

How to Draw a Unicorn

12 easy steps for beginners



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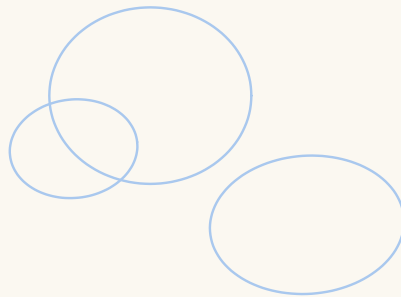
What you'll need

- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black fineliner
- Colored pencils or markers
- Plain 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 head circle and a body oval

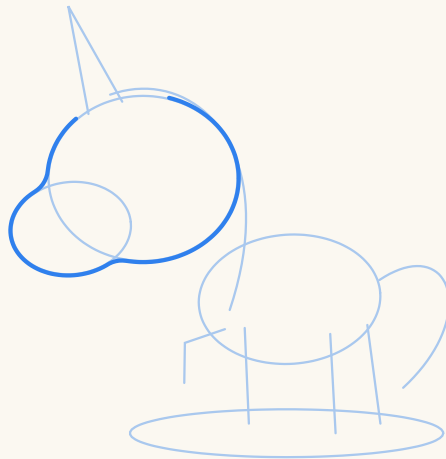
Put a big circle a little left of the middle of the page for the head. Overlapping its lower left side, add a smaller oval for the muzzle. Then draw a wide oval down and to the right for the body. In chibi drawings the head is about as big as the body.

 **Tip:** Hold the pencil further back from the tip. Your lines come out lighter without trying.

STEP 2 Sketch the horn, leg and mane guides

From the top front of the head, draw a tall, thin triangle leaning forward for the horn. Under the body, drop three short straight lines for the standing legs and a bent line for the front leg that's lifted. Then sweep one long curve down the back of the head for the mane, a loop off the rump for the tail, and a flat oval at the bottom for the cloud.

 **Tip:** Check the lifted leg line bends forward at the knee, like a pony stepping up a stair.

STEP 3 Draw the round head and muzzle

Trace around both head shapes as one smooth outline. Where the muzzle meets the forehead, let the line dip in just slightly, then round out again over the nose and chin. I leave a gap along the top of the head, because the forelock and ears will sit there and I don't want to erase a finished line later.

 **Tip:** Turn your paper so your hand curves naturally around the big circle.

STEP 4 Add the forelock, spiral horn and ears

Start with the forelock: a fat comma shape that sweeps from the top of the head over the forehead and curls back up at its tip, with a second lock peeking out behind it. Now draw the horn on its guide as a narrow cone growing out from behind the forelock. Cross it with four slanted lines, all leaning the same way, to make the spiral. Finish with two small pointed ears behind the forelock, each with a thin inner line.

 **Tip:** Slant every spiral line in the same direction, or the horn will look like a ladder.

STEP 5 Draw the curly mane locks

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Down the back of the head, stack four locks of hair. Each one is a thick teardrop that bends outward, thins out, then curls back in at the end. Make the top lock the biggest and let them shrink as they go down toward the body. Add one thin line inside each lock, following its curve, to show the strands.

Tip: Overlap each lock slightly with the one above it. Separate blobs look like balloons, not hair.

STEP 6 Shape the small round body

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Follow the body oval, but stop the line wherever it meets the mane, so the hair looks like it's lying on top of the back. Keep the body plump and short. A long, horse-like body ruins the cute proportions.

Tip: Compare the body width to the head now. They should look about equal.

STEP 7 Add four short legs with hooves

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Draw the three standing legs as short tubes with rounded ends, coming out from under the belly. The two at the back sit close together, one partly behind the other. The lifted front leg bends forward at the knee and hangs its hoof in the air. Across the bottom of every leg, draw a line to mark off the hoof.

 **Tip:** Stubby legs are the point here. Stop each one only a little below the belly.

STEP 8 Draw the flowing tail

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The tail works like the mane, just pointed the other way. From the rump, draw three curly locks fanning out and down, the top one arching highest. Each lock tapers and curls inward at its tip. Add a strand line inside each one, just like the mane.

 **Tip:** Let the bottom tail lock tuck behind the back leg. It makes the tail feel attached.

STEP 9 Give it a sparkly eye and a smile

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Place a tall oval eye just under the forelock, roughly in the middle of the head. Inside it, draw one big circle near the top and a tiny one lower down for the sparkle. Add three lashes flicking out from the back corner. On the muzzle, a small curved line becomes the nostril, and a short upward curve near the chin makes the smile.

 **Tip:** Keep the eye big. Shrinking it is the fastest way to lose the cute look.

STEP 10 Add the cloud and some stars

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Around the cloud guide, draw a row of bumpy puffs along the top and smaller bumps along the bottom. Stop the line wherever a hoof stands in front of it. Then scatter a few five-point stars and four-point sparkles in the empty space around the unicorn, some big, some small.

 **Tip:** Use an odd number of stars and spread them unevenly. It looks less like wallpaper.

STEP 11 Ink the outline and erase the guides

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Go over every keeper line with your black pen: the head and horn spiral, the mane strands, the legs, then the cloud with its stars. Skip the circles and guide lines from the first two steps. Wait until the ink is fully dry, then erase all the pencil underneath. My habit is to ink the face first, while my hand is still fresh.

 **Tip:** Pull the pen toward you on long curves. Pushing it makes wobbly lines.

STEP 12 Color your unicorn

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Leave the head and body white, along with the near legs, and shade the lower edges with lavender so the shape looks round. The far legs get lavender all over, which pushes them back. Give each lock its own pastel: pink, purple, light blue and mint. Color the horn and hooves gold, the stars too, the eye dark purple, and add a pink cheek and a pale blue cloud.

 **Tip:** Color each lock in the direction it curls. The strokes then read as hair.