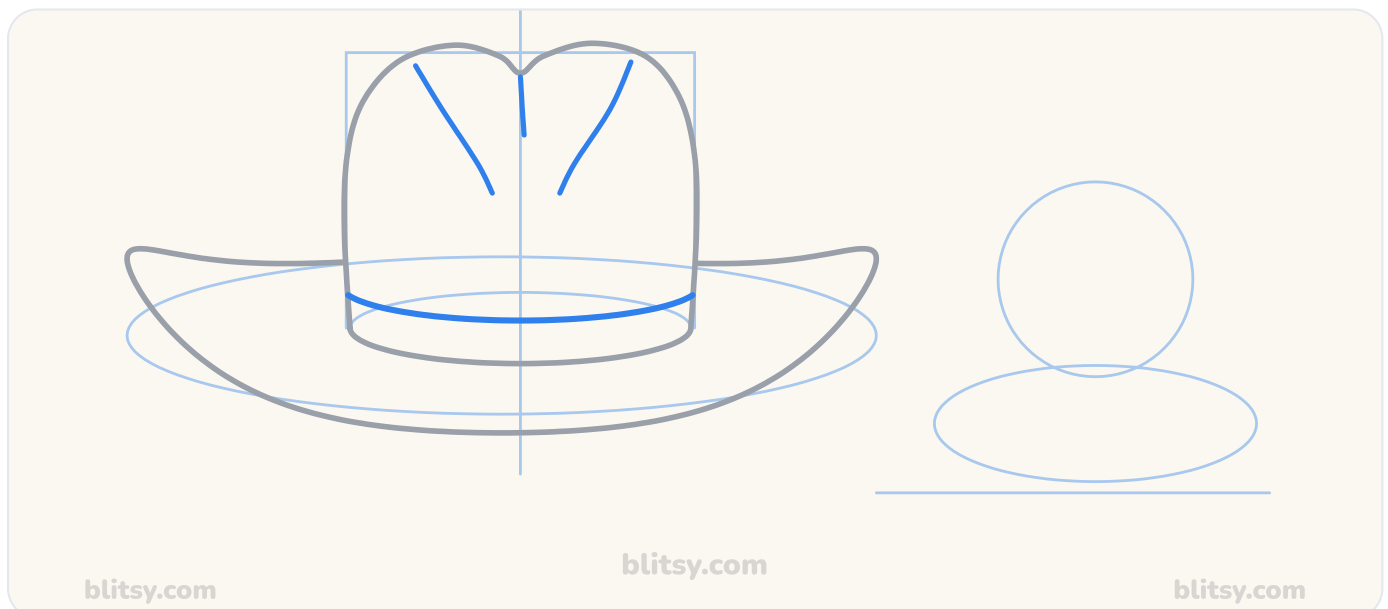
STEP 5 Shape the tall crown with a dip on top



Trace up the sides of the crown box, keeping them almost straight. At the top, round off both corners into soft shoulders and pull the middle down into a small dip. Finish the crown with the front half of the little oval at the bottom. Where the crown covers the back of the brim, erase that bit of brim line.

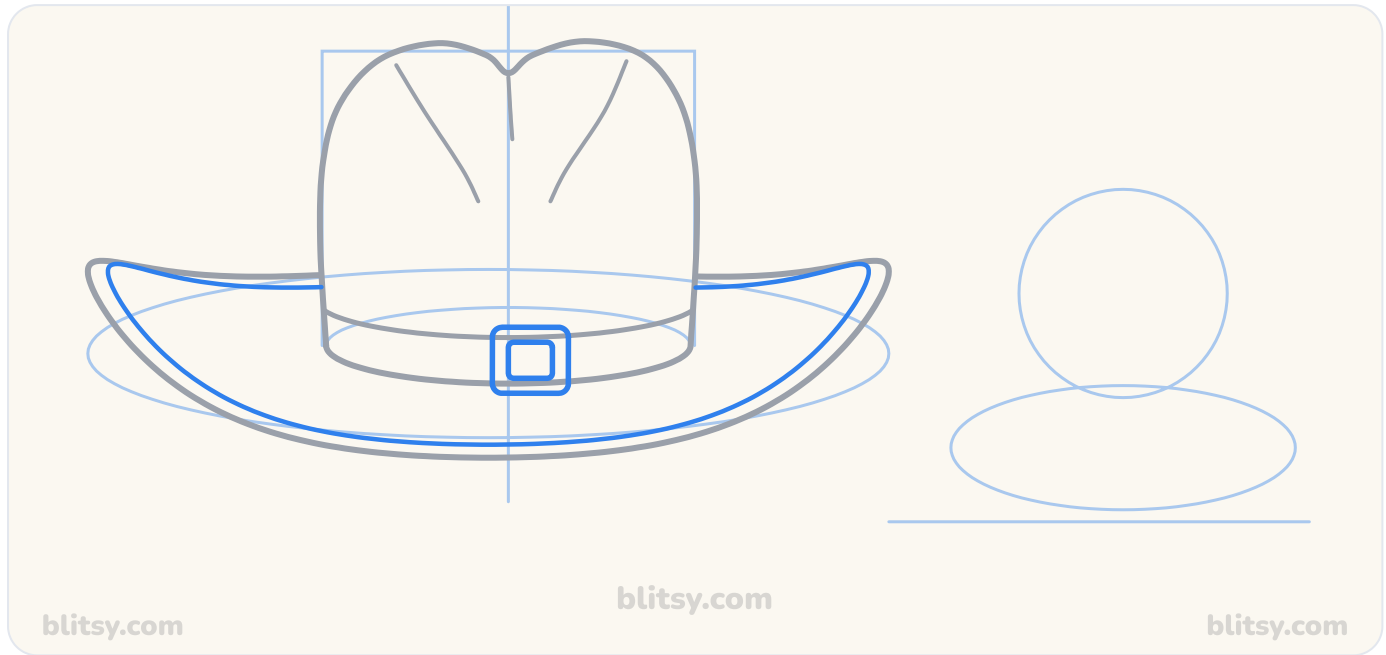
Tip: Make the dip small; a deep notch reads as a heart or a pair of ears.

STEP 6 Pinch in the dents and add the hatband



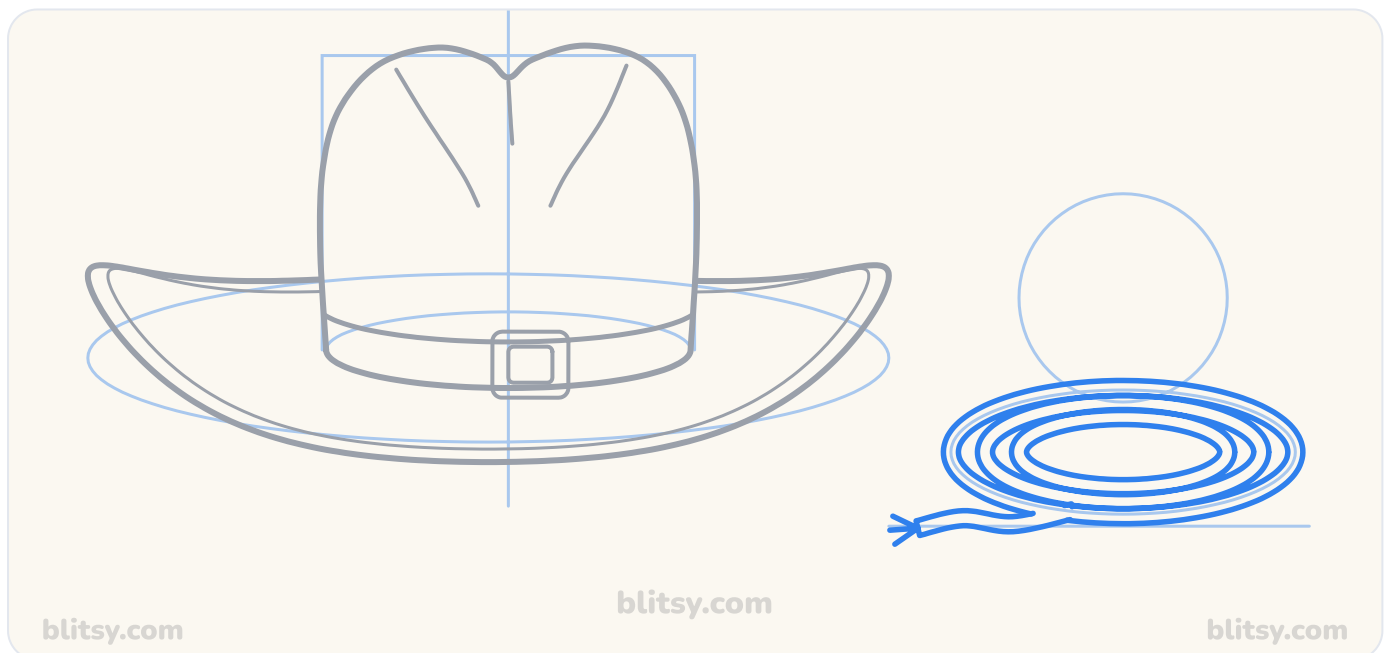
From near each top shoulder, draw a curved line that slants down toward the middle of the crown. Those are the side dents where fingers pinch the felt. Add a short straight line down from the dip for the centre crease. Then draw a curve parallel to the bottom of the crown, a finger's width above it, to form the band.

Tip: Stop the dent lines halfway down the crown; if they reach the band, the hat looks crumpled.

STEP 7 Draw the buckle and the brim edge

Just right of the centre line, draw a small rounded rectangle on the band with a smaller one inside it. That is the buckle. Next, run a second line all around the brim, just inside its edge. It shows the stitched binding and makes the brim look like thick felt instead of paper.

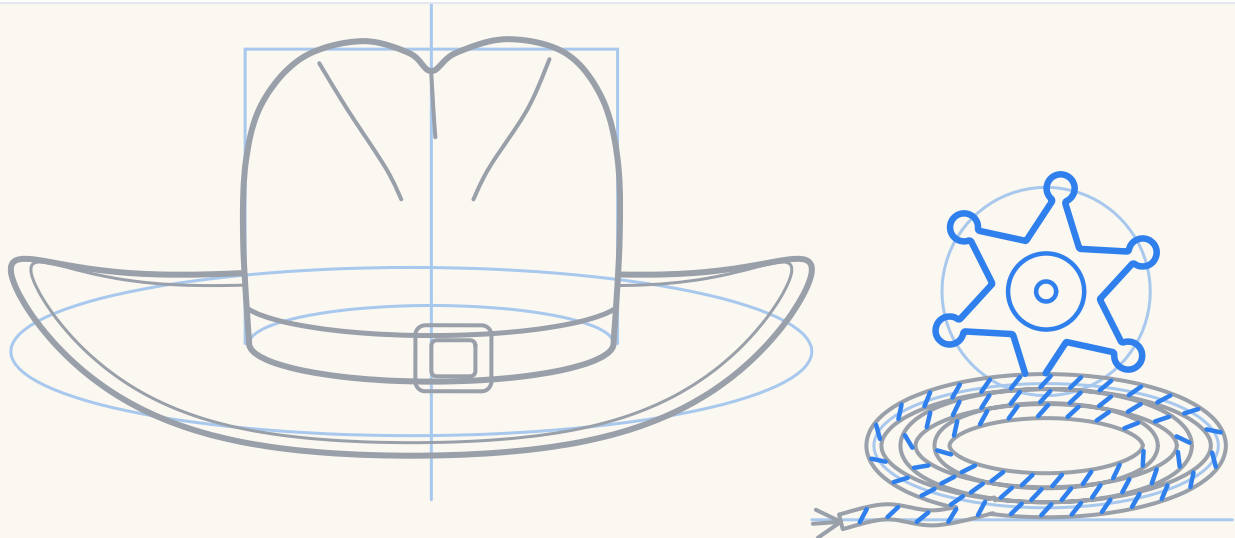
Tip: Keep the binding line the same distance from the edge the whole way, even around the curled tips.

STEP 8 Draw the coiled lasso rings

Inside the rope guide, draw three rings, each one smaller than the last, with a small gap between them. Each ring is a thin band with two lines, not one. From the front of the outer ring, pull a loose rope end toward the left and finish it with a few short frayed lines.

Tip: Draw the outer ring first and use it to size the other two.

STEP 9 Add the star badge and rope twists



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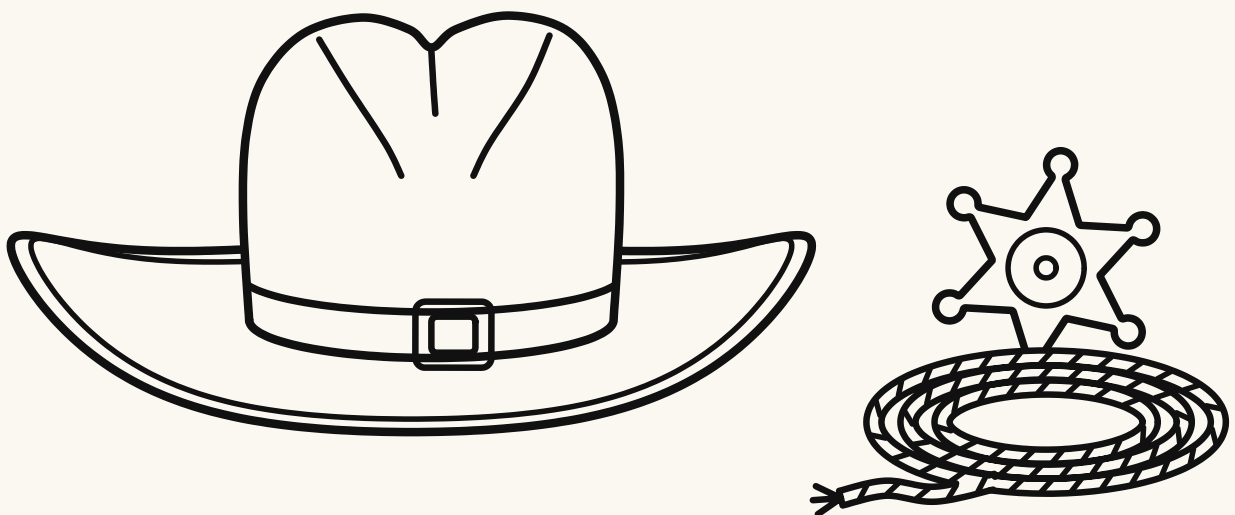
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Inside the circle, draw a six-pointed star with a small ball on every tip. Its lower point disappears behind the rope, so stop the outline where it meets the coil. Put a circle and a dot in the centre. Then cover every rope band with short slanted marks, all leaning the same way, to show the twist.

Tip: Draw the star as two triangles first, one pointing up and one pointing down, then trace around the outside.

STEP 10 Ink the lines and erase the guides



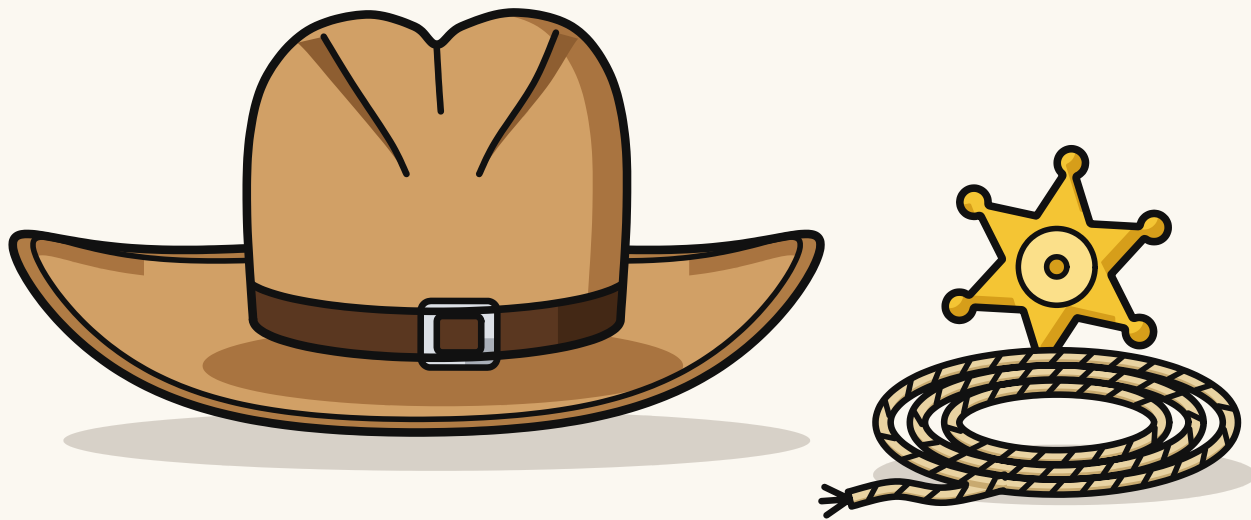
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Go over every keeper line with the black pen. I start with the big brim curve while my hand is fresh, then do the crown, the buckle and the rope. Once the ink is dry, erase all the ovals, the box, the centre line and the ground line.

Tip: Ink the rope twists last; they're tiny, and a smudge there is easy to hide.

STEP 11 Color the hat, the rope and the badge

Fill the hat with tan, then use light brown on the right side of the crown, inside the dents, under the crown on the brim and inside the curled tips. The band is dark brown and the buckle silver gray. Color the rope beige with a darker beige along the bottom of each ring, and the star bright yellow with a deeper gold on one side.

 **Tip:** Shade the crown from the edge inward with light pressure, so the dark part fades into the tan.