How to Draw a Plant

11 easy steps for beginners



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 →

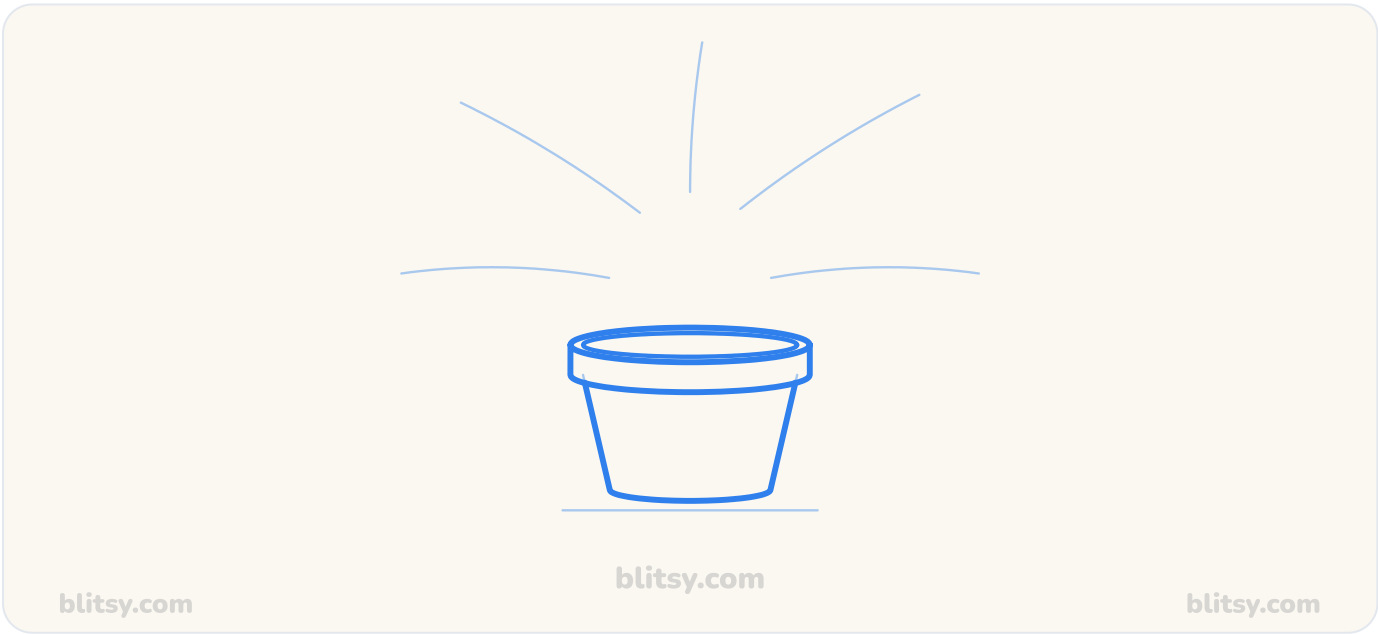
STEP 1 Sketch the pot shape and leaf centre lines



Near the bottom middle of the page, draw a flat oval for the pot opening and two slanted lines below it that come closer together at the bottom. Add a short flat line under them for the table. Above the pot, draw five gently curved lines fanning out: two low, two diagonal and one tall in the middle. Each is the spine of a future leaf.

💡 **Tip:** Press so lightly that you can barely see the lines. They're only there to steer you.

STEP 2 Draw the rim and the tapered pot



Go over the oval with a firmer line, then add a smaller oval just inside it to show the rim's thickness. Drop short straight sides from the oval and close them with a curve to make a band. Below the band, follow the slanted guides down and finish with a curve at the base. I always bend that last curve downward, because a flat edge makes the pot look like a paper cutout.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the rim band about as tall as your thumbnail is wide on the page.

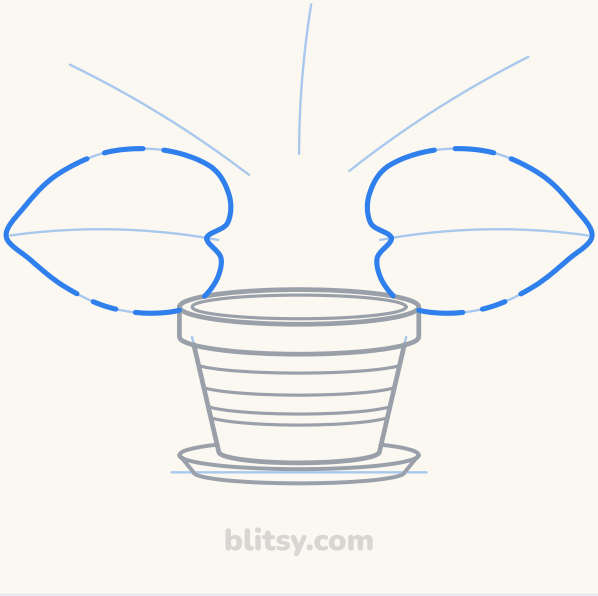
STEP 3 Add a saucer and the pot stripes



Under the pot, draw a wide, shallow dish: an oval that peeks out on both sides, with a slanted edge underneath. It should stick out past the pot a little, the way a real saucer does. Then draw four curved lines across the pot to make two stripes, a thick one and a thin one. Bend them downward like smiles so they wrap around the round body.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the stripe curves with the same bend as the bottom of the pot.

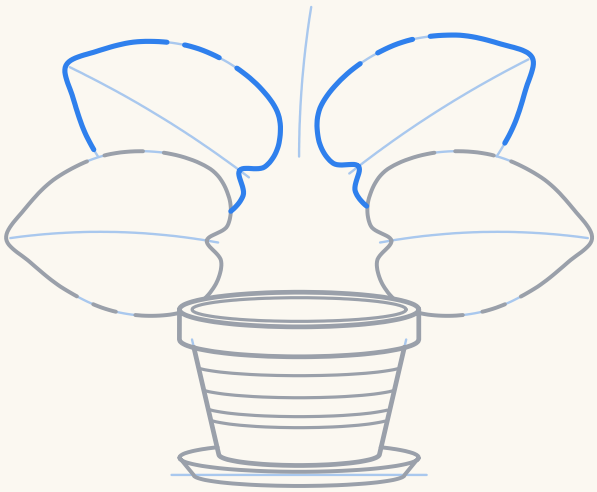
STEP 4 Draw the two front leaves



Start with the two low centre lines. Around each one, draw a wide leaf shape: round and full near the stem end, tapering to a point at the tip, with a small heart-shaped dip where the stem joins. Picture the centre line as the leaf's backbone, with roughly the same width on both sides of it. Leave a few tiny gaps in the edge where the slits will go later.

💡 **Tip:** Turn your paper so you can pull the pencil toward you along each leaf edge.

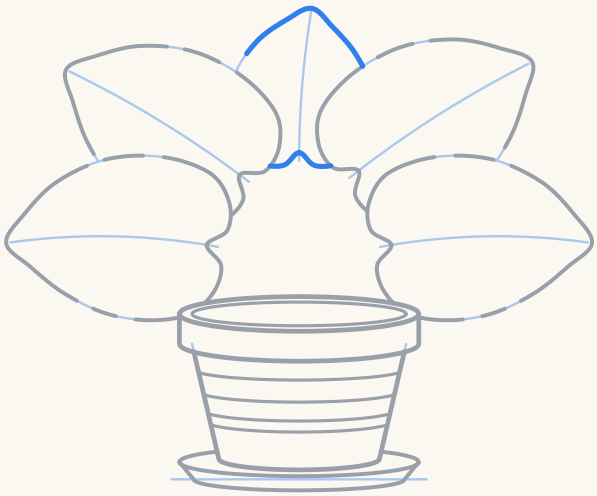
STEP 5 Tuck the middle leaves behind



Use the two diagonal centre lines to draw two more leaves the same way, a touch longer than the front pair. Wherever a new leaf runs into a front leaf, stop your line at that edge. In my lessons this one habit makes the biggest difference: the plant looks full and layered instead of a tangle of crossing lines.

💡 **Tip:** Before each line, ask yourself which leaf is closer to you. The closer one wins.

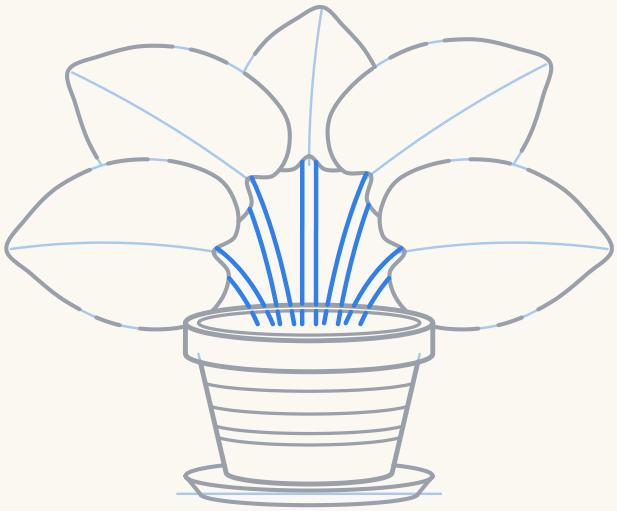
STEP 6 Add the tall leaf in the middle



Wrap a slightly narrower leaf around the tall centre line. Only its upper part shows, because the middle leaves cover its base, so start your outline where it appears between them and carry it up to a point. Keeping this leaf a little smaller makes it look like a newer one, which is how monsteras actually grow, with fresh leaves rising from the middle.

💡 **Tip:** Give the top leaf a slight lean so the plant doesn't look stiff.

STEP 7 Draw stems down to the soil



From the base of each leaf, draw a thin stem of two close parallel lines curving down into the pot opening. Let the stems meet near the middle of the soil, as if they grow from one spot, and stop each one where the front rim hides it. I like a gentle curve here; a ruler-straight stalk looks stiff.

💡 **Tip:** Keep both lines of a stem the same distance apart from top to bottom.

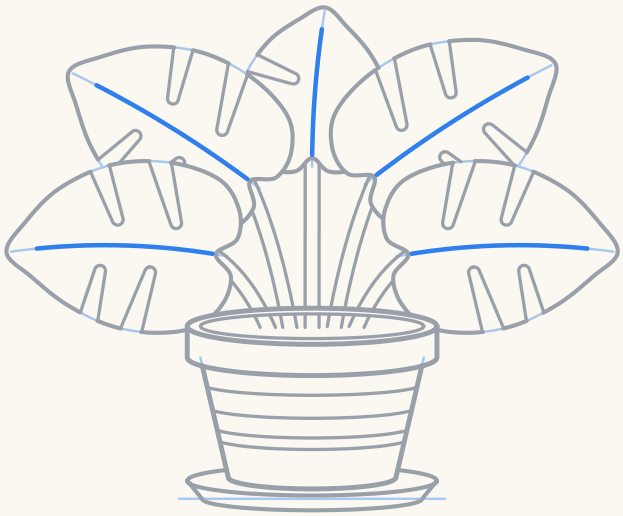
STEP 8 Cut the slits into the leaves



This is the step that turns a plain leaf into a monstera. At each gap you left, draw a narrow U shape that runs from the edge toward the centre line, wider at the edge and rounded at the inner end. Two per side is plenty on the big leaves, and one is enough on the tall one. Angle each slit slightly toward the leaf tip, following the direction the leaf's side veins would run.

💡 **Tip:** Stop every slit well before the centre line. A leaf cut all the way through falls apart.

STEP 9 Draw a centre vein on each leaf



blitsy.com
blitsy.com
blitsy.com

Go over each centre line inside its leaf with a single firm stroke, starting at the stem and stopping just before the tip. Skip the parts hidden behind other leaves. This one line does a lot of work: it shows which way each leaf faces and splits it into a light side and a dark side for coloring later.

💡 **Tip:** Lift the pencil off gradually near the tip so the vein fades instead of ending in a blob.

STEP 10 Ink the lines and erase the guides



blitsy.com
blitsy.com
blitsy.com

Trace every line you want to keep with your black pen: pot, saucer, stripes, leaves, slits, stems and veins. Give the ink a minute to dry. Then erase all the guide lines, plus the tiny bits of leaf edge across each slit opening. Your monstera now has clean open cuts and is ready to color.

💡 **Tip:** Ink the pot and leaf outlines first, then the small inside lines, so you don't smudge them.

STEP 11 Color the plant



blitsy.com
blitsy.com
blitsy.com

Fill each leaf with a fresh green, then use dark green on the lower side of every vein. That two-tone split gives a quick sense of light falling from above. Color the stems yellow green and the soil brown. Paint the pot coral with yellow stripes, add a deeper coral strip along the right side of the pot and rim, and finish the saucer in the darker coral too.

💡 **Tip:** Color each leaf in strokes that follow its vein, from stem toward tip.