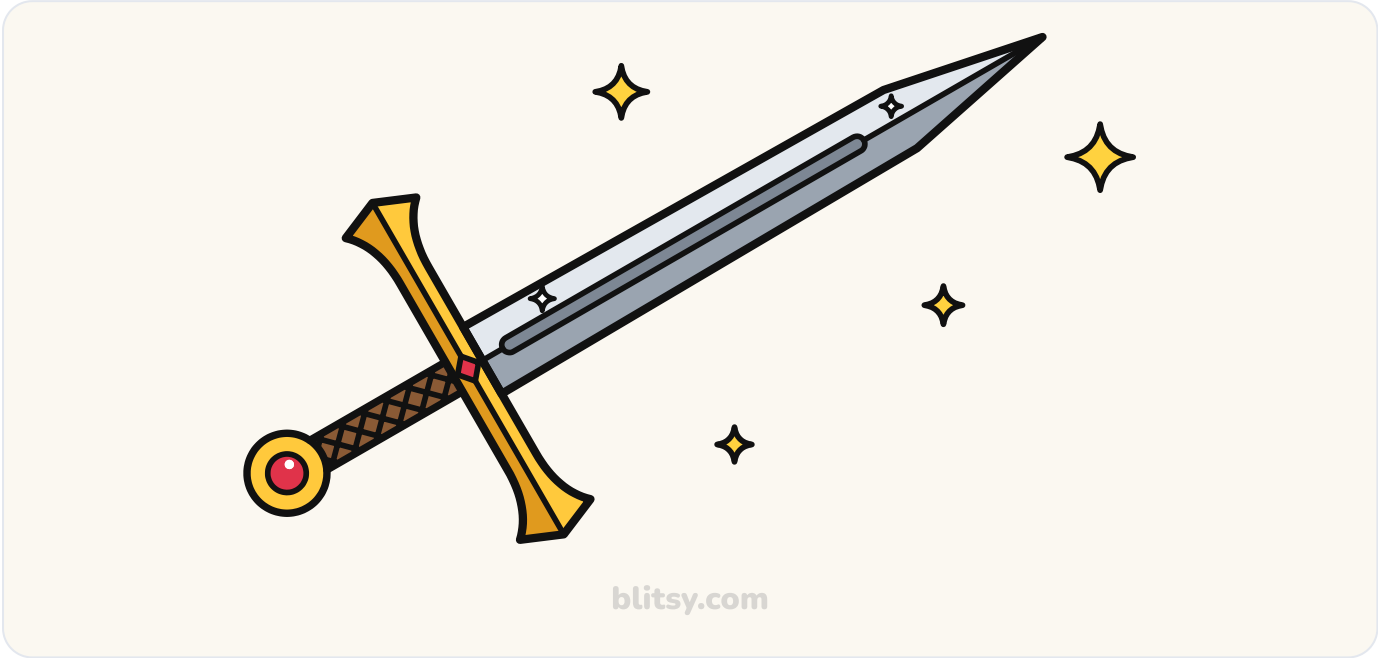
How to Draw a Sword

11 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

- A pencil
- An eraser
- A ruler
- A coin to trace
- 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 →

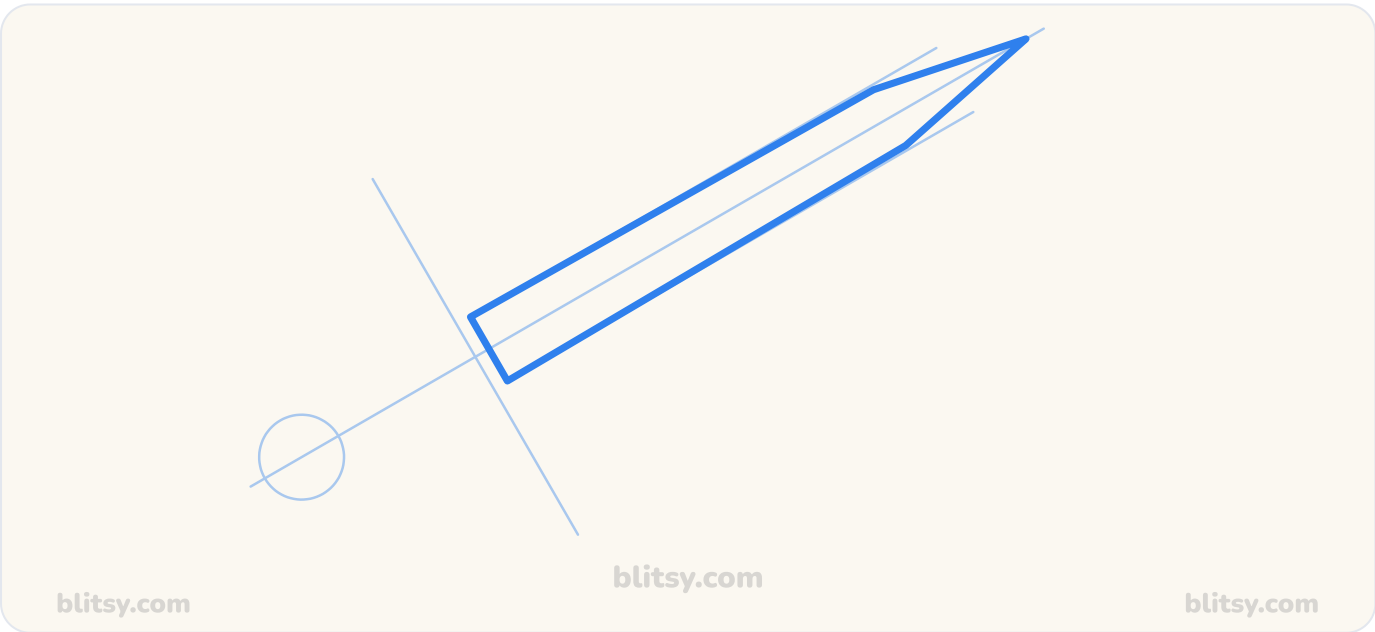
STEP 1 Draw a tilted line, a cross and a circle



With a ruler, draw one long line rising from the bottom left to the top right at a gentle slope. About a quarter of the way along from the low end, cross it with a shorter line at a right angle. Trace a small circle at the low end. I tilt the sword because a long blade fits a sideways page far better than standing upright.

💡 **Tip:** Keep every helper line faint enough to vanish with one swipe of the eraser.

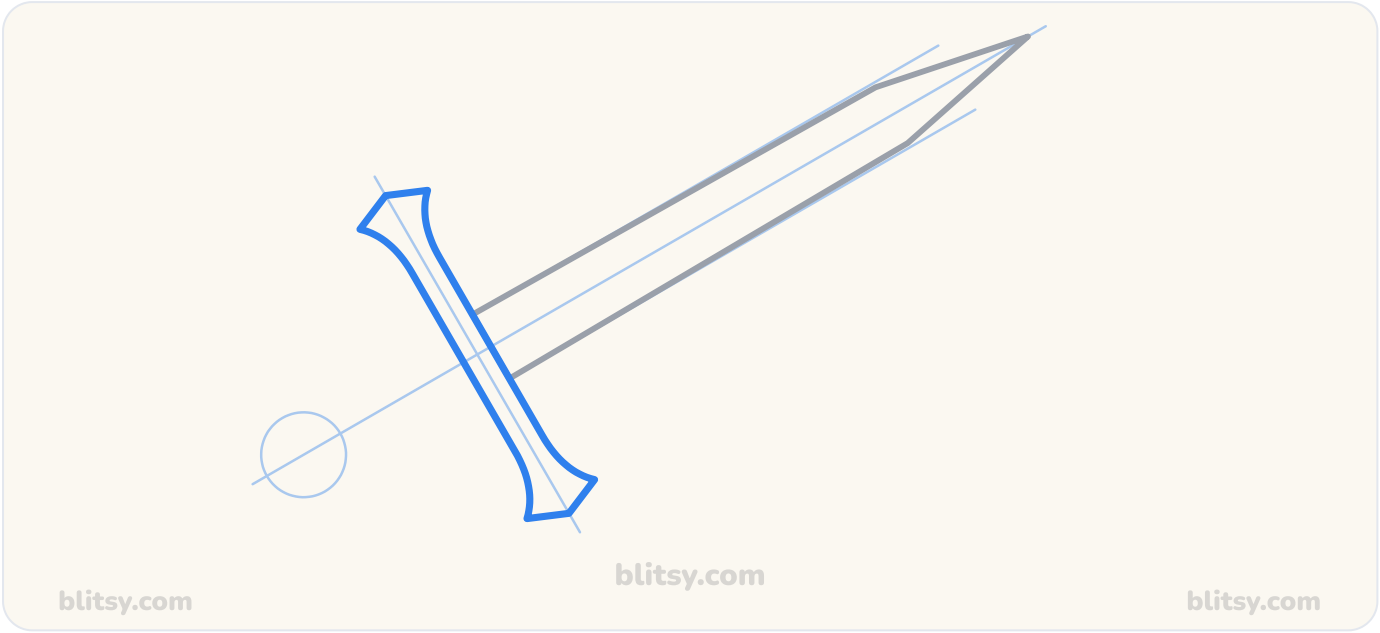
STEP 2 Outline the long blade and its point



Rule a faint line on each side of the center line, the same distance away, to mark the blade's width. Draw the real edges along them from the cross line upward, letting them come in just a little. For the last fifth, angle both edges sharply in so they meet on the center line. Close the bottom with a short edge on the cross line.

💡 **Tip:** Measure the width on both sides with the ruler; matching gaps keep the blade straight.

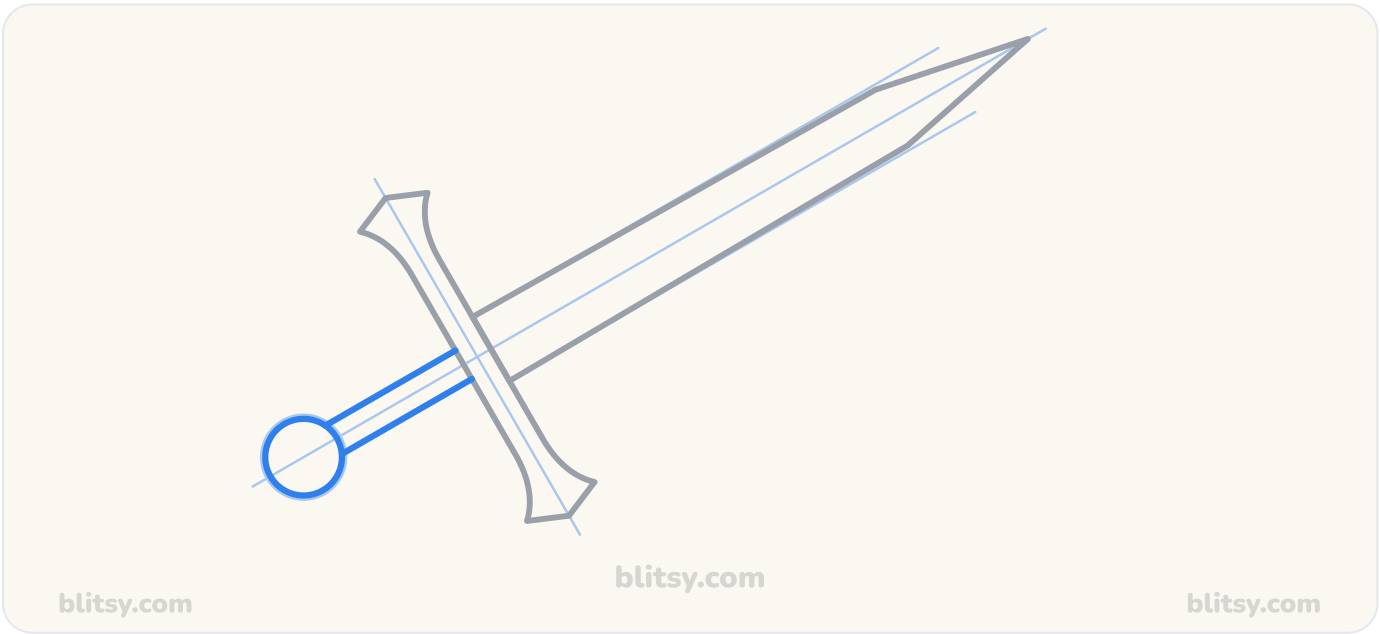
STEP 3 Add a crossguard with flared ends



The crossguard is the bar where the blade stops, and on a real sword it protects the hand. Center it on your cross line and make it about five times as long as the blade is wide. Keep the middle slim, then let both ends curve outward into a small point. Check that both ends reach the same distance from the center line.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the left end first, then copy each curve on the right before moving on.

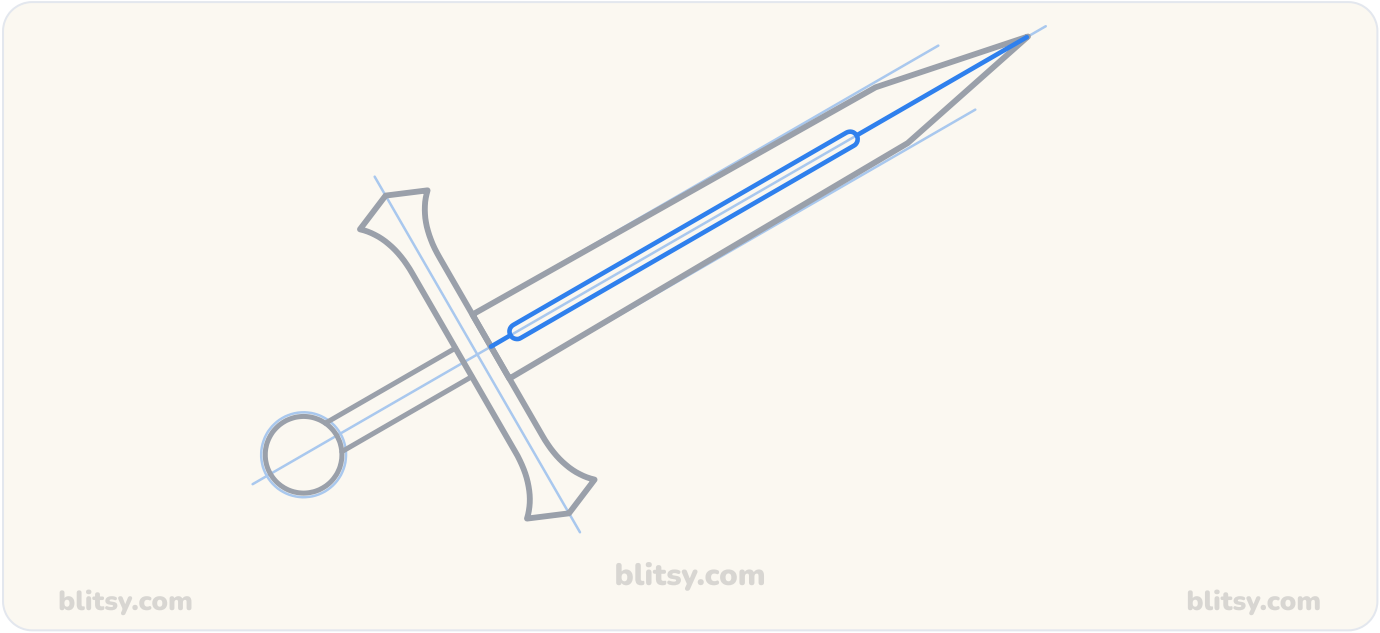
STEP 4 Draw the grip and the round pommel



Run two short parallel lines from the crossguard down to the pommel circle, making the grip just under half as wide as the blade. A longsword's grip fits two hands, so don't squash it. Go over the circle for the pommel, the round knob that balances the heavy blade. Stop the grip lines exactly where they touch the circle.

💡 **Tip:** Trace a coin for the pommel; freehand circles tend to come out egg-shaped.

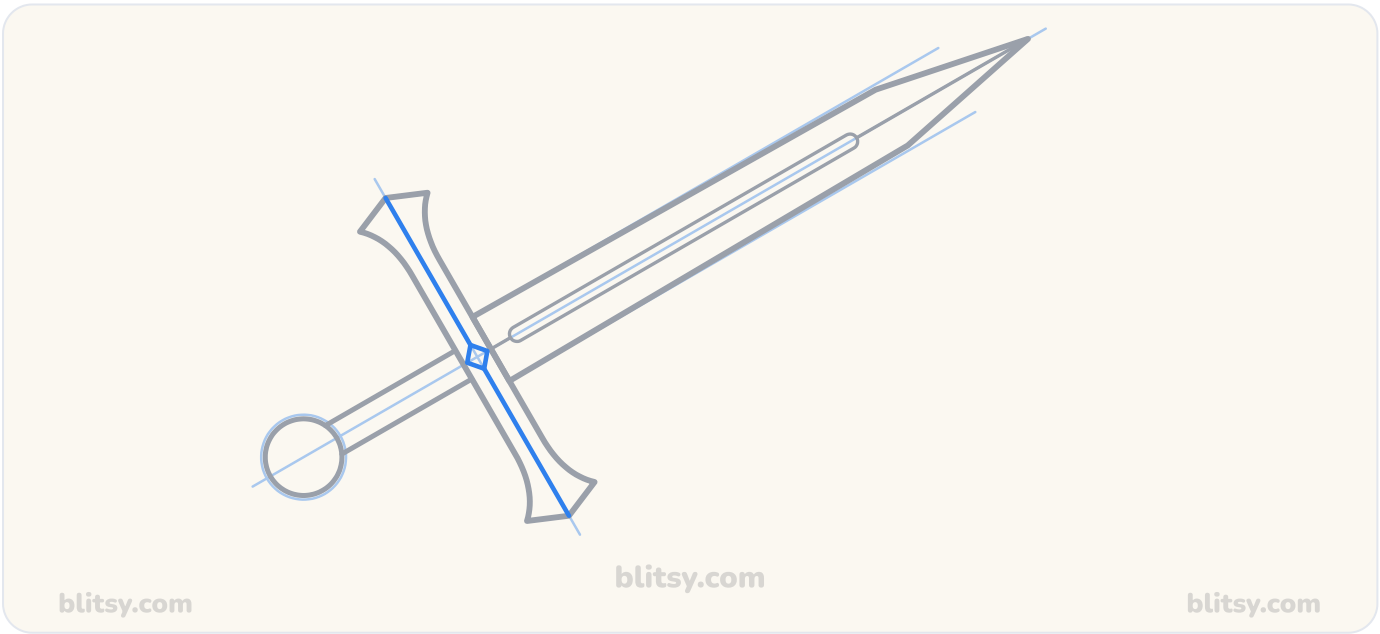
STEP 5 Add the center ridge and the fuller



Most beginners leave the blade empty, and then it looks flat. Draw a thin ridge line down the middle from the tip. About a third of the way down, switch to a long narrow slot with rounded ends that stops just short of the crossguard. That slot is the fuller, a groove that makes the blade lighter. Add a tiny bit of ridge below it.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the fuller narrow; a wide one makes the blade look hollow.

STEP 6 Split the crossguard and add a small jewel

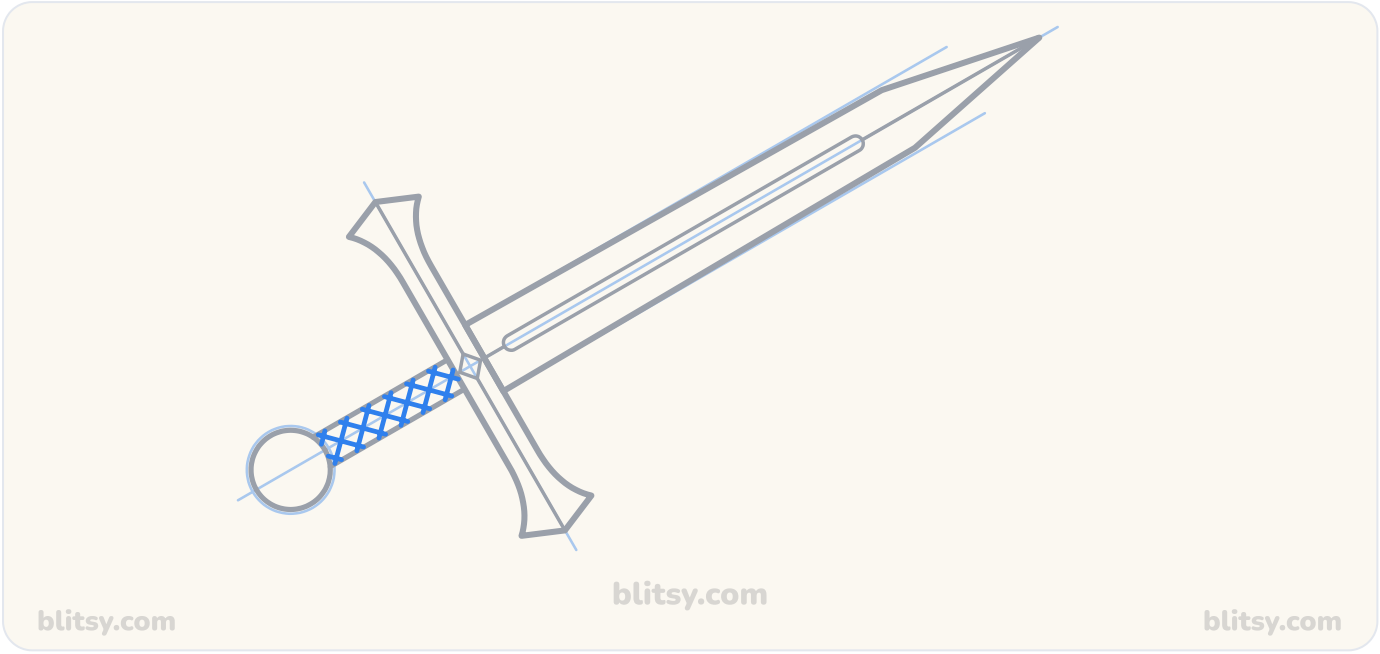


Rule a line along the middle of the crossguard, from one pointed end to the other. Where the blade meets the guard, draw a little diamond shape sitting on that line. The line is there for color later: one half of the guard will be bright gold and the other half a deeper orange gold, which makes the metal look rounded instead of flat.

💡 **Tip:** Stop the middle line at the edges of the jewel so it doesn't run through it.

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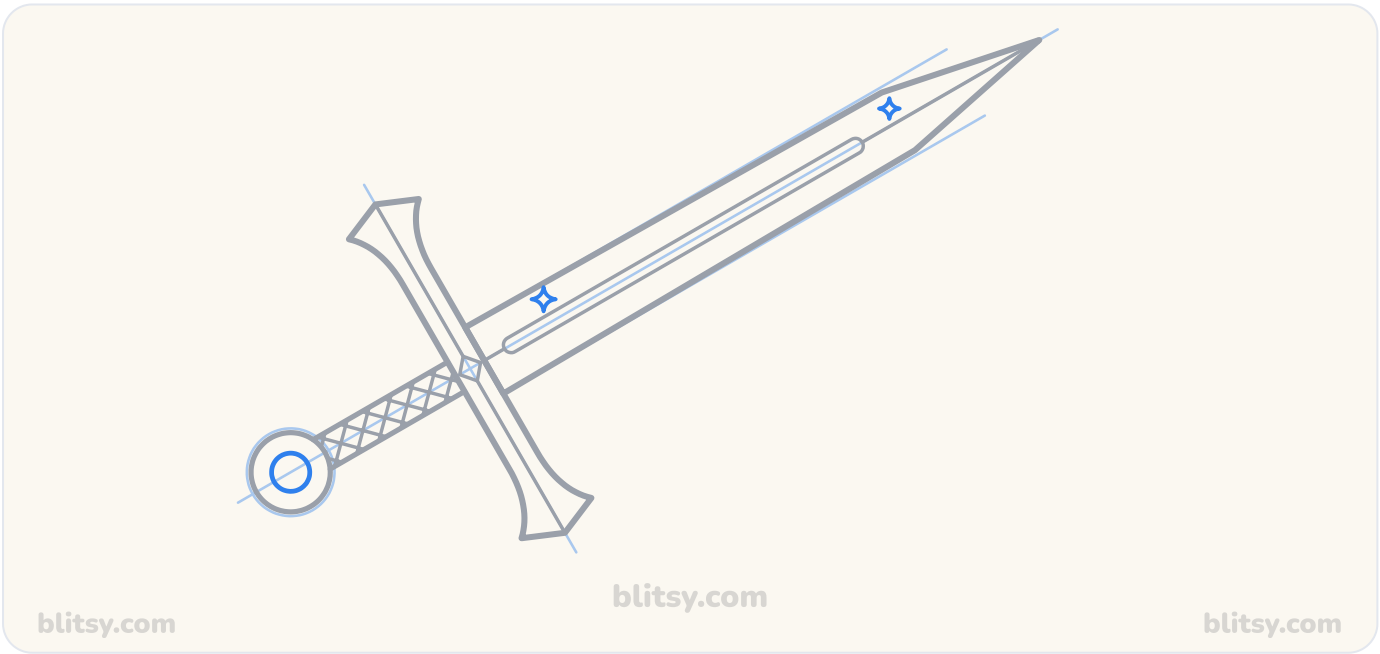
STEP 7 Wrap the grip with criss-cross bands



Real grips were often wrapped in leather or cord. Draw slanted lines across the grip, evenly spaced and all leaning the same way, then a second set leaning the other way so they form small diamonds. I start in the middle of the grip and work outward, which keeps the spacing even at both ends.

💡 **Tip:** Space the bands about as far apart as the grip is wide for neat diamonds.

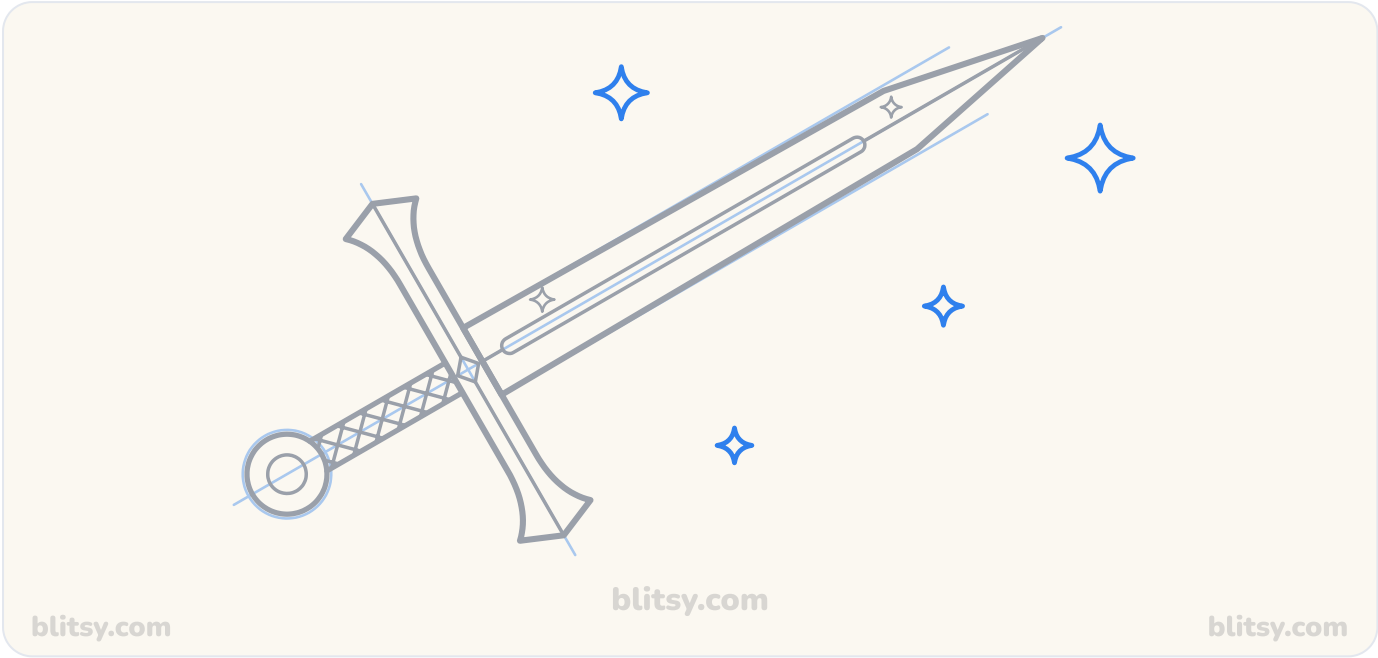
STEP 8 Put a gem in the pommel and glints on the blade



Inside the pommel, draw a circle about half as wide for the gem, centered so the gold ring stays even. Then add two tiny four-point glints on the upper half of the blade, one near the point and one near the crossguard. Glints belong on the side facing the light, so keep both on the half you'll color lightest.

💡 **Tip:** Curve the glint sides inward, like a pinched diamond, so they read as sparkles.

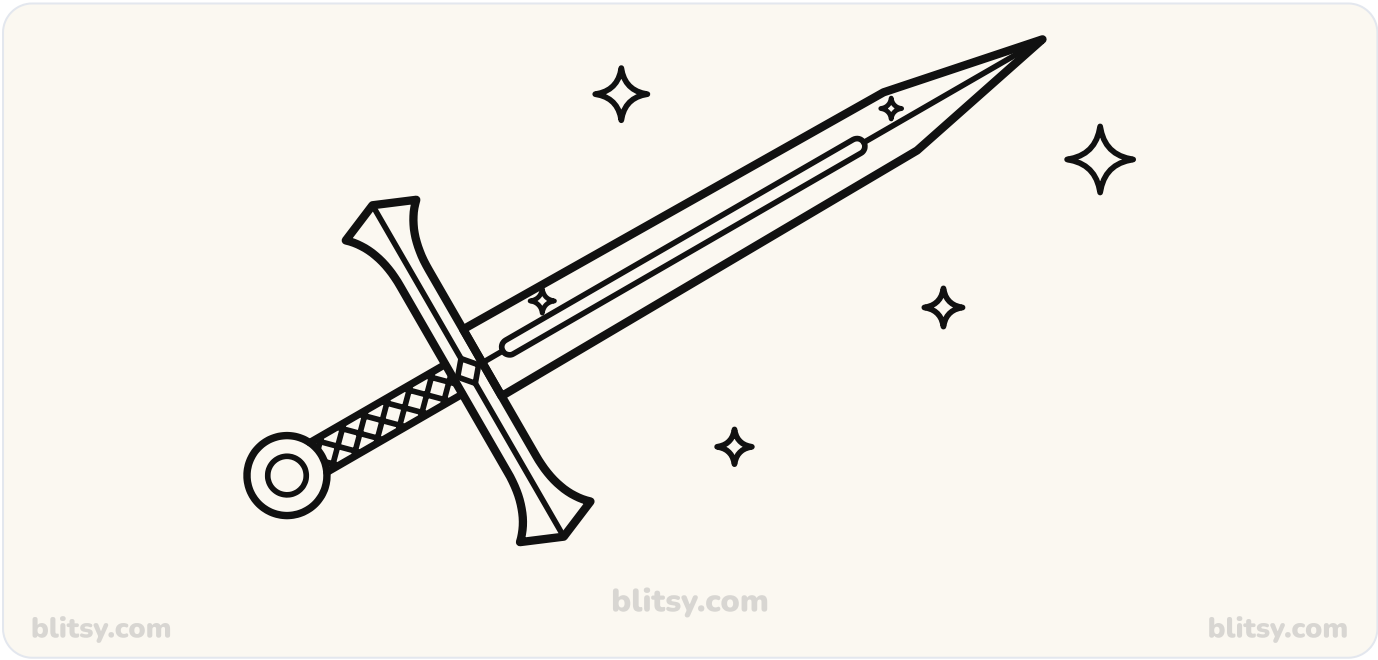
STEP 9 Scatter sparkles around the sword



Use the empty spaces around the sword for four bigger sparkles: a large one near the point, another above the blade and two smaller ones below it. Mixed sizes look more natural than matching stars. Leave a clear gap between each sparkle and the outline so the sword stays easy to read.

💡 **Tip:** Draw sparkles last so you know exactly where the empty spaces are.

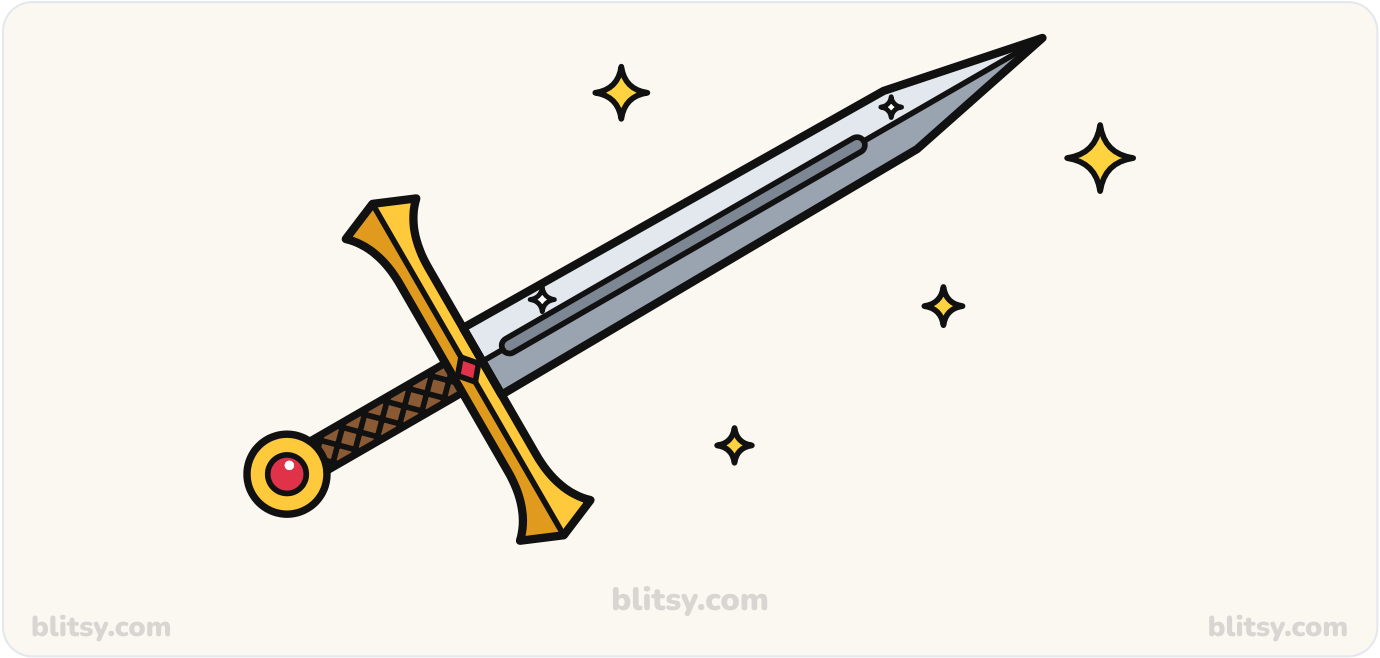
STEP 10 Ink the sword and erase the guides



Trace every keeper line with the black pen, using the ruler again for the long blade edges. Skip the helper lines from step 1 and the width lines from step 2. When the ink has dried, gently erase all the pencil underneath.

💡 **Tip:** Give the ink a full minute to dry; smudged black lines are hard to fix.

STEP 11 Color the steel, the gold and the leather



Color the upper half of the blade light gray, the lower half a darker gray and the fuller dark gray. That split turns flat shapes into polished steel. Leave the glints white and color the sparkles yellow. Make the crossguard yellow on the blade side and orange on the grip side, the pommel yellow, the grip brown and both gems red, with a white dot left on the pommel gem.

💡 **Tip:** Run your gray strokes along the length of the blade, never across it.