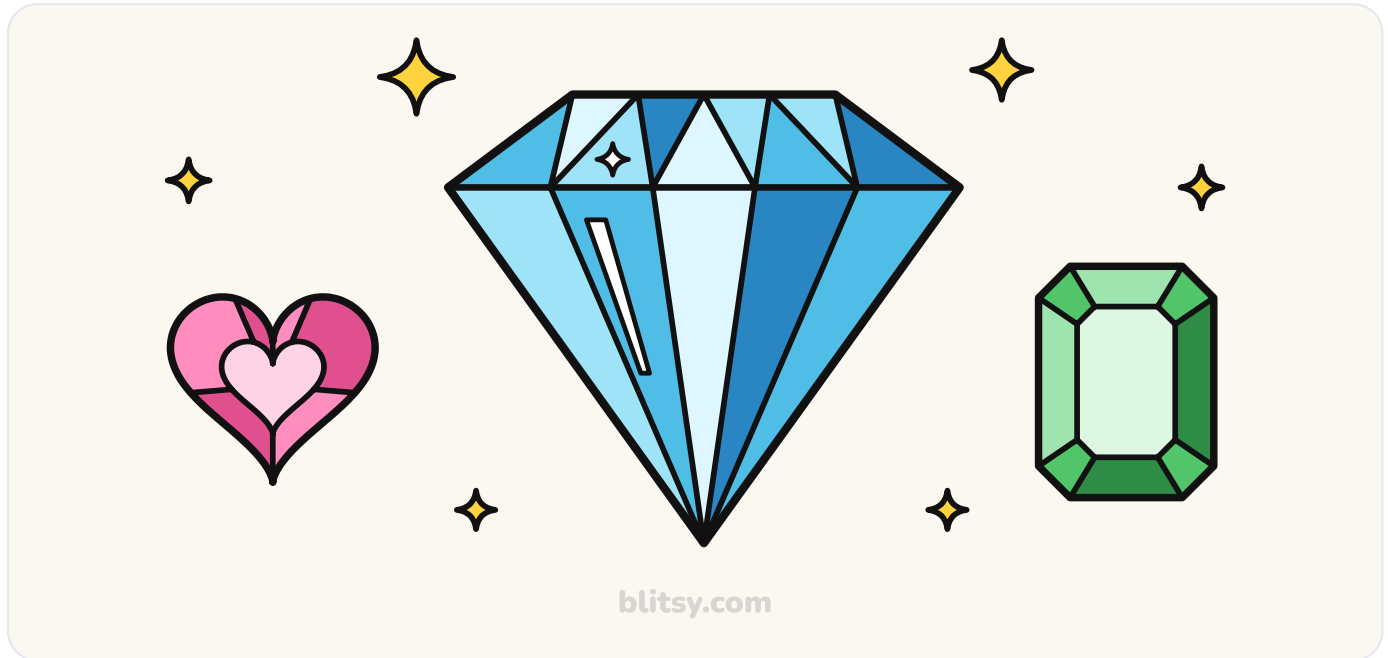


How to Draw a Diamond

12 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

- A pencil
- An eraser
- A ruler
- A black fineliner
- Colored pencils

How to use this guide

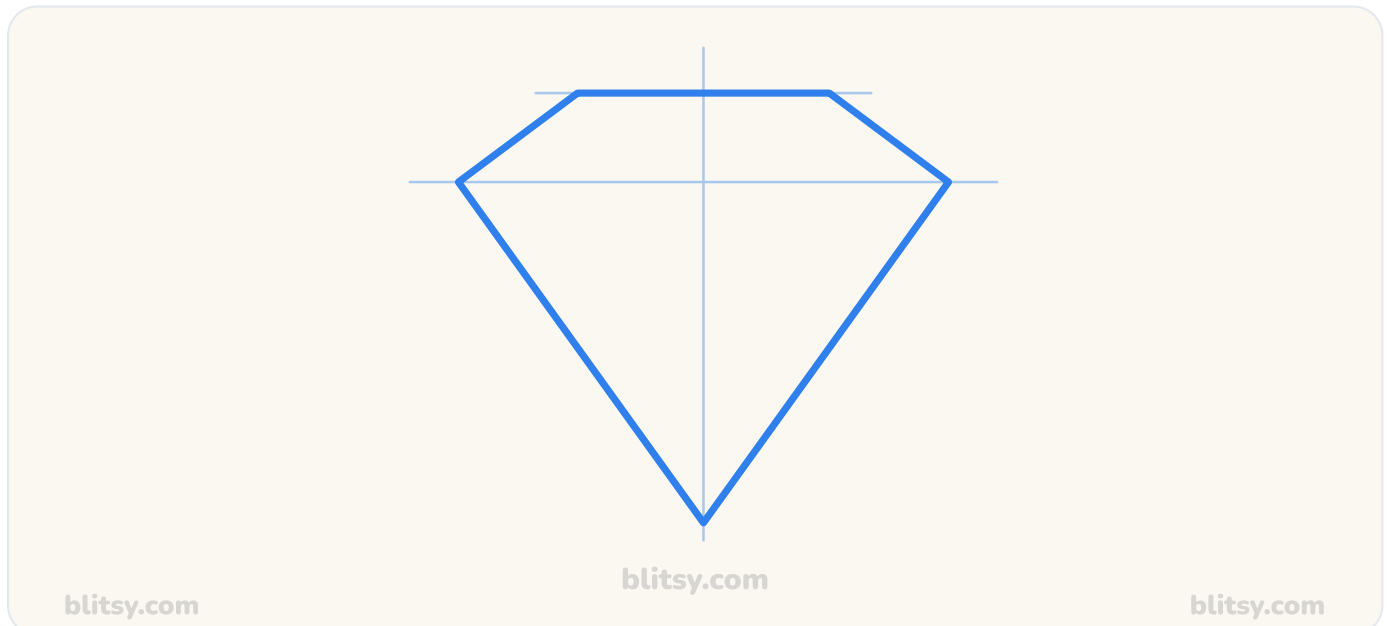
New lines for each step are shown in **blue**; lines you already drew are gray. Draw lightly first, then ink and erase near the end.

[Read the full tutorial online →](#)

STEP 1 Draw a center line and two level lines

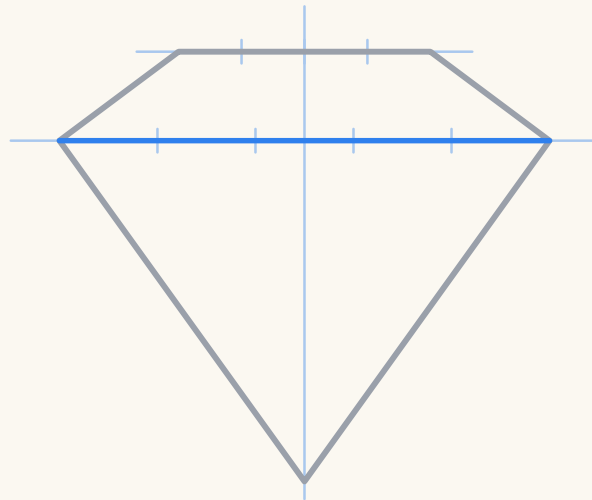
Start with a tall vertical line down the middle of your page. Near the top, cross it with a short horizontal line, and a little lower add a much longer one. The short line is the flat top of the gem, called the table; the long one marks where the diamond is widest. I keep the gap between them small, about a quarter of the gem's height.

 **Tip:** Press so lightly that you can barely see these lines.

STEP 2 Draw a trapezoid on top of a V

Join the ends of the short line to the ends of the long line. That slanted box is a trapezoid, and it becomes the crown. From both ends of the long line, draw straight lines down to one point on the center line, far below. I always check that the V is much taller than the trapezoid, because a short V makes the gem look like a squashed lampshade.

 **Tip:** Use a ruler for the long V sides so they stay perfectly straight.

STEP 3 Add the girdle and mark the facet points

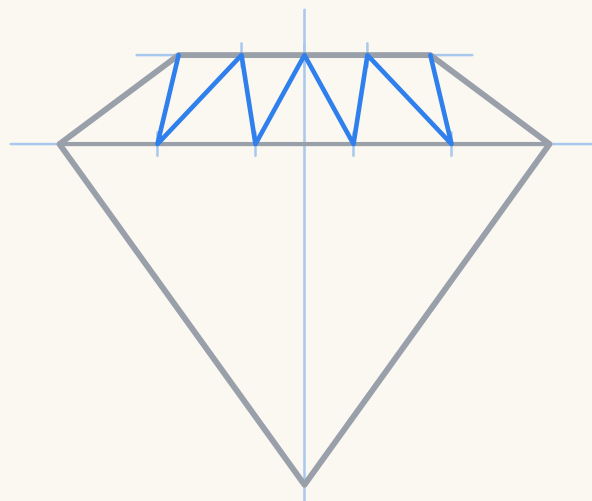
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Go over the long level line firmly. On a real gem this widest edge is called the girdle, and it splits the top half from the bottom half. Then make three small tick marks along the table and four along the girdle, evenly spaced, with the middle table tick right on the center line. Every facet line will start and stop at these marks.

 **Tip:** Measure the gaps with your ruler or a strip of paper for even spacing.

STEP 4 Zigzag the crown facets

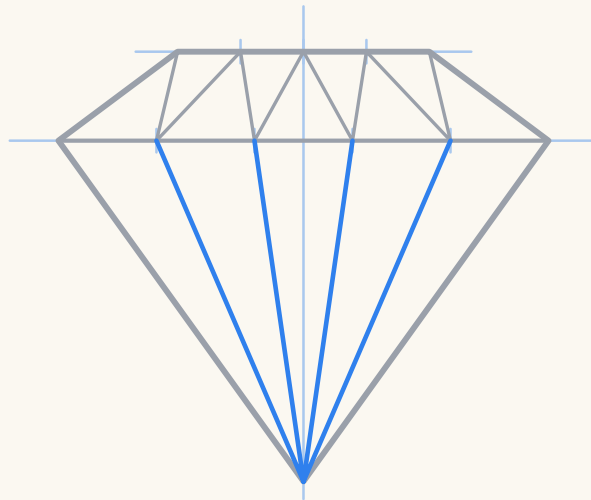
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Inside the trapezoid, draw a zigzag that bounces between the table and the girdle. Start at the top left corner, go down to the first girdle tick, up to the first table tick, and carry on to the top right corner. The crown is now a row of triangles pointing up and down, and that pattern is what makes it read as cut stone.

 **Tip:** Touch each tick mark exactly; a missed point leaves a lopsided facet.

STEP 5 Draw the long pavilion facets

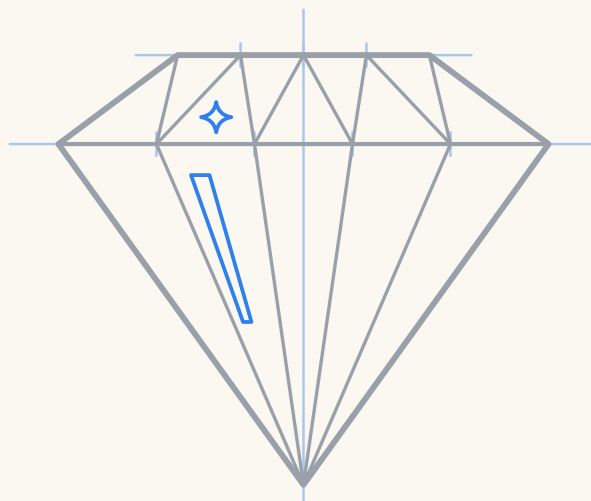
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The bottom part of a diamond is called the pavilion. From each of the four girdle ticks, pull a straight line down to the bottom point, so they all meet like the spokes of a folded fan. You'll get five long, thin triangles. I draw each line from the top toward the point, because aiming at a fixed spot is easier than starting there.

 **Tip:** Put your ruler on the tick and the point before you draw each line.

STEP 6 Add two white glints

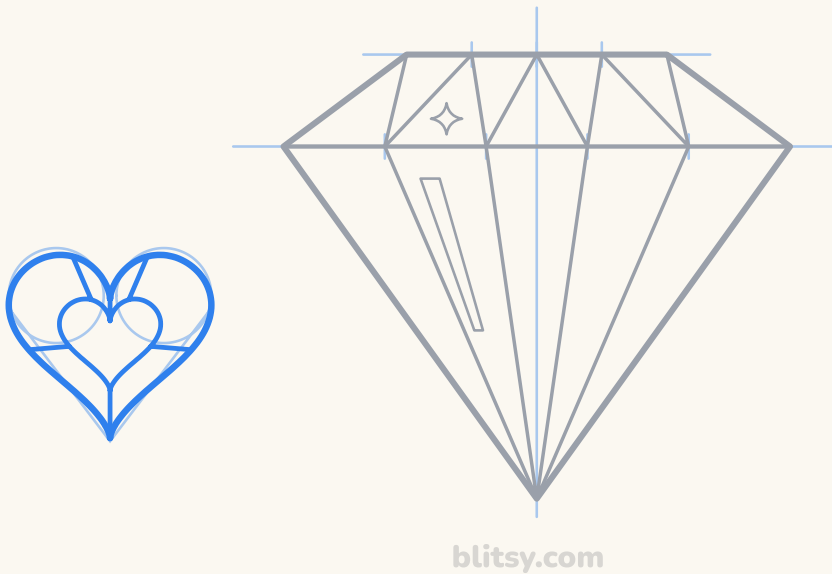
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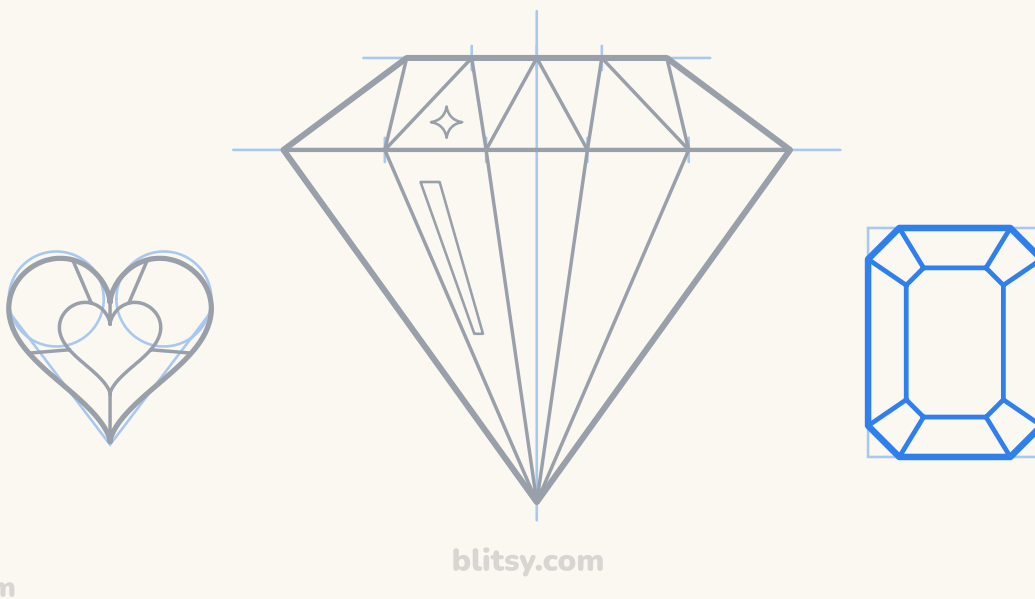
Glints are the bright flashes that make a gem look shiny. Draw one slim, slanted sliver inside the second pavilion facet from the left, running in the same direction as the facet lines. Then add a tiny four-point star in a crown triangle on the left. I place both glints on the left side, since that's where the light in this picture comes from.

 **Tip:** Keep glints small; a big white shape looks like a hole in the gem.

STEP 7 Draw a heart-shaped gem on the left

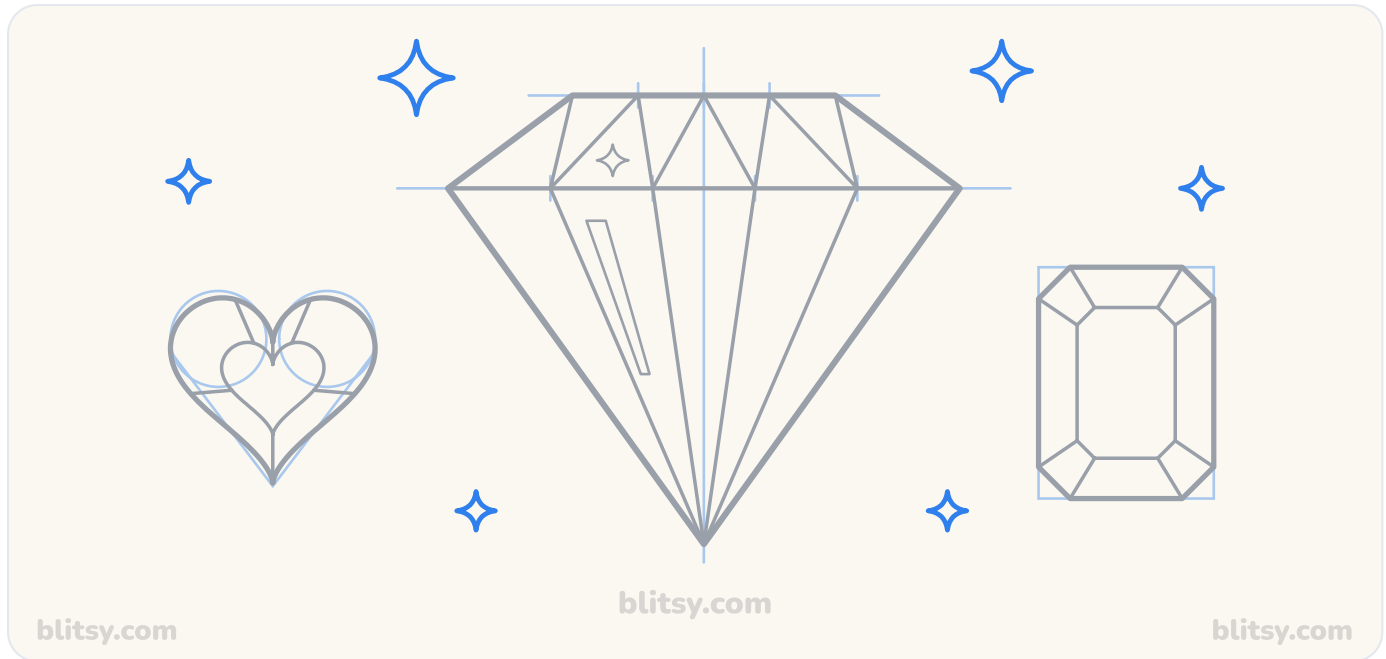
Lightly sketch two side-by-side circles with a V under them, then trace a heart around that guide. Inside, draw a smaller heart about half the size for the flat top. Connect the two hearts with six short lines: at the top dip, on each bump, on each side and at the bottom tip. Each section becomes a facet.

 **Tip:** Draw the left half of the heart first, then mirror it on the right.

STEP 8 Draw an emerald-cut gem on the right

Sketch a tall rectangle and cut off each corner with a short diagonal to make an eight-sided shape. Draw a smaller copy inside it, then join each inner corner to the matching outer corner. Jewelers call this a step cut, because the facets circle the stone in flat bands like stairs.

 **Tip:** Make all four corner cuts the same size, or the gem looks chipped.

STEP 9 Scatter sparkles around the gems

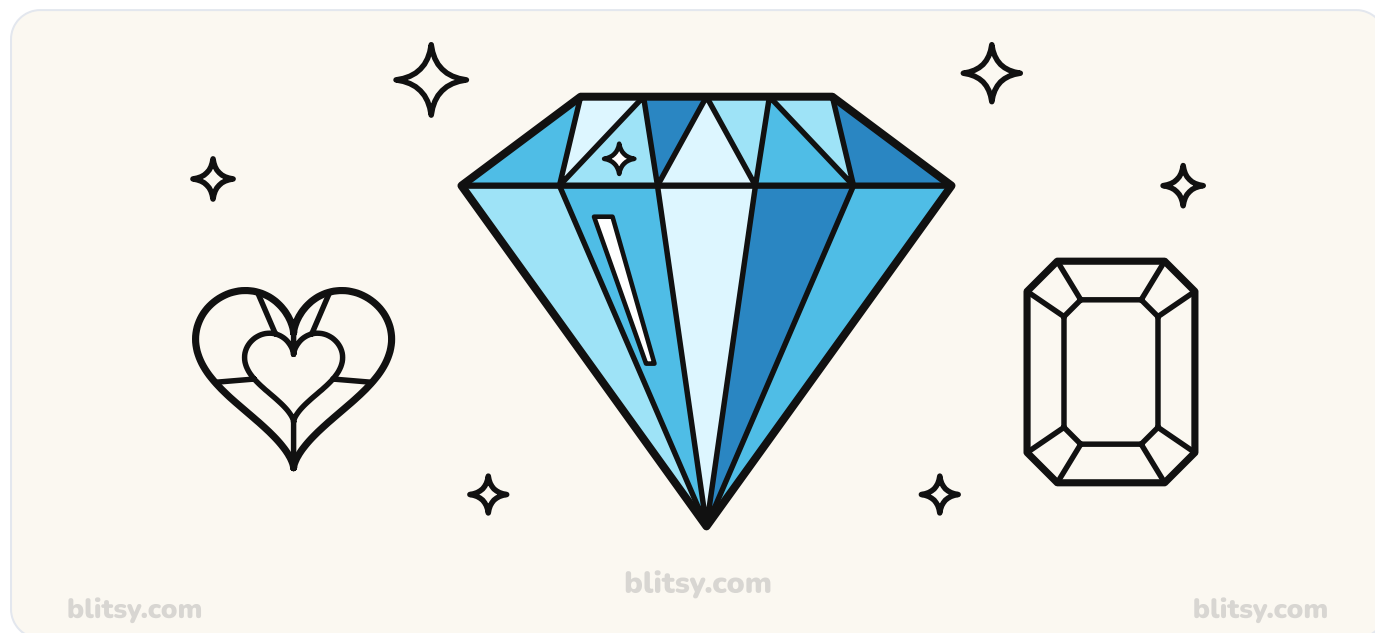
Add six four-point sparkles in the empty spaces: two larger ones above the diamond and four small ones lower down and out at the sides. Each one is four points joined by inward curves. Spread them so no corner feels bare, but keep them clear of the gem outlines. Too many start to look like snow.

 **Tip:** Vary the sparkle sizes; equal stars look stamped on.

STEP 10 Ink the lines and erase the guides

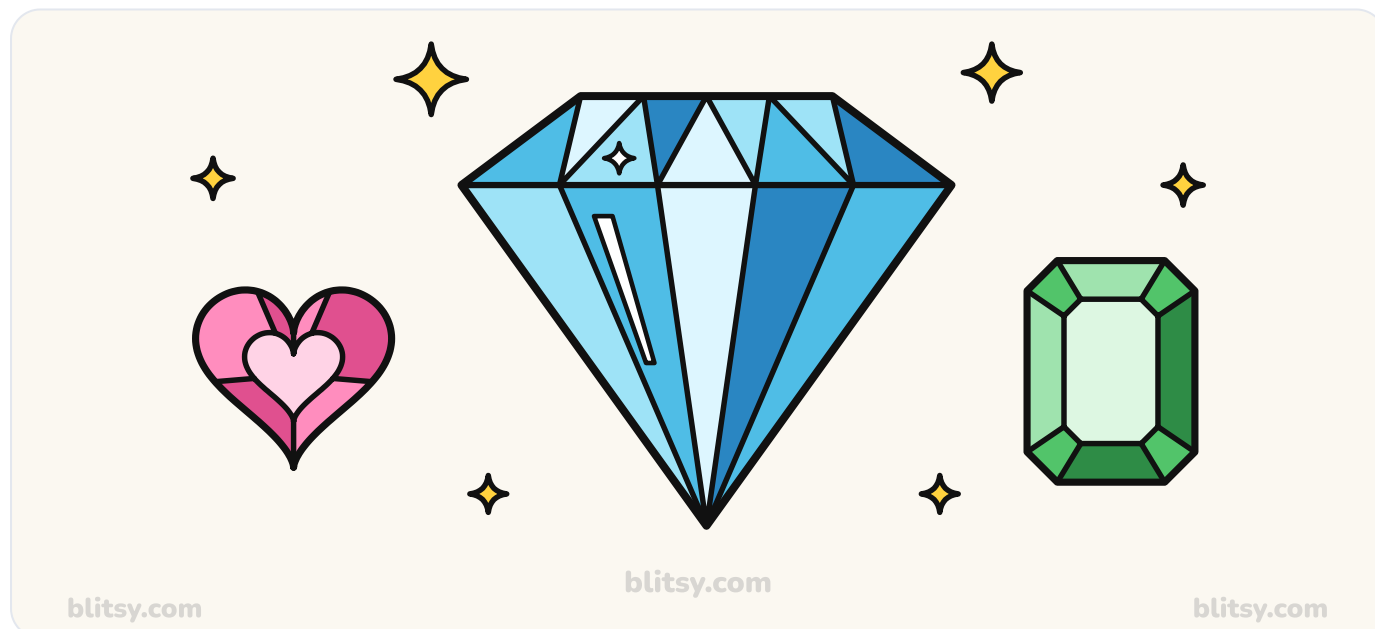
Trace every keeper line with your black pen: the diamond outline, the girdle, all the facet lines, the glints, both small gems and the sparkles. Skip the center line, the level lines, the tick marks and the helper shapes around the heart and the emerald. Let the ink dry fully, then erase every pencil guide.

 **Tip:** Ink the outer outline a little thicker than the facet lines inside.

STEP 11 Color the diamond facets

Here's my trick for sparkle: never give two neighboring facets the same blue. Use four shades, from very light to deep blue, and keep switching as you move across the crown and down the pavilion. Make the center pavilion facet the palest and put the darkest blues on the right, away from the light. Leave both glints white.

 **Tip:** Color each facet in one direction only, following its long side.

STEP 12 Color the small gems and sparkles

Fill the inner heart with light pink, then alternate pink and dark pink around the outer facets. For the emerald, keep the middle very pale, use light green on the top and left bands, medium green on the corners and dark green on the right and bottom. Color the sparkles yellow, and your gem collection is finished!

 **Tip:** Test each shade on scrap paper before you touch the gem.