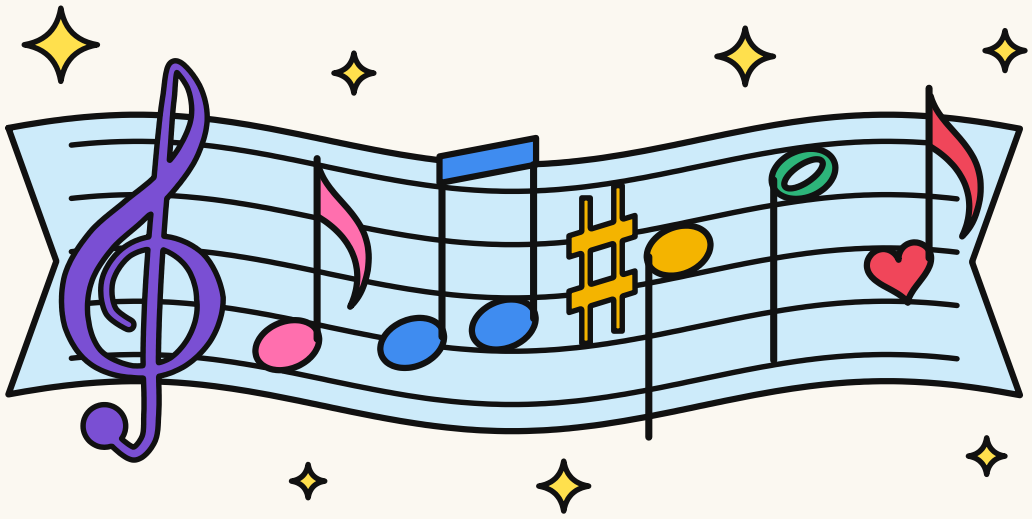
# How to Draw Music Notes

12 easy steps for beginners




## What you'll need

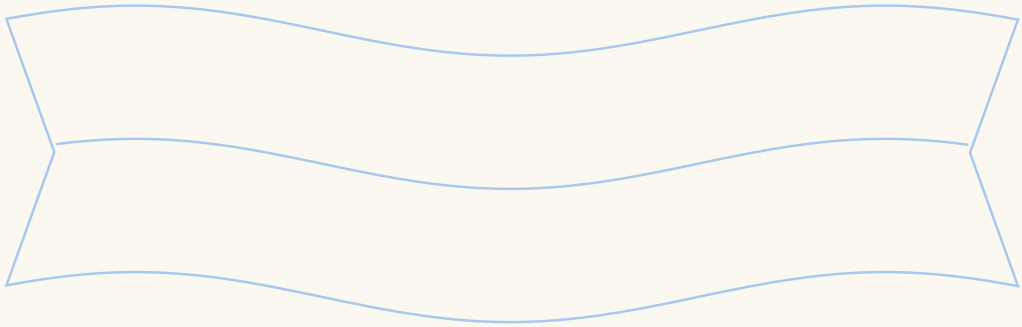
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black fineliner
- Colored pencils or markers
- Plain paper

## 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 wavy line and a ribbon



Turn your paper sideways and draw one long, gentle wave across the middle. Draw a matching wave above it and another below it to make a ribbon, then cut both ends with a V-shaped notch. I keep the wave soft on purpose, because steep hills would tip every note sideways later.

💡 **Tip:** Press lightly enough that one swipe of the eraser would clear it.

## STEP 2 Add five evenly spaced staff lines



A music staff always has five lines and four spaces. Your first wave becomes the middle line. Add two lines above it and two below, following the same curve, and stop them a little short of the notches. Equal gaps matter most here, since every note head has to fit snugly into one space.

💡 **Tip:** Mark five spacing dots at the left, the middle and the right, then join them up.

## STEP 3 Sketch the treble clef in four parts



Near the left end, draw a tall, slightly leaning line from above the staff to well below it. From its top, curl a narrow loop down to the right so it crosses the line near the fourth staff line. Keep sweeping left and down into a round spiral that wraps around the second line from the bottom. That line is the note G, which is why this symbol is also called the G clef. Hook the bottom of the tall line to the left and add a small circle.

💡 **Tip:** Say it out loud as you go: line, loop, spiral, curl.

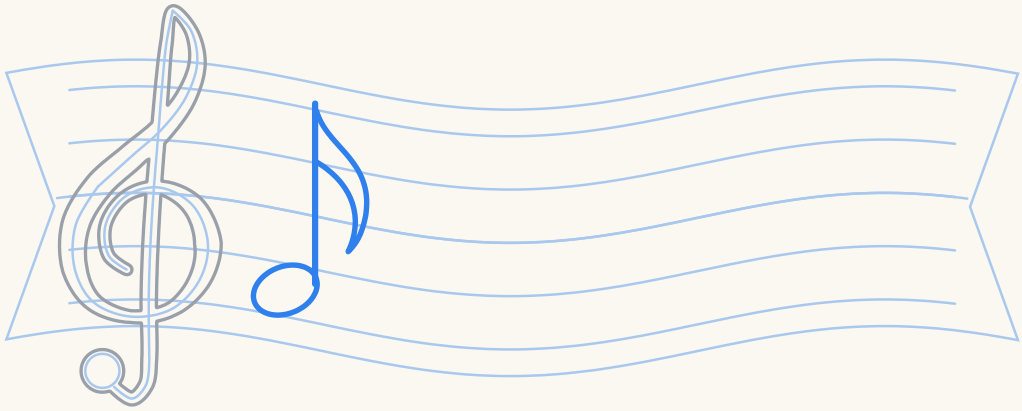
## STEP 4 Thicken the clef into one shape



Trace a second line around your sketch to give the clef weight. Make it wide on the curved sides of the spiral and on the stroke that slants down through the staff, and thin at the pointed top and in the inner curl. When I teach this, I tell kids the thick and thin rhythm is what makes a clef look printed. Round the end circle into a solid dot.

💡 **Tip:** Turn the page as you work so your hand can follow the spiral.

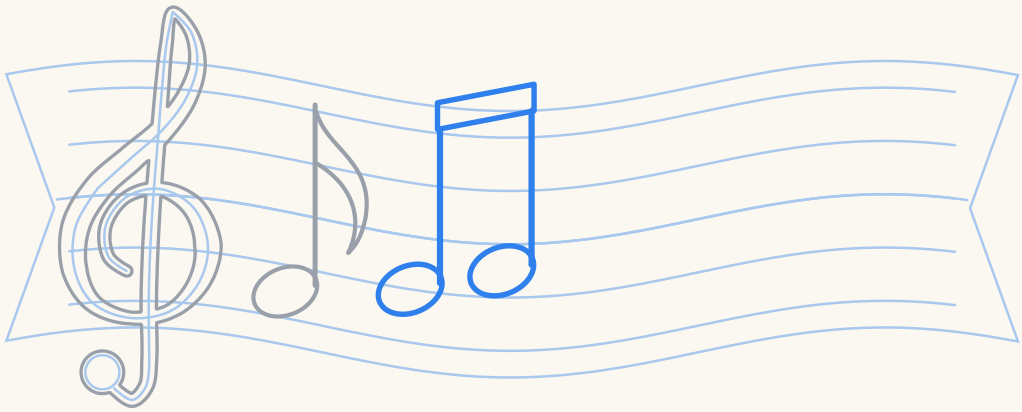
## STEP 5 Draw a single eighth note



Put a tilted oval in the first space from the bottom; with a treble clef, that space is the note F. Tip it up to the right, like an egg resting on a slope. It sits below the middle line, so its stem rises from the right side of the head, about three and a half spaces tall. Add a flag that curves down to the right.

💡 **Tip:** Flags always wave to the right, whichever way the stem points.

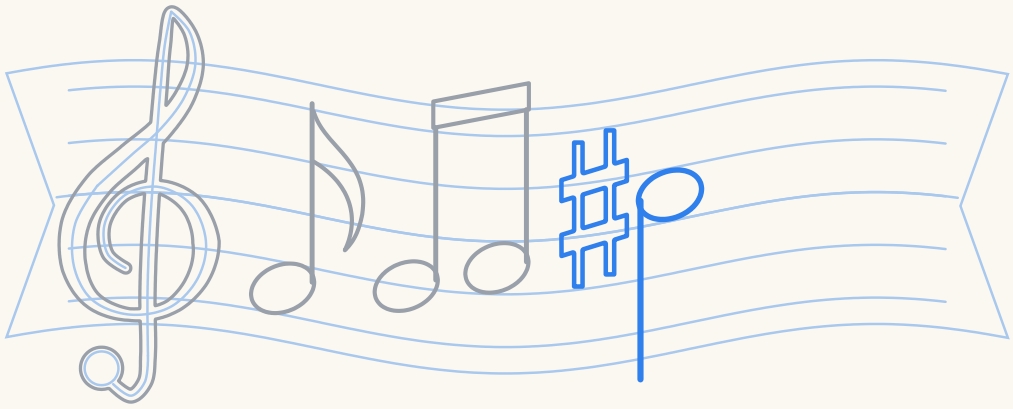
## STEP 6 Join two eighth notes with a beam



Two eighth notes side by side usually share a beam instead of two flags. Draw one head on the second line and the next one a step higher, in the space above it. Raise both stems from the right side, then connect their tops with a thick, slanted bar that rises with the second note.

💡 **Tip:** Make the beam about half a space thick so it reads clearly.

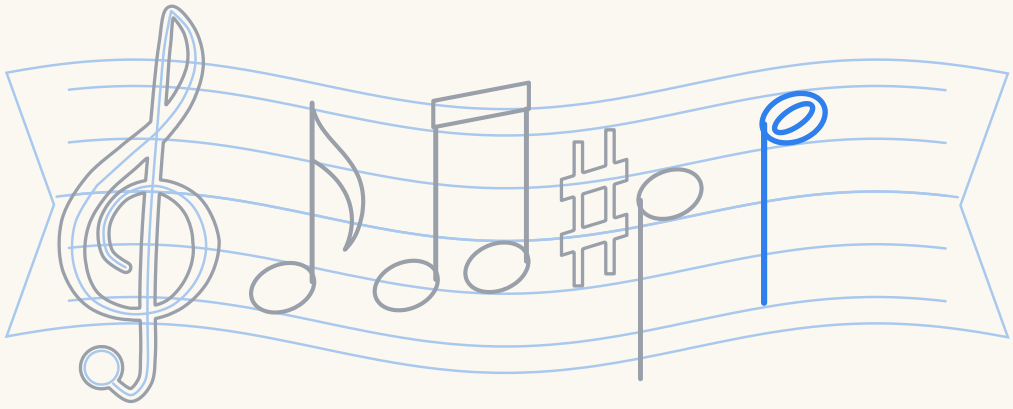
## STEP 7 Add a sharp sign and a quarter note



In the third space, just above the middle line, draw a filled oval for a quarter note. Since it sits higher than the middle, the stem flips and hangs down from the left side of the head. Just before it, draw a sharp: two upright lines crossed by two thick bars that climb to the right. The little box in the sharp must sit in the same space as its note.

💡 **Tip:** Leave a small gap between the sharp and the note so neither one looks crowded.

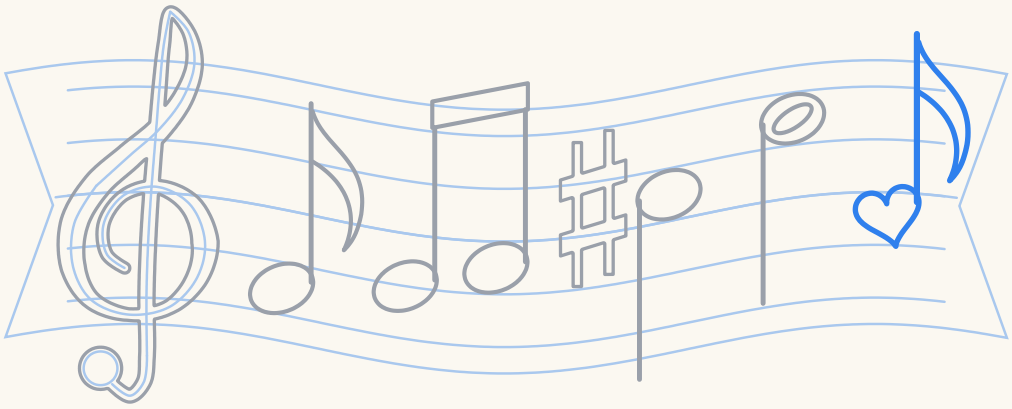
## STEP 8 Draw a hollow half note



A half note is shaped like a quarter note, but its head stays empty. Draw the tilted oval in the top space, then a slim slanted oval inside it for the hole. It's high on the staff, so the stem goes down on the left again. The open head tells a musician to hold the sound for two beats instead of one.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the inner hole narrow; a big round hole turns the head into a ring.

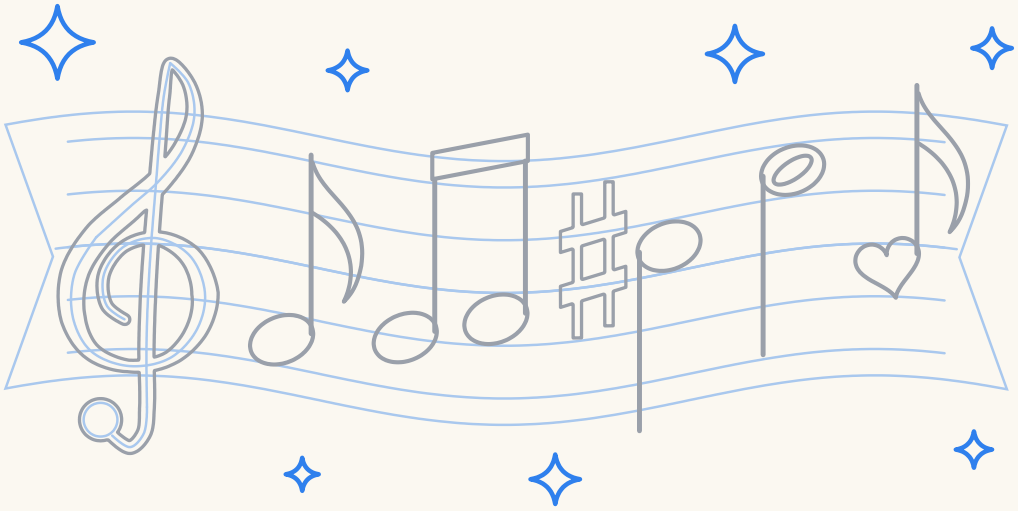
## STEP 9 Add a heart-shaped note for fun



Close to the right end, swap the oval for a small heart in the second space from the bottom. Give it an up stem on the right side and a flag like your first eighth note. Real sheet music never uses hearts, but because the stem and flag follow the usual rules, it still looks at home. Keep the heart about the size of the other heads.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the two bumps of the heart first, then bring both sides down to the point.

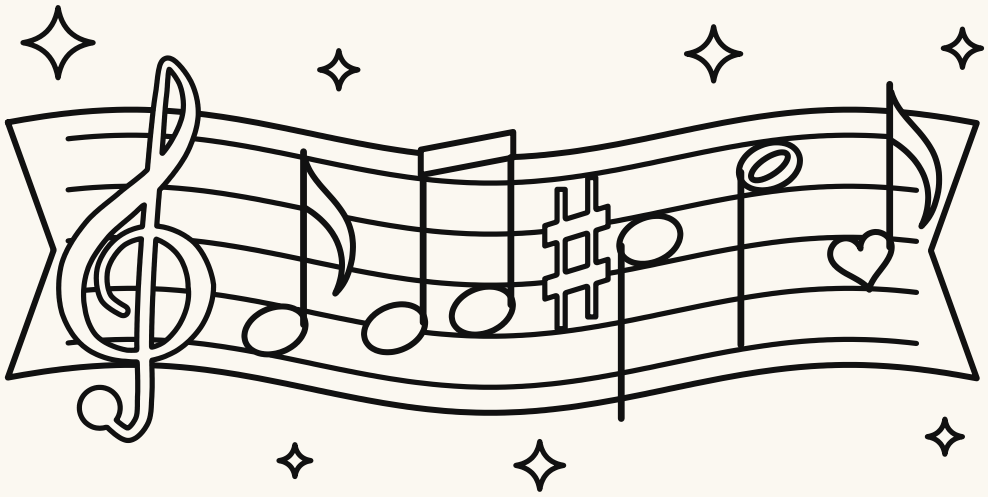
## STEP 10 Sprinkle some sparkles



Fill the empty corners above and below the ribbon with four-point twinkles, each one four sharp points joined by inward curves. I mix one big sparkle with several small ones and keep them clear of the stems and flags.

💡 **Tip:** Scatter them unevenly; a tidy row of sparkles looks like wallpaper.

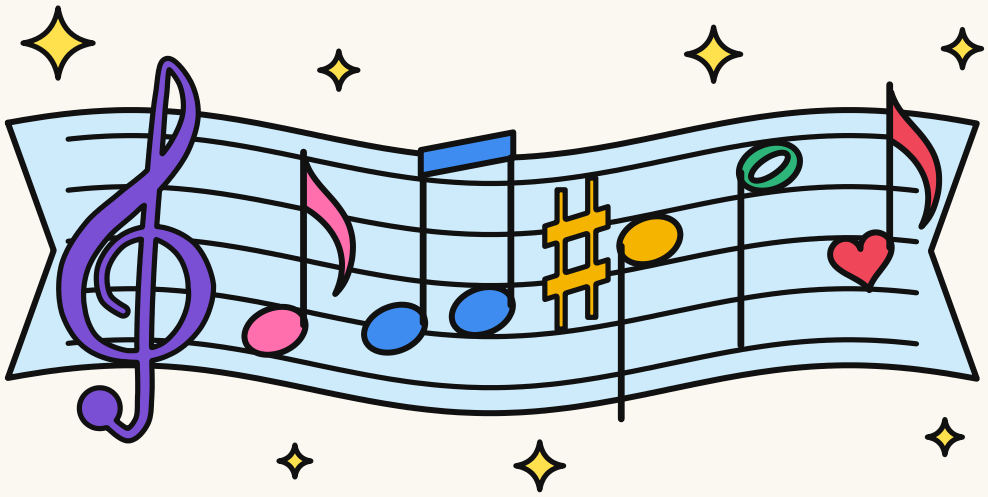
## STEP 11 Ink the lines and erase the guides



Trace the keeper lines with a black pen: the ribbon edges, the staff lines, the clef and every note. My trick for a clean result is simple. When a staff line reaches a note head, a flag, the beam, the sharp or the outside of the clef, lift the pen and start again on the other side. Stems may cross the lines. Once the ink is dry, erase all the pencil.

💡 **Tip:** Ink the staff lines last, once you can see exactly where each symbol interrupts them.

## STEP 12 Color the ribbon and the notes



Shade the ribbon light blue first, since a pale background makes bright notes pop. Then give each symbol its own color: purple clef, pink eighth note, blue beamed pair, gold sharp and quarter note, green half note rim and a red heart. Leave the half note's hole light blue and finish the sparkles in yellow.

💡 **Tip:** Keep your strokes going one direction on the ribbon for a smooth, streak-free blue.