

How to Draw a Mask

12 easy steps for beginners



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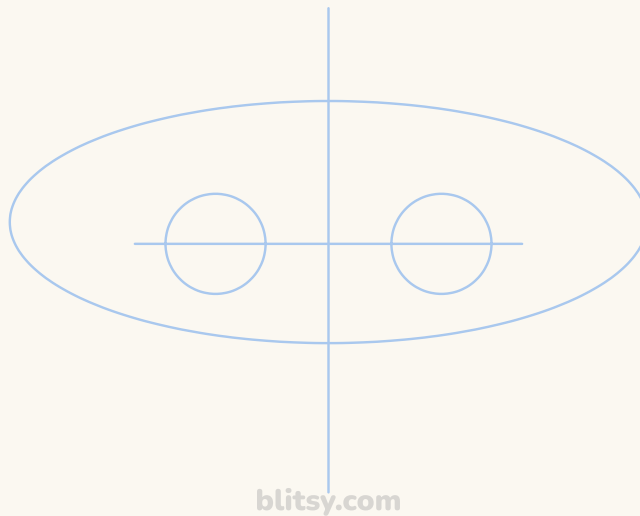
What you'll need

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

How to use this guide

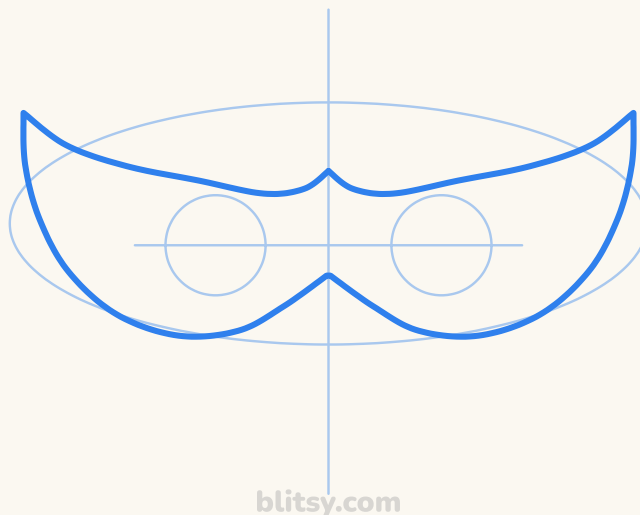
New lines for each step are shown in **blue**; lines you already drew are gray. Draw lightly first, then ink and erase near the end.

[Read the full tutorial online →](#)

STEP 1 Draw a center line and three guides

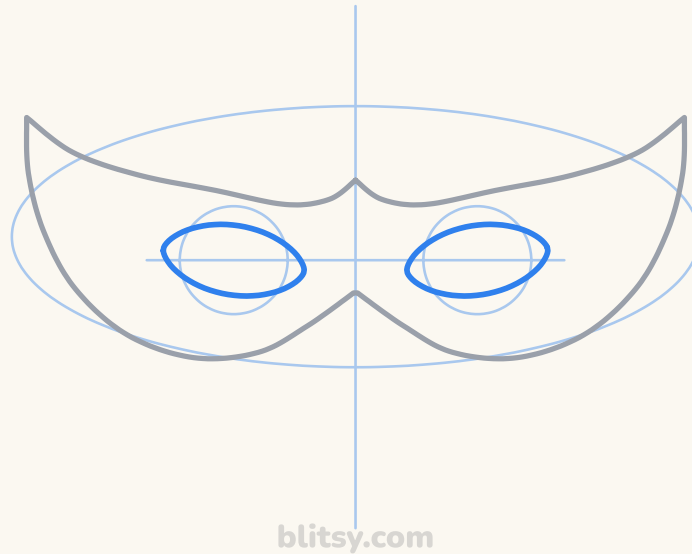
Turn the paper sideways and rule a light vertical line down the middle. Around it, sketch a wide, flat oval, then cross it with a short horizontal line a little below its middle. Place a small circle on that line on each side, the same distance from the center. The circles mark the eyes, and the center line is your mirror.

 **Tip:** Measure the gap from the center line to each circle with your pencil held flat against the paper.

STEP 2 Draw the wing-shaped outline

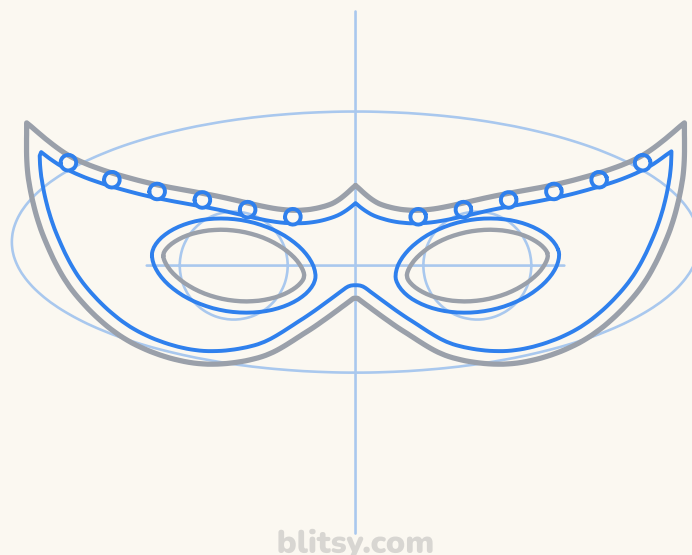
Start at the top of the center line with a tiny point. The top edge dips slightly, then sweeps up into a sharp wing tip on the right. Bring the lower edge down around the eye circle and back up into an upside-down V over the nose. Now copy that half on the left. I always finish one side before I start the other, because tracing both at once is how lopsided masks happen.

 **Tip:** Flip the drawing over and hold it up to a window; any uneven side jumps out right away.

STEP 3 Add two almond eye holes

Inside each guide circle, draw an almond shape with pointed ends. Tilt the outer corner a little upward, toward the wing tip. That small slant gives the mask its sly, festive look; a flat eye hole makes it look sleepy. Keep both almonds the same size.

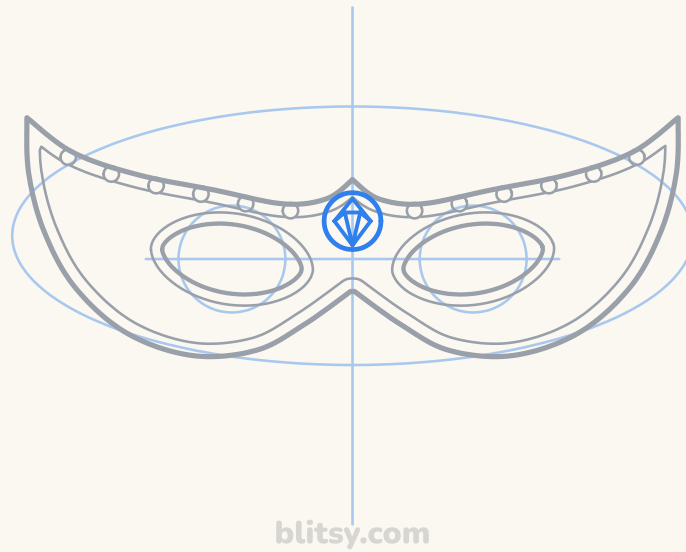
 **Tip:** Draw the top curve of each eye first, then the bottom curve to close it.

STEP 4 Draw the trim and a row of pearls

Trace a second line just inside the outline, all the way around, to make a narrow border, and do the same around each eye hole. These bands turn gold later, and they're what makes a plain shape read as a party mask. Along the top border, place six small circles on each side like a string of pearls.

 **Tip:** Keep the border thin and even. A wide one eats the room you need for the swirls.

STEP 5 Put a gem in the middle



On the little point at the top center, draw a round setting about the size of a coin. Inside it, sketch a diamond and add a few short facet lines across its top. Because it sits right on the center line, the gem is the easiest part to keep symmetric.

Tip: Draw the facets with the sharpest corner of your pencil so they stay crisp.

STEP 6 Add mirrored swirls



Beside each eye, on the wide part of the wing, draw an S-shaped scroll: a small curl at the top, a gentle stem, and a curl at the bottom turning the opposite way. Add a short curly line under each eye. Swirls are the trickiest part of this lesson, so I slow right down here. Smaller kids can swap them for a few dots.

Tip: Draw the swirl on the left so it faces the opposite way, like a reflection, not a copy.

STEP 7 Fan three feathers from the left wing

Sketch three light lines rising from behind the upper left of the mask, fanning from far left to almost straight up. Around each, draw a long feather that is narrow at the bottom, widest near the top and rounded at the tip. Cut a small V-shaped notch into the edges. Stop every feather where it meets the mask, because the mask sits in front.

 **Tip:** Make the middle feather the tallest so the fan has a clear peak.

STEP 8 Hang the ribbon ties

At the outer edge of each wing, draw a small round knot. From it, let two ribbons fall: a long one drifting outward and a shorter one hanging closer to the mask. Draw each ribbon as two wavy lines the same distance apart, and finish the ends with a V-shaped cut. On a real mask, these tie behind the head.

 **Tip:** Let the two ribbons on each side curve differently so they don't look like twins.

STEP 9 Add the feather details

Draw short slanted lines from each feather's center line toward its edges, all leaning toward the tip. Stop them before they touch the outline. On the middle feather, add a round eye spot near the top: a circle with a smaller circle inside, borrowed from peacock feathers.

Tip: Space the barb lines evenly by drawing the top and bottom ones first, then filling in between.

STEP 10 Ink the lines and erase the guides

Go over every keeper line with the black pen. My habit is to ink the big outline first and the fussy swirls and feathers later, so the main shape is settled early. Skip the helper lines. Give the ink a minute to dry before you erase all the pencil marks.

Tip: Turn the paper as you ink the swirls so your hand always pulls the pen toward you.

STEP 11 Color the mask

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Fill the mask with purple, leaving the eye holes white. Along the lower edge, add dark purple for a soft shadow; it makes the mask look curved instead of flat. Then color the trim and swirls gold, the pearls white and the gem teal inside its gold setting.

 **Tip:** Color the gold parts last so the purple doesn't smudge into them.

STEP 12 Color the feathers and ribbons

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I use teal for the back feather, green for the middle one and blue for the front one, so the fan never melts into one blob. Color the eye spot teal with a blue center. Finish with pink ribbons and a pink knot on each side.

 **Tip:** Press harder near the base of each feather and lighter at the tip for a gentle fade.