

How to Draw a Wolf

12 easy steps for beginners



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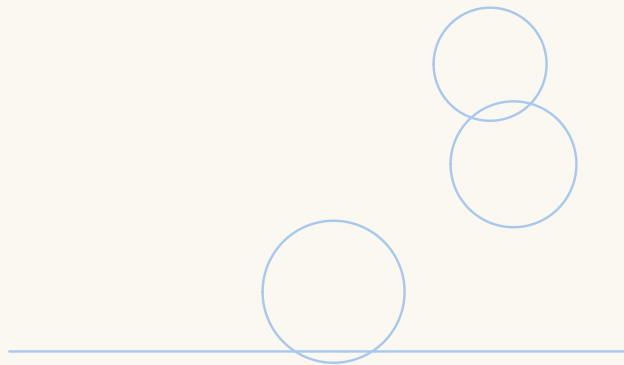
What you'll need

- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black fineliner
- Colored pencils or markers
- Plain paper, landscape

How to use this guide

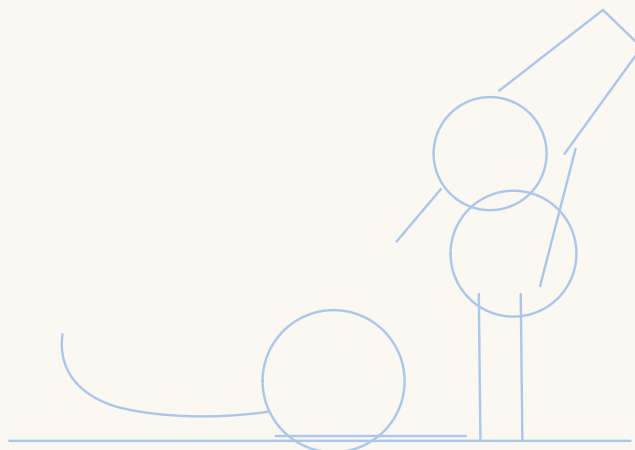
New lines for each step are shown in **blue**; lines you already drew are gray. Draw lightly first, then ink and erase near the end.

[Read the full tutorial online →](#)

STEP 1 Draw the ledge line and three circles

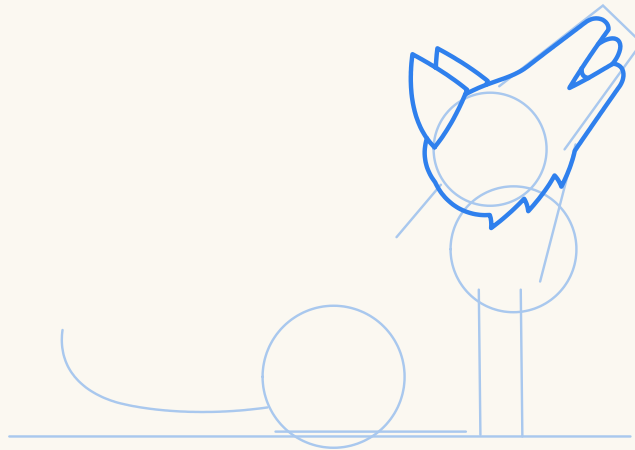
Start with a long flat line near the bottom of the page. Sit a hip circle on the left end of it, then place a slightly smaller chest circle up and to the right, and a head circle right on top of the chest. The head circle overlaps the chest a little.

 **Tip:** Press so lightly that you can barely see the circles. They're only scaffolding.

STEP 2 Add the muzzle box and body guides

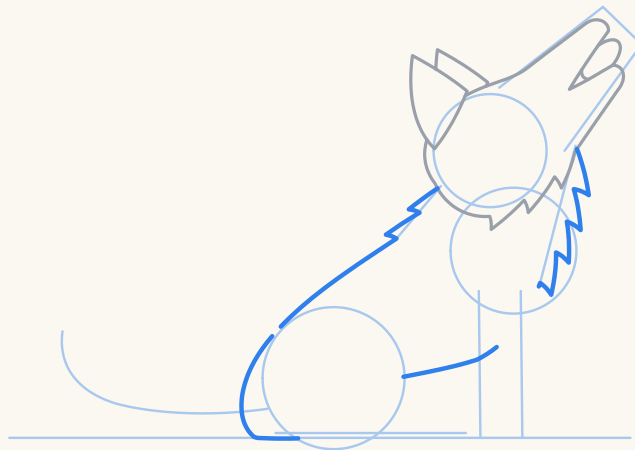
From the head circle, draw a long box pointing up and to the right, at roughly the angle of a clock hand on half past one. This is the muzzle, raised for the howl. Two lines connect head to body: one slanting down the back of the neck, one down the throat. Then add two straight leg lines, a flat line for the hind foot and a curve for the tail.

 **Tip:** Aim the muzzle box at the spot where the moon will go, so the howl has a target.

STEP 3 Shape the howling head and ears

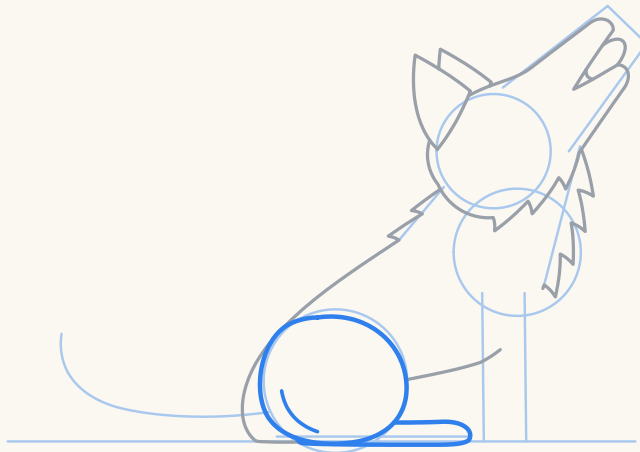
Trace around the head circle and the muzzle box with one line. Near the tip, split it into two jaws with a small gap, and round off the gap so the mouth reads as an open O. Under the head, let three soft points stick out for the cheek fur. Two pointed ears go on top, leaning back toward the tail.

Tip: Wolf ears lean back during a howl. Upright ears make the head look alert, not singing.

STEP 4 Outline the furry neck and back

This line gives the wolf its weight. Follow the back-of-neck guide down, adding two little fur spikes, then slope the back down to a round rump that touches the rock. On the front, draw the throat ruff as a column of zigzag tufts pointing down. Stop the back line where the thigh will cover it, and leave the chest open where the front leg joins.

Tip: Make the ruff tufts bigger near the chin and smaller toward the chest.

STEP 5 Draw the folded hind leg

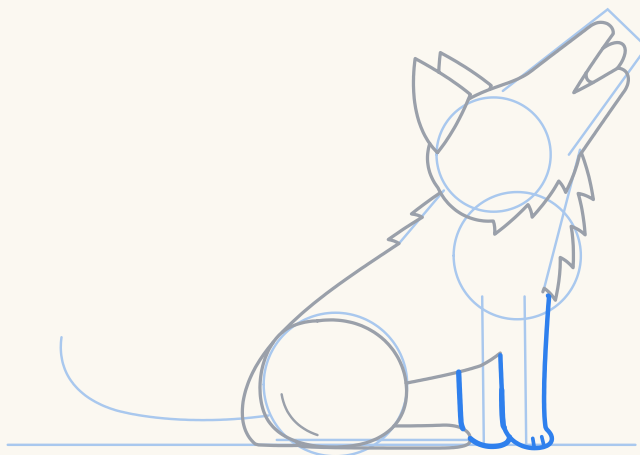
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Sitting wolves fold their back legs into a big rounded thigh, so draw a large egg shape over the hip circle, a bit wider at the front. Below it, the hind foot lies flat on the rock and pokes forward like a long slipper. Add one curved line inside the thigh near the bottom.

 **Tip:** Keep the thigh big. A small one makes the wolf look like it's about to tip over.

STEP 6 Add the straight front legs

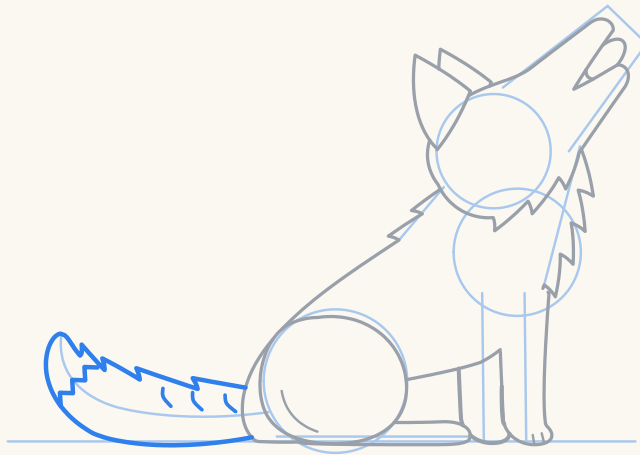
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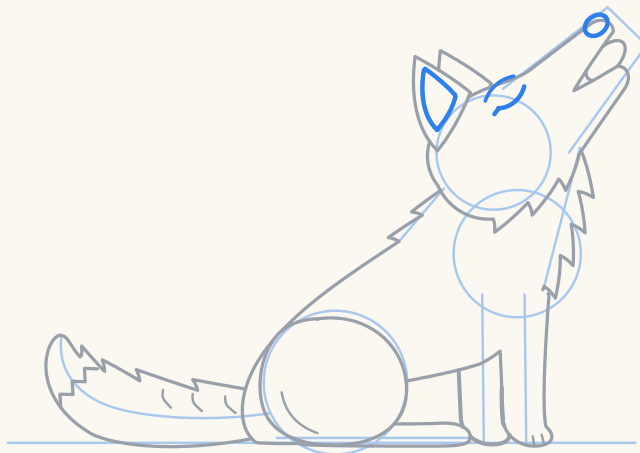
Front legs on a sitting wolf are straight, like two columns holding the chest up. Draw the near leg around its guide, a little wider at the top, ending in a paw with a soft bump at the front. The far leg sits a step behind and only its visible edges get drawn.

 **Tip:** Let the near paw overlap the far one slightly. It instantly says which leg is closer.

STEP 7 Draw a bushy tail with a dark tip

This tail rests on the rock and curls up at the end. Draw the bottom edge as a smooth curve along the rock and the top edge as a row of fur points. Near the curled end, zigzag a line across the tail to mark the dark tip, then add three tiny fur flicks along it.

 **Tip:** If the tail looks thin, widen the middle. A wolf tail is fattest halfway along.

STEP 8 Draw the closed eye and nose

Because the wolf is howling, I close its eye. A short curve that dips down, with a tiny flick at the back, does the job, and a soft brow line goes just above it. Put an oval nose on the very tip of the upper jaw. Finish with a smaller pointed shape inside the near ear.

 **Tip:** Place the eye where the muzzle meets the skull, not in the middle of the head.

STEP 9 Mark the cream and dark fur

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Gray wolves are lighter underneath. Run a line from the nose along the side of the muzzle, under the eye and down the neck to show where the cream fur starts. On the chest, end that cream bib with a few small zigzags. Then draw a long curve just inside the back line for the darker saddle fur.

 **Tip:** Keep the saddle line close to the back. A wide stripe looks like a coat.

STEP 10 Add the rock and a full moon

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Draw the rock as a long slab with rounded corners, then a wavy line across it to split the top from the front face, and a few short cracks. On the right, draw a big circle for the full moon with four craters. Scatter a handful of small four-pointed stars in the empty spaces.

 **Tip:** Trace something round, like a cup or tape roll, if your moon circle keeps wobbling.

STEP 11 Ink the lines and erase the guides

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Go over every keeper line with the black fineliner. I ink the head and ruff first, since that's where the detail is, and work down toward the tail and rock. Skip the circles, the muzzle box and the stick lines. Once the ink is dry, erase the pencil.

Tip: Draw each zigzag tuft in two quick strokes. Slow, shaky tufts look nervous.

STEP 12 Color your howling wolf

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Color the whole wolf medium gray first. Use dark gray for the saddle on the back, the far leg and the far ear, and black for the nose and tail tip. Keep the muzzle and throat cream, along with the chest bib. Give the open mouth dark red, the moon and stars pale yellow, and the rock blue gray with a darker front face.

Tip: Color the moon before the wolf so yellow never smudges into the gray fur.