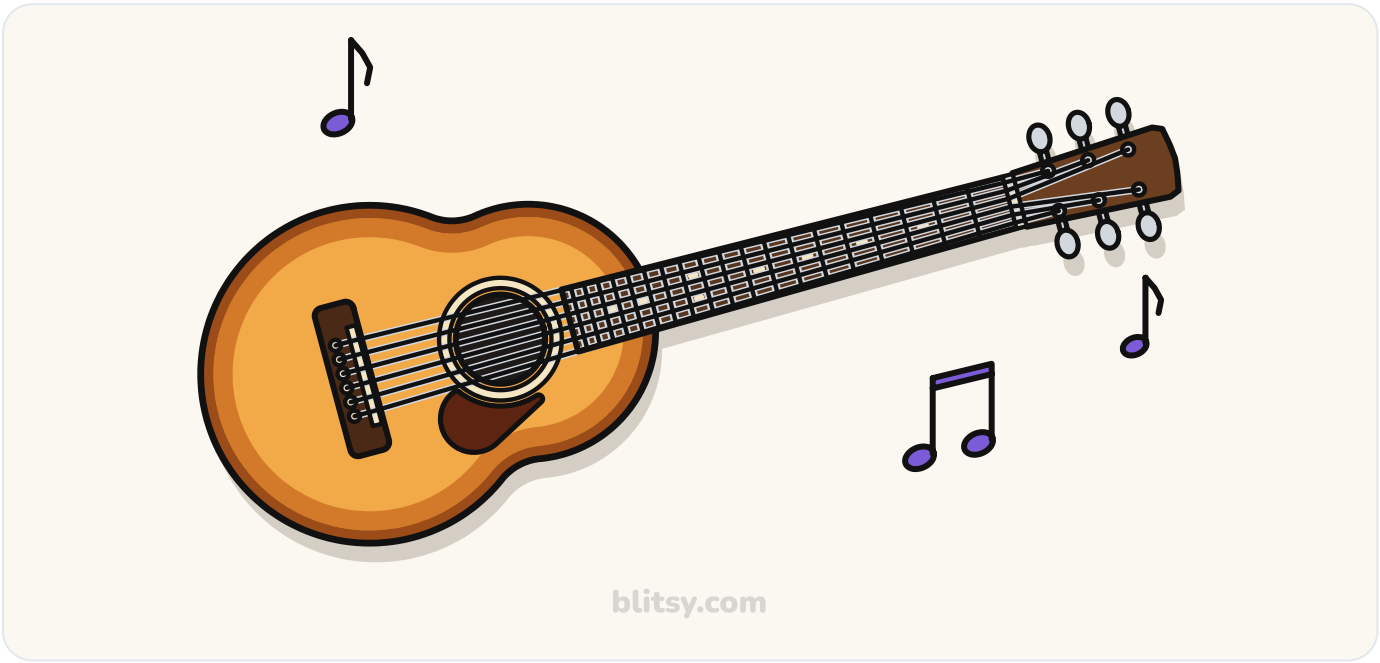
How to Draw a Guitar

12 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

- A pencil
- An eraser
- A ruler
- 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 →

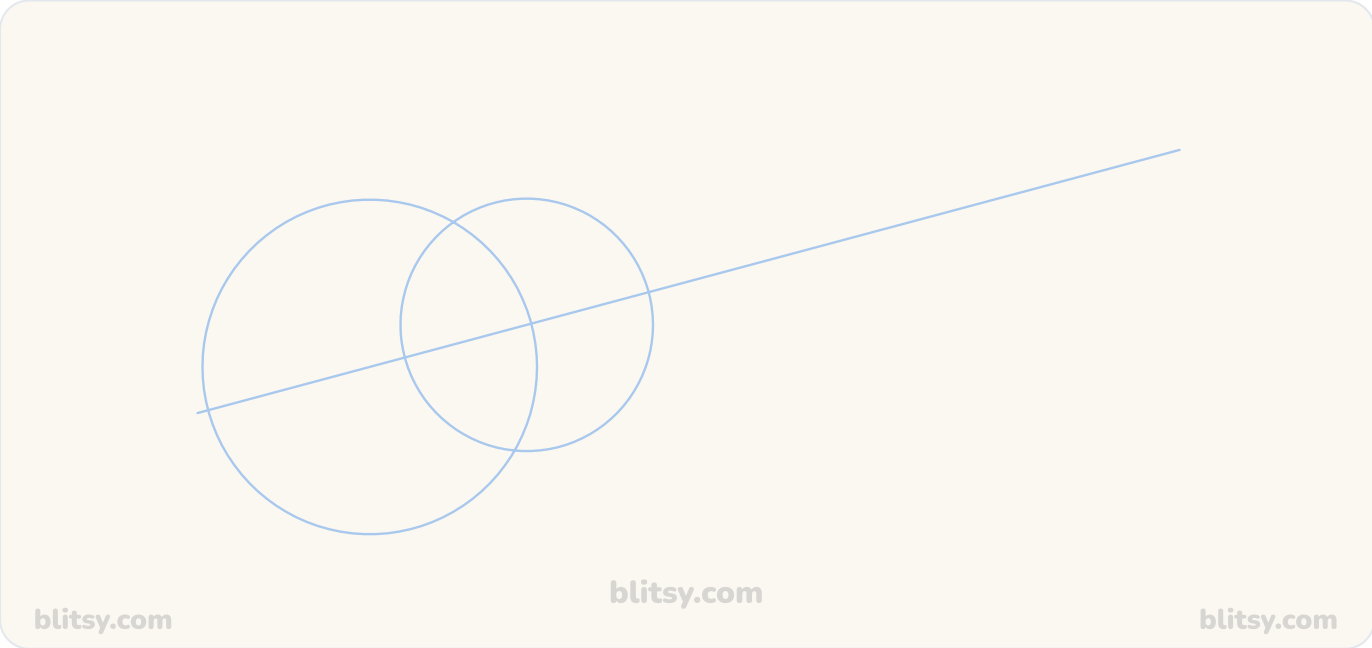
STEP 1 Draw a slanted centre line



Start low on the left side of the page and draw one long, light line rising gently toward the upper right corner. Every part of the guitar sits on this line, so both halves of the body and the neck stay balanced.

💡 **Tip:** Use a ruler here; a wobbly centre line makes the whole guitar look bent.

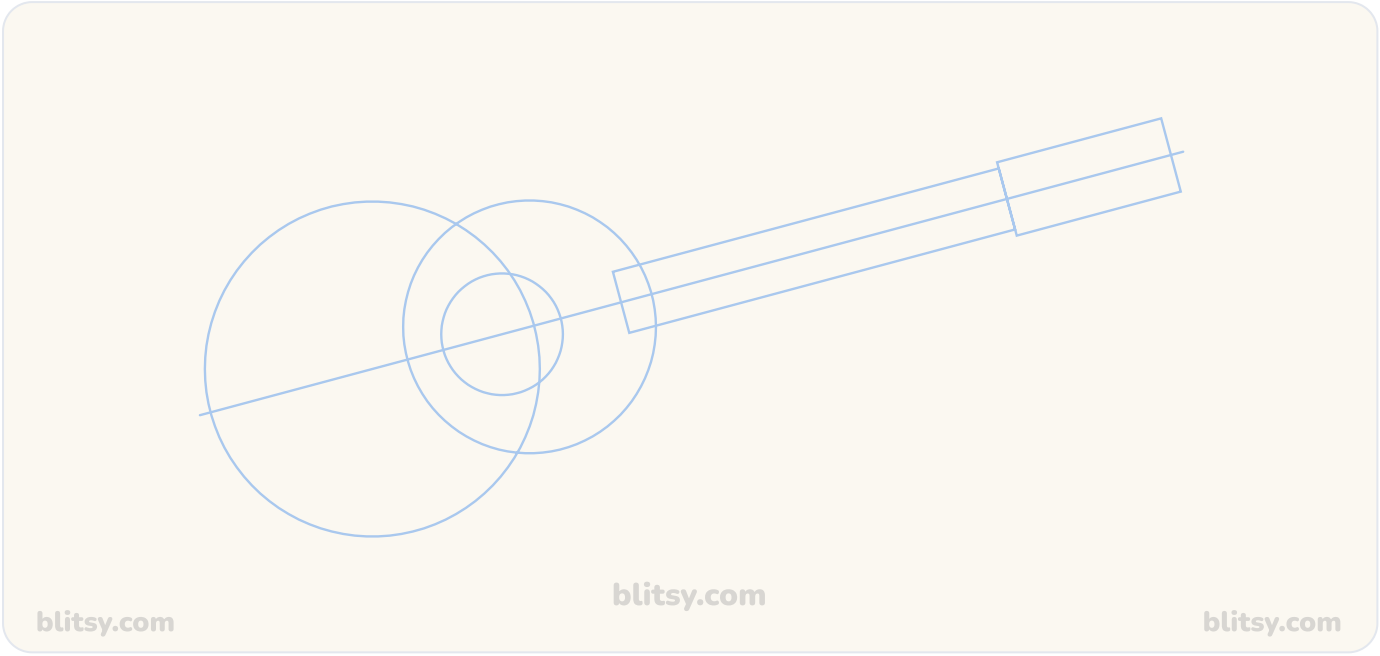
STEP 2 Add two circles for the body



On the lower end of the line, draw a big circle with its centre on the line. Then draw a smaller circle further up the line, overlapping the first by about half. These are the lower and upper bouts. I make the small circle roughly three quarters the size of the big one, which is close to a real acoustic guitar.

💡 **Tip:** Check that the line cuts each circle exactly in half before you move on.

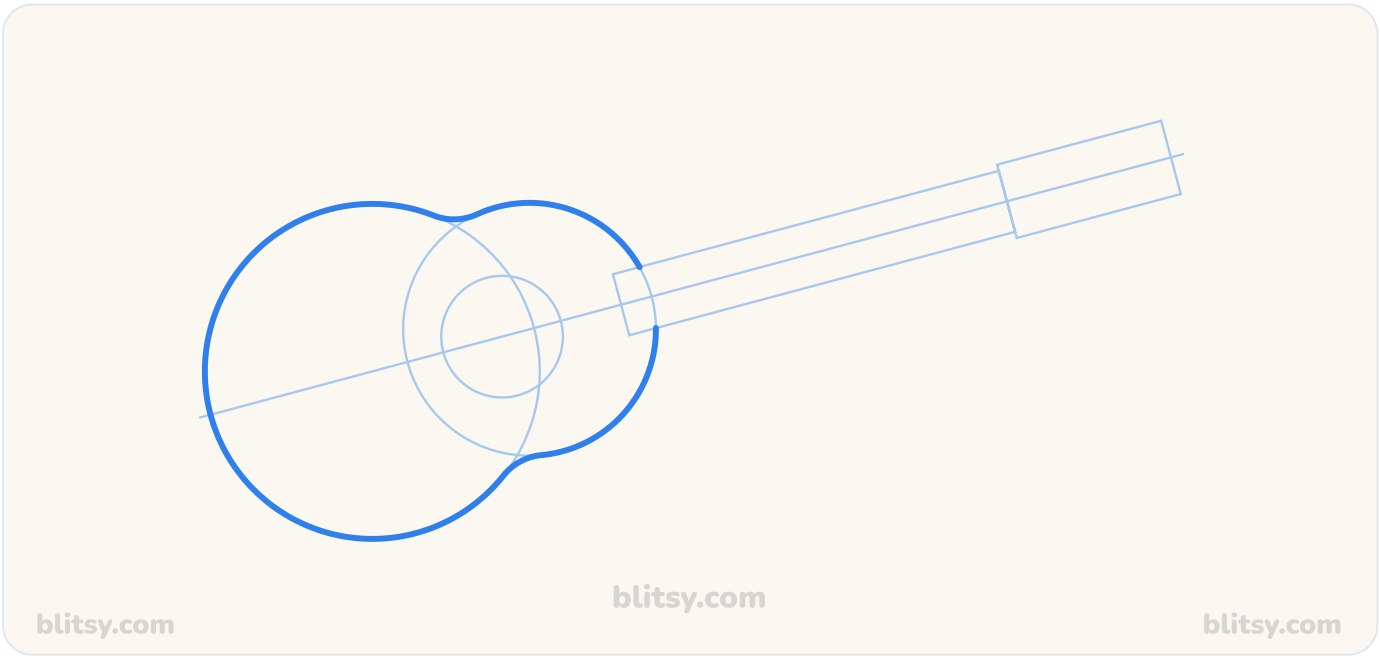
STEP 3 Sketch boxes for the neck and headstock



From the top of the small circle, draw a long, narrow box along the centre line for the neck. At its far end, add a shorter, slightly wider box for the headstock. Finally, put a small circle inside the upper bout, close to the neck, where the sound hole will go.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the neck box narrow; a fat neck turns the drawing into a ukulele or a banjo.

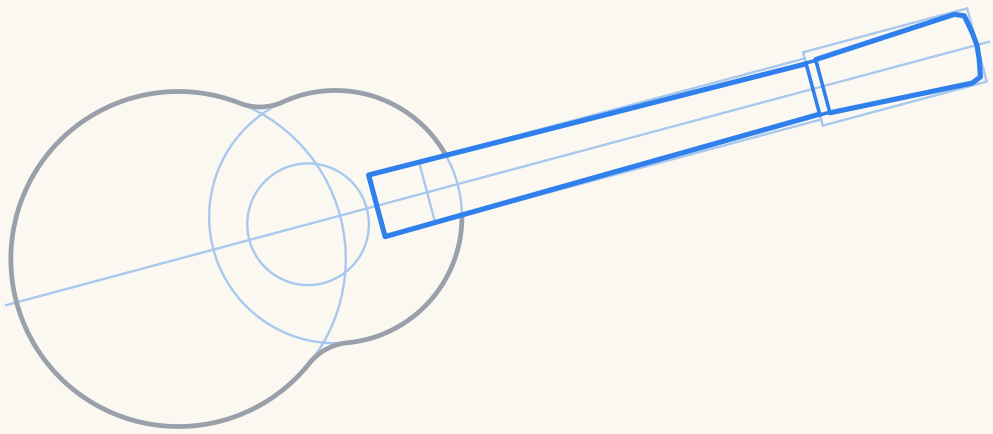
STEP 4 Trace the figure-8 body outline



Now go around the outside of both circles in one smooth line. Where the circles meet, curve the line inward to make the waist, instead of letting it make a sharp corner. Stop the line where the neck box crosses the top of the body.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the waist curves on both sides at the same height, using the centre line as your mirror.

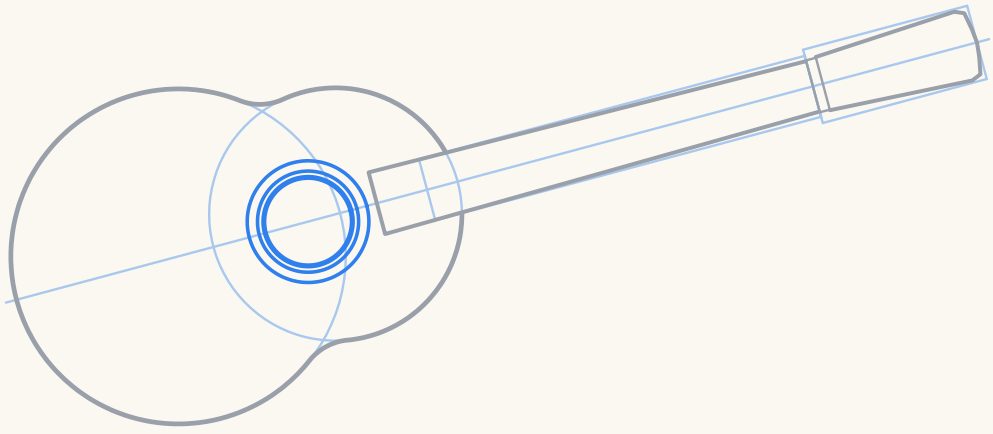
STEP 5 Outline the neck and headstock



Trace the neck box, letting it get just a touch wider as it reaches the body. The fretboard on top of the neck runs a little way onto the body, so carry the lines down until they almost touch the sound hole circle. At the top, add a thin bar for the nut, then draw the headstock with rounded corners.

💡 **Tip:** Leave a small gap between the end of the fretboard and the sound hole so the two shapes don't merge.

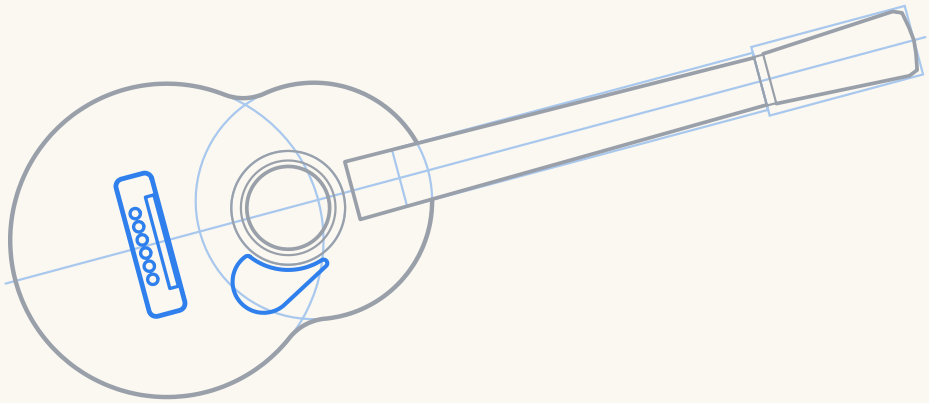
STEP 6 Draw the sound hole and the rosette



Trace the small guide circle firmly to make the round sound hole. Around it, draw two more circles close together, like a ring around a target. That ring is the rosette, the decorative band found on almost every acoustic guitar.

💡 **Tip:** Turn the paper as you go around each circle; your hand curves more naturally that way.

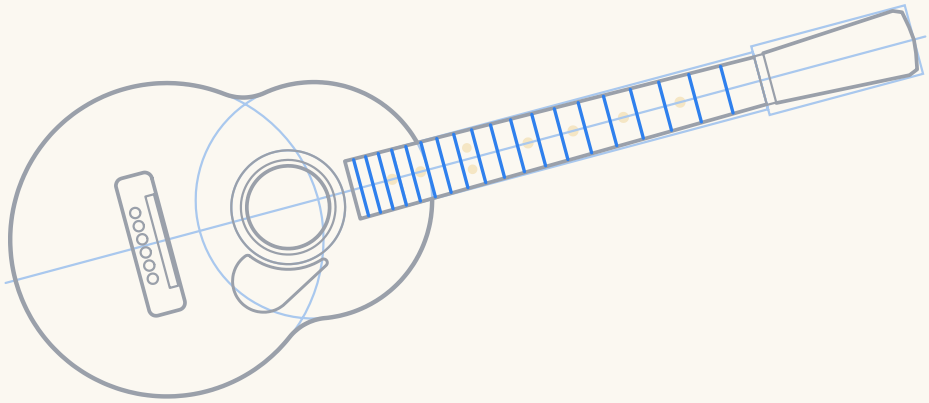
STEP 7 Add the bridge and the pickguard



On the big circle, draw a rounded rectangle across the centre line for the bridge. Next to its neck side, add a thin strip for the saddle, and a row of six small circles for the bridge pins. Below the sound hole, draw a teardrop pickguard that hugs the rosette and points toward the waist. I keep it fairly small, since a huge pickguard swallows the body.

💡 **Tip:** Set the bridge the same distance from the body edge on both sides of the centre line.

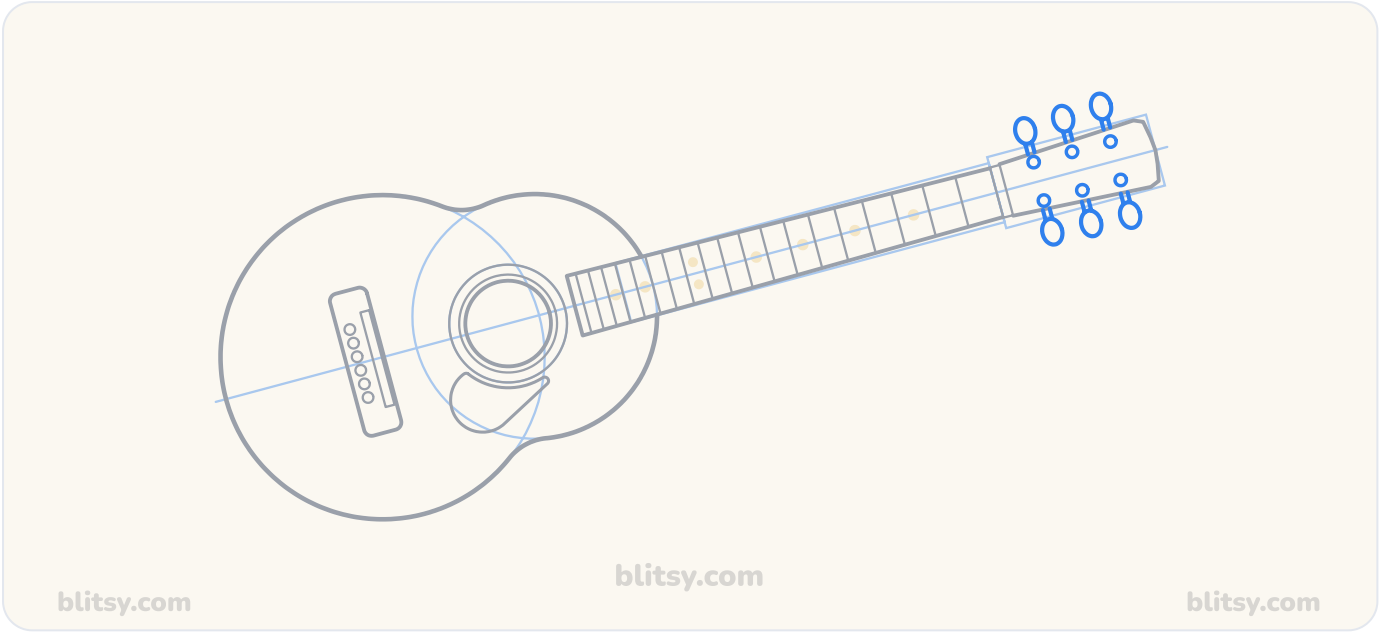
STEP 8 Draw the frets and marker dots



Frets are the short lines across the fretboard. On a real guitar the spaces are widest near the headstock and get closer together toward the body. Start near the nut with a wide gap, then make each gap slightly smaller than the last. Add little dots in a few spaces as fret markers, with two side by side in the middle of the neck.

💡 **Tip:** Mark the first and last fret, then fill in the middle; it's easier to keep the shrinking spacing even.

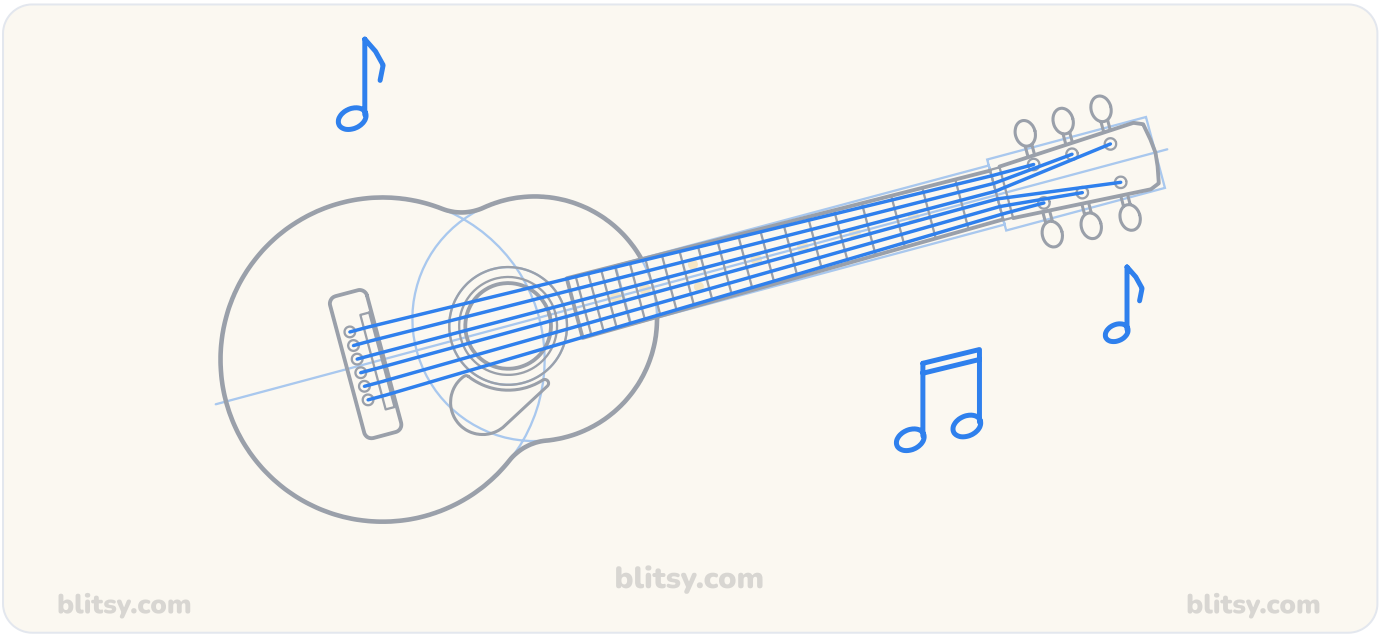
STEP 9 Add six tuning pegs



An acoustic guitar has six tuning pegs, three on each side of the headstock. Draw three small circles near each edge of the headstock for the posts. Then, just outside the edges, add a short stem and an oval button for each one.

💡 **Tip:** Space the three posts evenly along the headstock before adding any of the buttons.

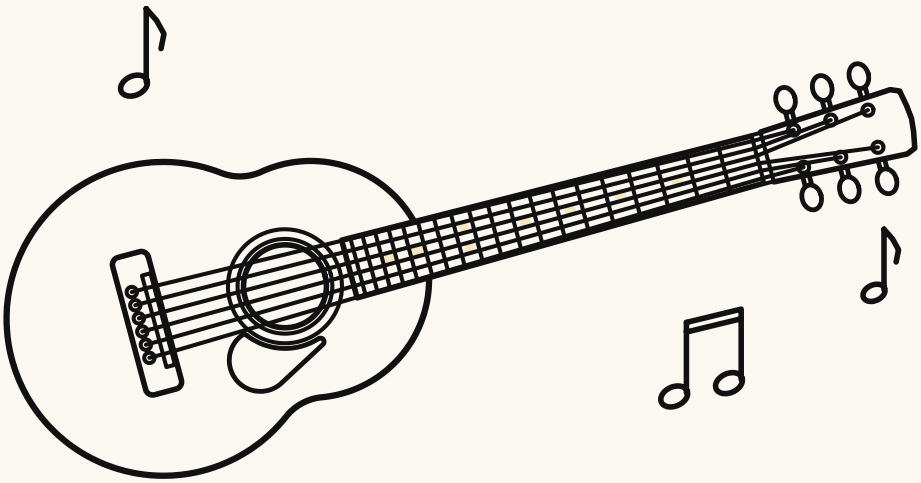
STEP 10 Draw six strings and a few notes



With a ruler, draw six straight lines from the bridge pins, over the saddle and sound hole, all the way up the neck to the nut. They fan out at the bridge and squeeze together at the nut. Past the nut, angle each string to its tuning post. Then add an eighth note above the body and a couple more near the headstock for fun.

💡 **Tip:** Mark six evenly spaced dots on the saddle and six on the nut first, then connect them in pairs.

STEP 11 Ink the lines and erase the guides



Go over every line you want to keep with the black pen. I ink the body outline first, then the neck, and save the strings and frets for last because they're the most delicate. When the ink is completely dry, erase the centre line, the circles and the boxes.

💡 **Tip:** Rest the side of your hand on a scrap of paper while inking, so it doesn't smudge the fresh lines.

STEP 12 Color the guitar



Fill the body with a warm orange, then press harder with brown around the edge for a sunburst look that fades inward. Use dark brown for the neck and bridge, cream for the rosette and pins, and solid black inside the sound hole. Gray covers the metal parts; the pickguard is red brown and my notes are purple.

💡 **Tip:** Color the edge burst in small circles; it blends into the orange more smoothly than straight strokes.