How to Draw a Scarecrow

12 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

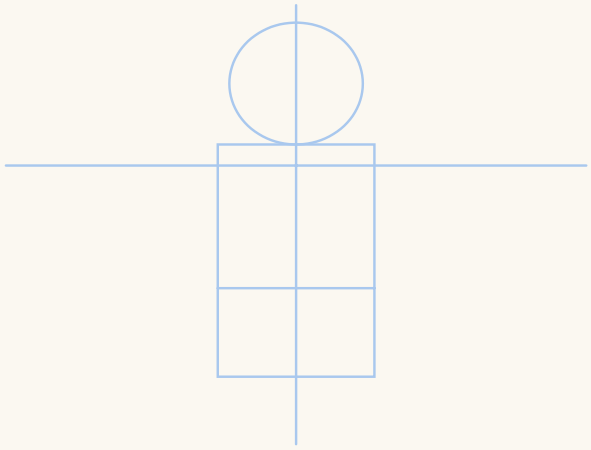
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black marker
- Colored pencils
- White paper

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 →

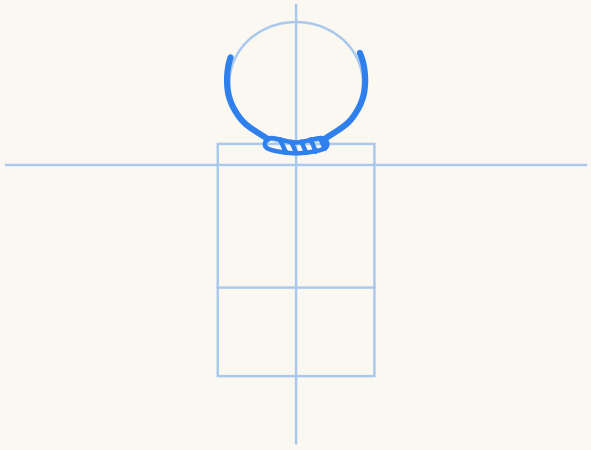
STEP 1 Sketch a T, a circle and a tall box



Draw a long vertical line down the middle of the page and cross it with a long horizontal line about a third of the way down. That's the wooden post. Put a circle on top of the crossing for the head, then hang a tall box below it for the body, with a line across its middle where the shirt will end. I make the crossbar much wider than the body so the sleeves have room.

💡 **Tip:** Press so lightly you can barely see the lines. They all get erased later.

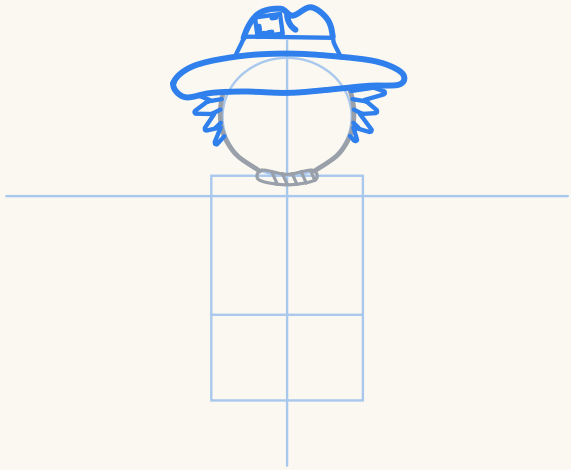
STEP 2 Draw the burlap sack head and a rope



Follow the circle around the sides and bottom, then pinch it in at the bottom like a bag that's been tied shut. Leave the top open for the hat. Just under the pinch, draw a short flat oval for the rope and add a few slanted lines across it to show the twists.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the head a little wider than it is tall. A round, chubby sack looks friendlier.

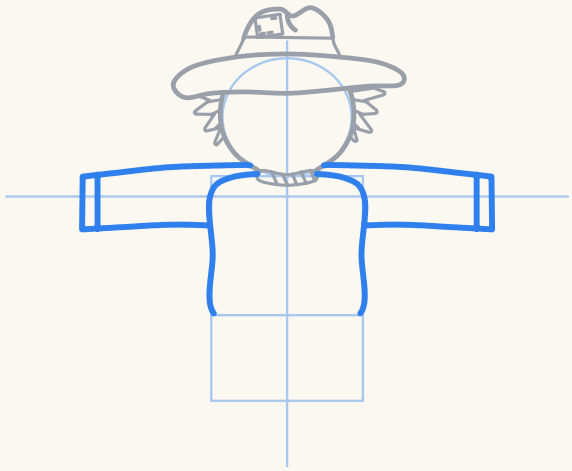
STEP 3 Add a floppy hat and straw hair



Across the top of the head, draw a wide, wavy brim that hangs past both sides of the circle, with the left end drooping a little lower. Sit a rounded crown on it with a small dent in the top, then draw a band where the crown meets the brim. Add a little square patch on the crown. Under the brim, on each side of the face, pull out a few pointy straw spikes.

💡 **Tip:** Make the brim about twice as wide as the head. That width is what makes it floppy.

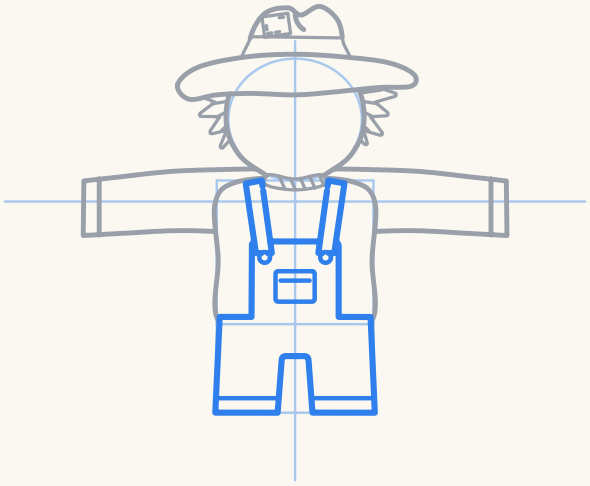
STEP 4 Draw the shirt with long arms



Start the shirt just under the rope and round its shoulders down into two straight sides that follow the box. From each shoulder, run a sleeve out along the crossbar line. Keep the top and bottom edges of each sleeve almost parallel, and end them with a flat cuff and a short line inside. I keep them stiff and straight, like real stuffed sleeves.

💡 **Tip:** Stop both cuffs the same distance from the post so the arms match.

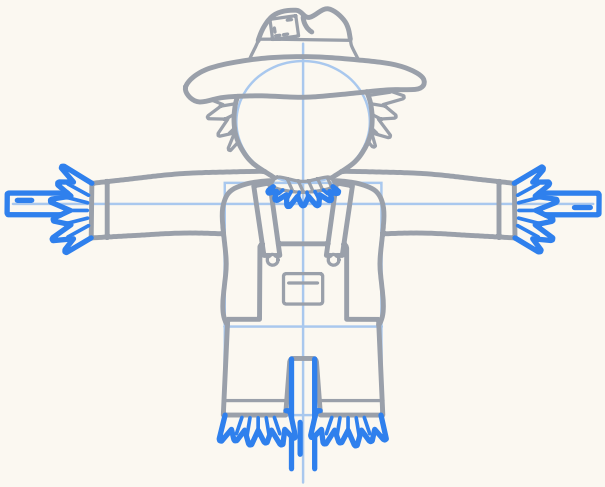
STEP 5 Add overalls with straps



Draw a square bib on the chest, then wider pants below it that drop to the bottom of the box. Leave a gap between the legs, about as wide as the post. Two straps run from the top corners of the bib up over the shoulders. Add a button at each strap, a small pocket and a cuff line on each leg.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the straps slanting slightly outward. Straight up looks stiff and narrow.

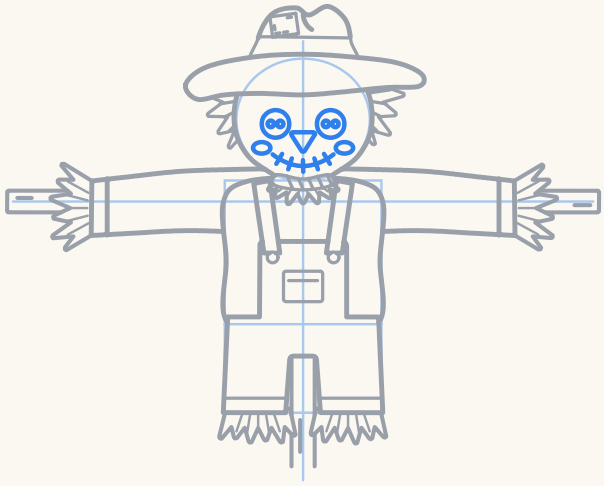
STEP 6 Draw straw tufts and the wooden post



Now the straw. Zigzag a fan of pointed spikes out of each sleeve, more spikes out of the bottom of each pant leg, and a small ruffle of them at the neck under the rope. Then draw the post: the crossbar ends poking out past the arm tufts, and the pole showing between the legs and down to the ground.

💡 **Tip:** Vary the spike lengths a little. Perfectly even zigzags look like a saw blade.

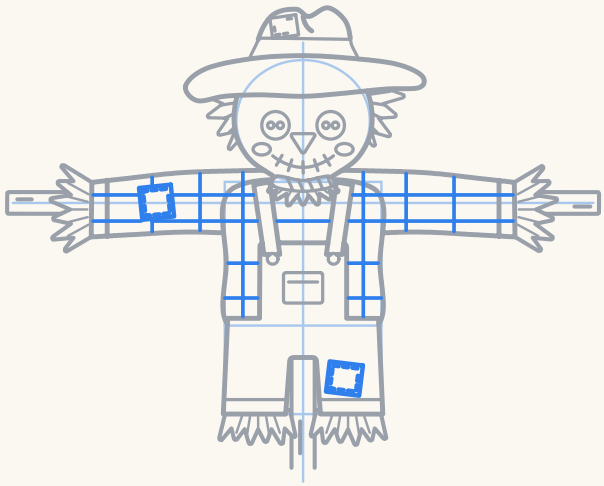
STEP 7 Give him button eyes and a stitched smile



Draw two round button eyes a little above the middle of the face, with two small holes in each one. Add a small upside-down triangle nose between them. For the mouth, draw a wide curve like a bowl, then cross it with five short stitches. An oval on each cheek finishes the face. I keep the stitches short; long ones start to look like teeth.

💡 **Tip:** Place the eyes far enough apart that a third button could fit between them.

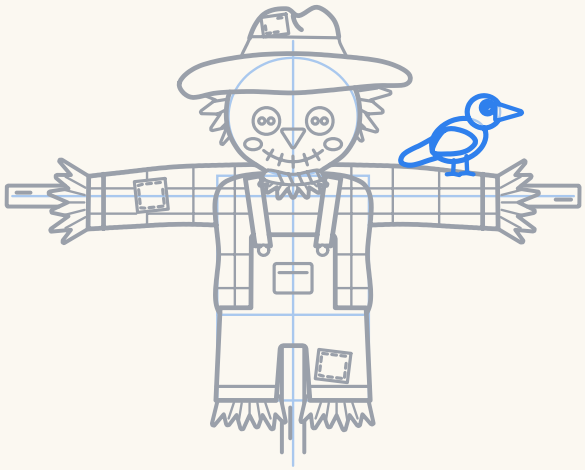
STEP 8 Add the plaid checks and patches



Plaid sounds tricky, but it's just crossing lines. Draw two lines along each sleeve, then a few lines across them at even spaces. Do the same on the shirt beside the bib. Then add a square patch on one sleeve and one on a pant leg, with dashed stitches inside.

💡 **Tip:** Use a ruler for the plaid if you like. Straight checks read as fabric best.

STEP 9 Perch a friendly crow on one arm



Sketch a tilted oval sitting on top of the right sleeve and a small circle above its front end. Trace them into a smooth bird body and head, add a pointed tail at the back and a wing shape on the side. Give the crow a big round eye with a shine, a triangle beak and two thin legs gripping the sleeve. Keep the beak about as long as the head is wide.

💡 **Tip:** A big eye with a white dot makes the crow look curious, not mean.

STEP 10 Draw pumpkins and wheat in the grass



Place a wide oval guide on the left and a smaller one on the right, then turn each into a pumpkin with three round lobes, a curved stem and a leaf. Add a couple of curved lines on the middle lobe. Behind them, draw three thin wheat stalks on each side, topped with little seed shapes stacked in pairs. A long flat oval underneath is the grass.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the pumpkins smaller than the scarecrow's head so he stays the star.

STEP 11 Ink the outlines and erase the guides



Go over every line you want to keep with a black marker, including the plaid and the stitches. Let it dry for a minute. Then erase the T, the circle, the box and the guide ovals. Go slowly around the straw corners.

💡 **Tip:** Turn the paper as you ink the tufts. It's easier to pull a line toward yourself.

STEP 12 Color your scarecrow



Color the head tan, the straw and wheat golden yellow, and the hat and post brown. The shirt is red, and the plaid stripes get a darker red. Make the overalls blue with a light blue sleeve patch and a yellow knee patch. Orange goes on the pumpkins, nose and beak. Use green for the hat patch and the grass, and dark gray for the crow.

💡 **Tip:** Color the plaid stripes first, then fill the red around them.