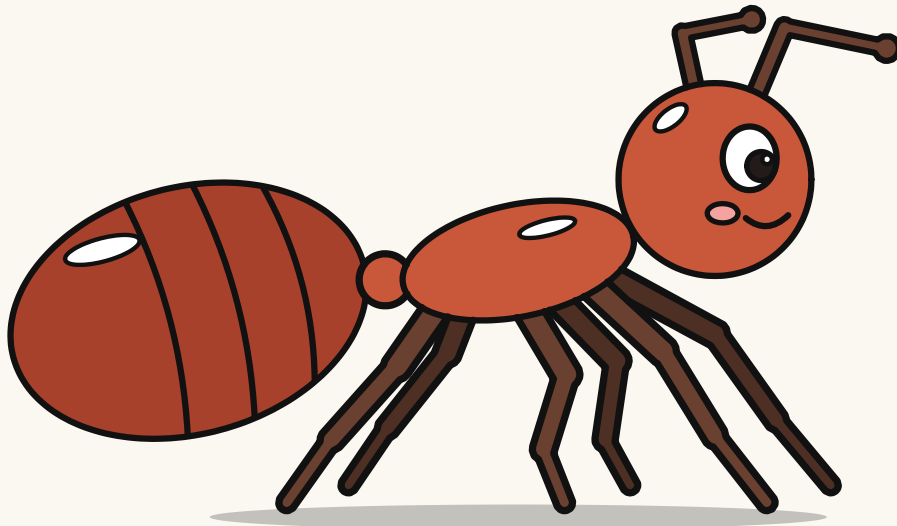


How to Draw an Ant

11 easy steps for beginners



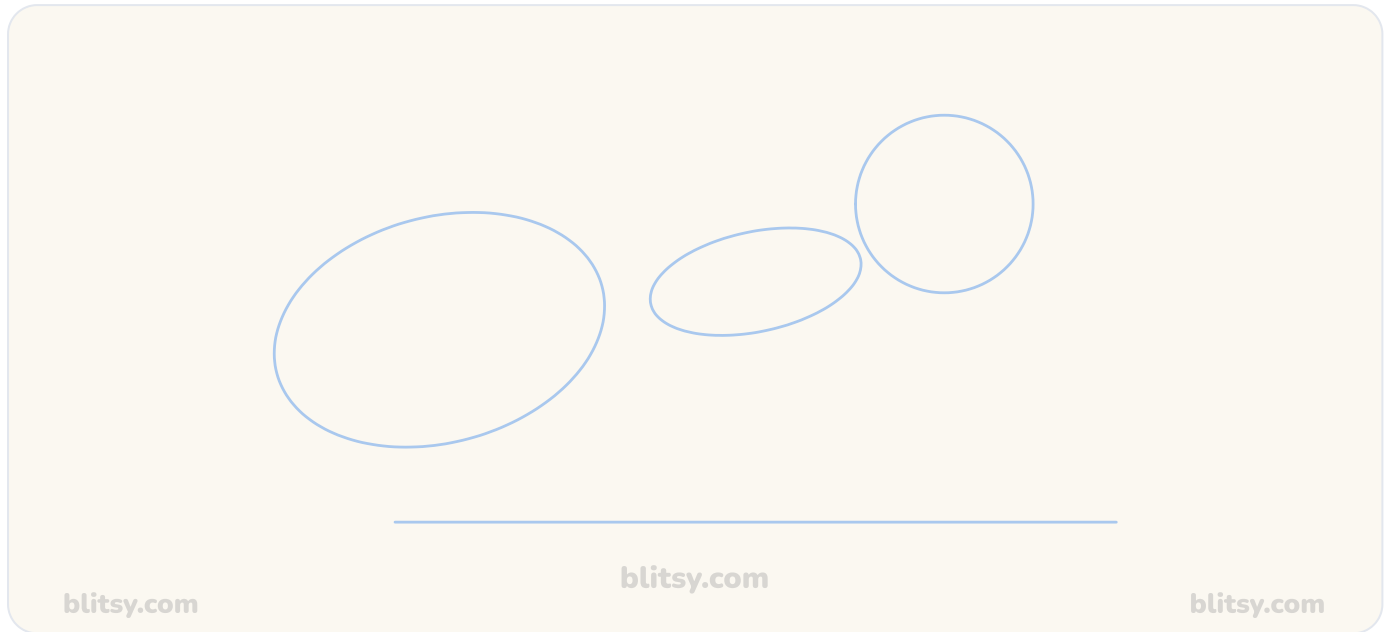
What you'll need

- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black fineliner
- Colored pencils or crayons
- Plain paper

How to use this guide

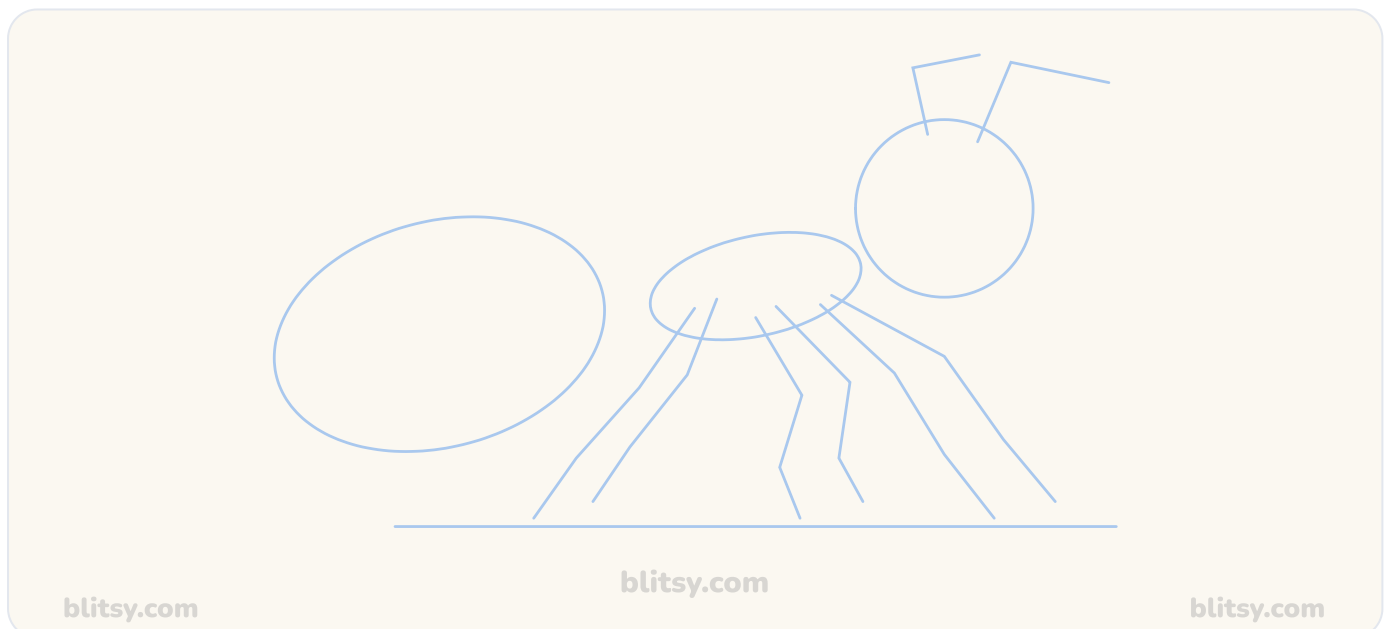
New lines for each step are shown in **blue**; lines you already drew are gray. Draw lightly first, then ink and erase near the end.

[Read the full tutorial online →](#)

STEP 1 Sketch three body guide shapes

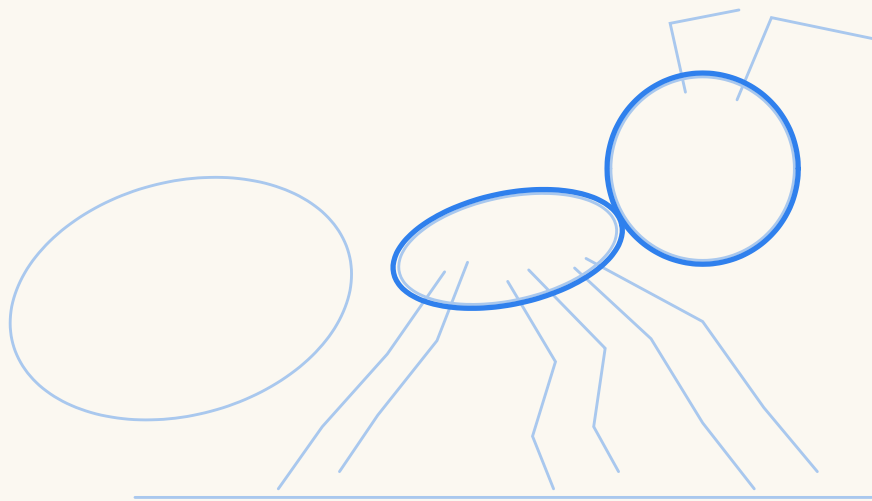
Start with a long, light ground line near the bottom of the page. Above it, draw three shapes in a row: a big tilted oval on the left for the abdomen, a smaller flat oval in the middle for the thorax, and a circle on the right, a little higher, for the head. Leave a small gap between the big oval and the middle one. That gap becomes the waist in step 4.

 **Tip:** Hold the pencil far back from the tip. You'll press more softly without trying.

STEP 2 Add stick legs and antennae

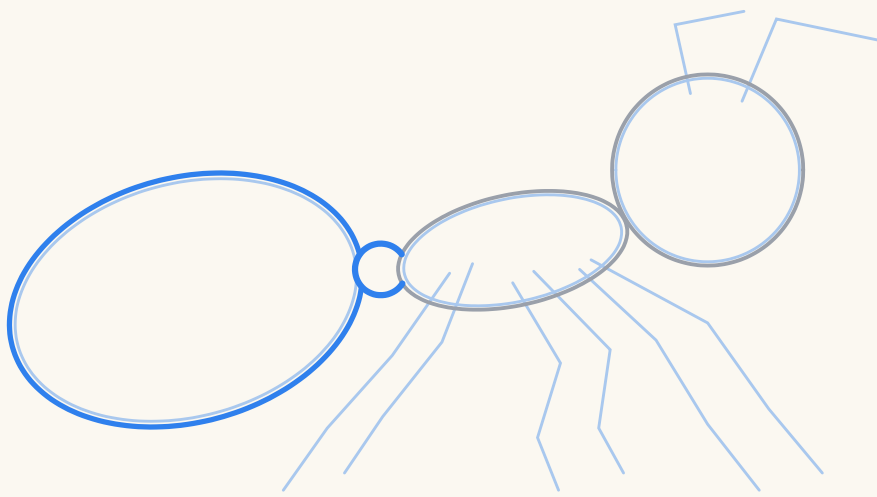
Here's the rule that makes an ant look right: every leg starts on the middle oval. Draw six stick lines from its underside, three on the near side and three more just in front of them for the far side. Bend each stick twice, like a zigzag, so it has a knee and an ankle. On top of the head, draw two sticks that go up and then bend sharply forward.

 **Tip:** Count the sticks out loud as you draw them. Six is easy to lose track of.

STEP 3 Outline the head and middle section

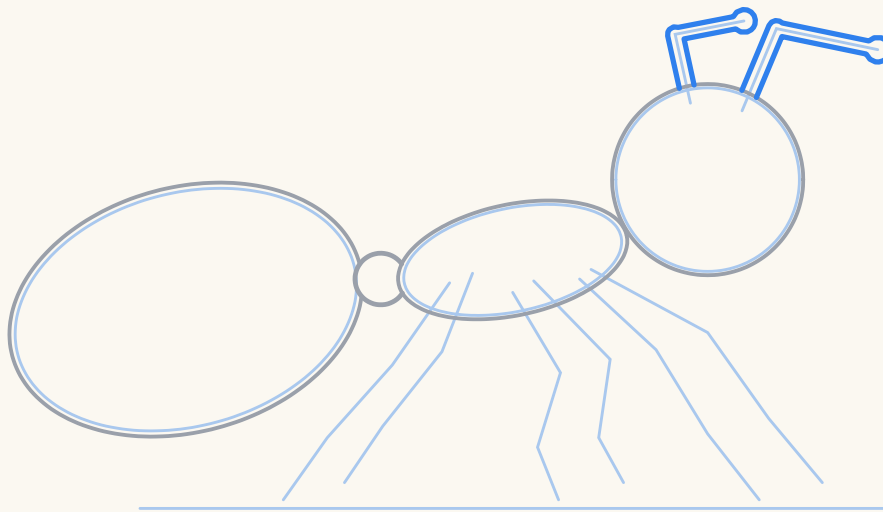
Go over the head circle with a firmer line. Then trace the middle oval, letting its right end tuck just behind the head so the two shapes touch. I tilt this oval slightly upward toward the head, because a flat thorax makes the ant look like it's slumping.

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

STEP 4 Draw the waist and the big abdomen

In the gap between the middle oval and the big one, draw a small circle that touches both. This bead is the ant's narrow waist, and it's the detail that stops your ant from looking like a bug or a beetle. Now outline the big oval for the abdomen. Keep it the largest shape on the page, roughly twice the size of the head.

 **Tip:** Make the waist bead small. A big one turns the ant into a string of beads.

STEP 5 Turn the sticks into two bent antennae

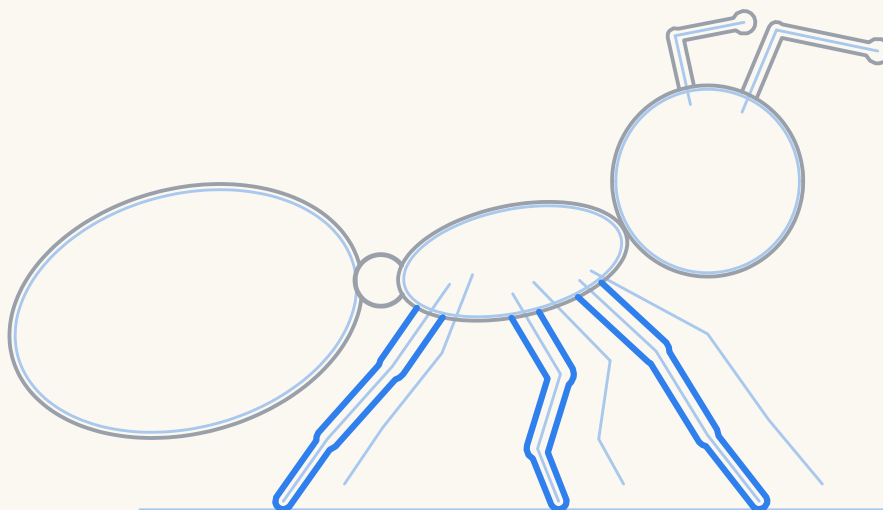
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Thicken each antenna stick into a narrow tube by drawing a line on both sides of it. Follow the elbow: up first, then a sharp turn forward. Finish each one with a small round knob at the tip. Let the near antenna be a little longer, which adds depth for free.

Tip: Draw the outside edge of the elbow first. The inside edge is easier to fit after that.

STEP 6 Draw the three near-side legs

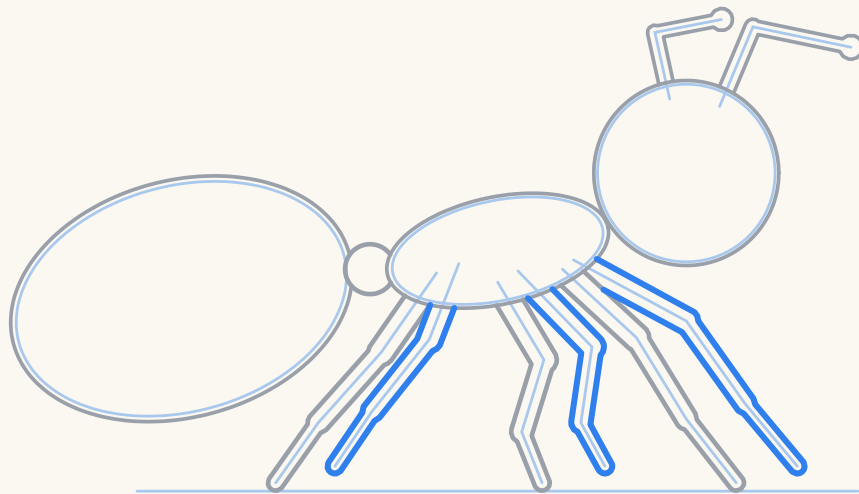
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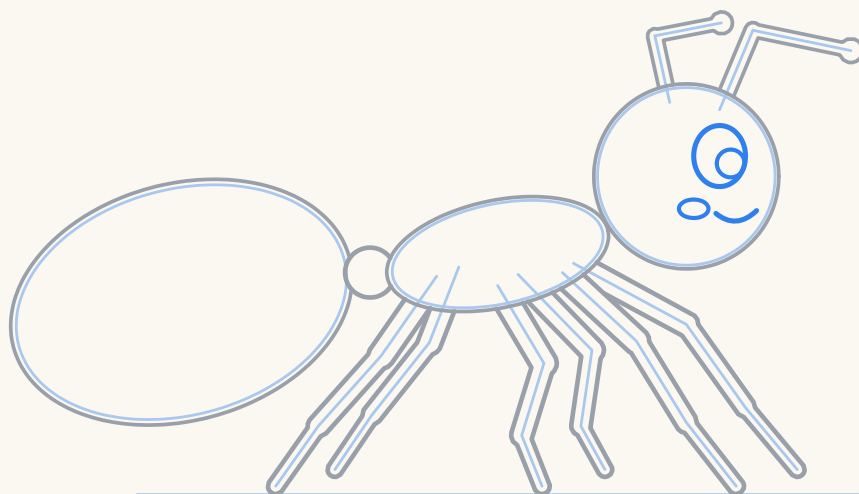
Wrap a tube around the three closest leg sticks, the ones that reach the ground line. Start each leg right at the bottom edge of the middle oval and leave out any line inside the body. Make the top part of each leg a bit thicker and let it taper toward the foot, with a small bump at each bend. The front leg reaches forward, the middle one stands under the body, and the back one stretches behind.

Tip: Thin feet and thick thighs look natural. Keep the width shrinking as you go down.

STEP 7 Add the three far-side legs

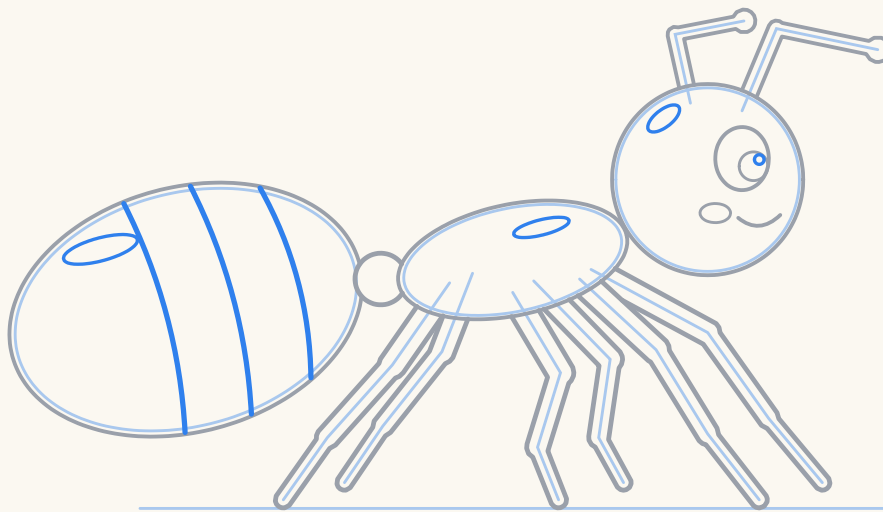
The other three legs sit just in front of the first ones and stop a little higher, because they're farther away from us. Wherever a near leg crosses in front, stop your line at its edge instead of drawing through. Most beginners skip the far legs or draw all six from one point. Spread them along the body and the ant suddenly stands properly.

 **Tip:** Lift the pencil where a far leg disappears behind a near one.

STEP 8 Draw the eye, smile and cheek

Place one tall oval eye in the upper right part of the head, since we only see one side of the face. Add a round pupil inside it, pushed toward the front so the ant looks where it's walking. Under the eye, draw a short curved smile near the front of the head and a small flat oval for a cheek just behind it.

 **Tip:** Keep the smile short. A wide grin crowds the little head fast.

STEP 9 Add stripes and shine marks

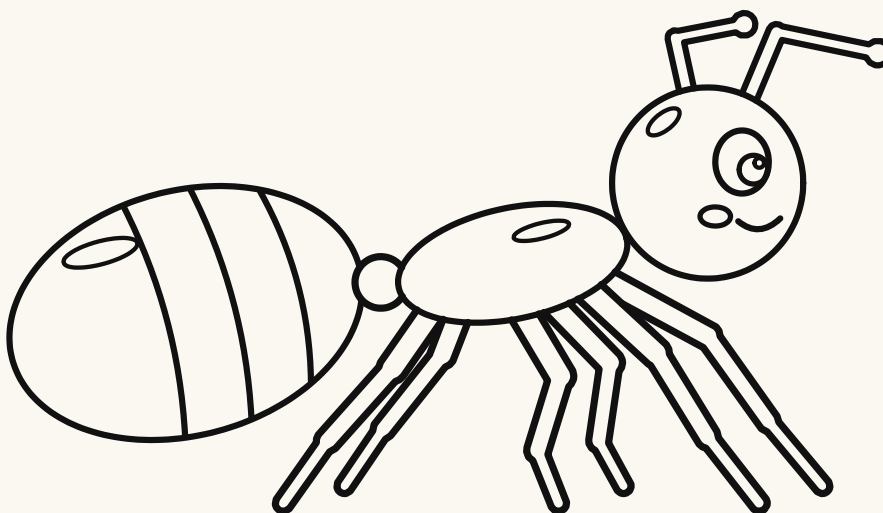
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Draw three curved lines across the abdomen, each running from the top edge to the bottom edge and bowing slightly toward the waist. These are the ring segments real ants have. Then add a few small, thin ovals for shine: one on the abdomen, one on the thorax, one on the head, plus a dot in the eye. They make the shell look glossy.

 **Tip:** Put every shine mark on the upper left so the light seems to come from one place.

STEP 10 Ink the lines and erase the guides

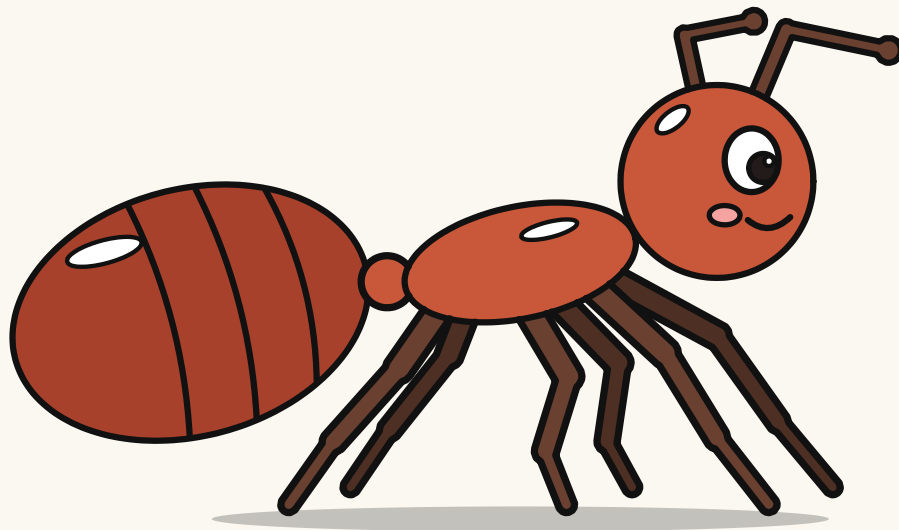
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Trace all the final lines with your fineliner. I ink the legs slowly, one edge at a time, since they're the easiest place to wobble. Leave the guide ovals and leg sticks alone. Once the ink is fully dry, rub out the pencil so only the clean outline remains.

 **Tip:** Wait a full minute before erasing. Fresh ink smears into a gray mess.

STEP 11 Color your ant

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Color the head and the middle section a warm red, waist included, and use a darker red for the big abdomen. The near legs and antennae are brown, while the far-side legs get a deeper brown so they sink into the background. Fill the eye white, the pupil black and the cheek pink. Leave the shine marks white and finish with a soft gray shadow under the feet.

 **Tip:** Press harder on the abdomen than on the head. That alone gives you the darker red.