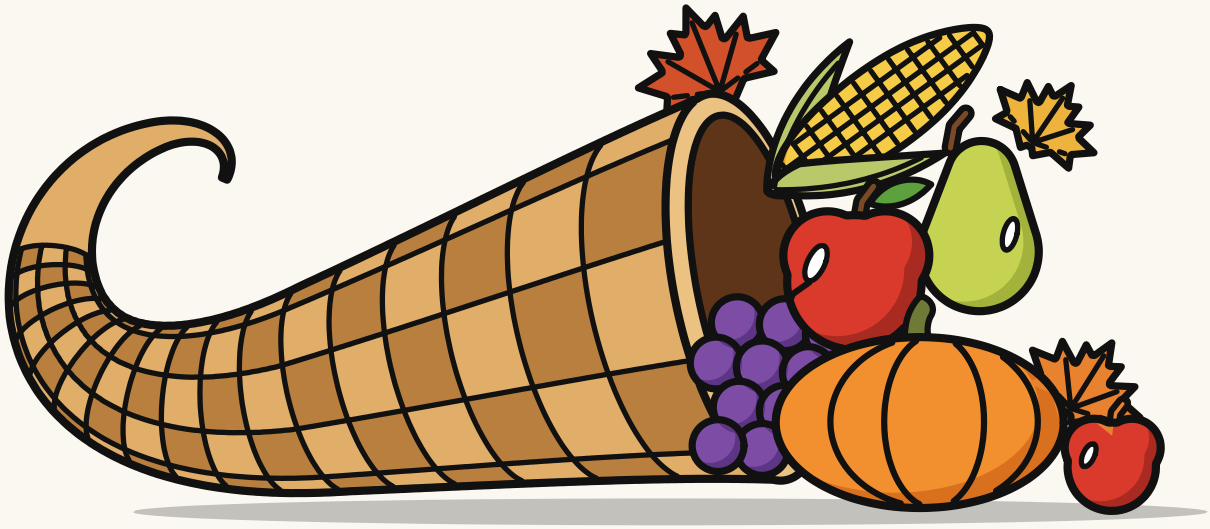
How to Draw a Cornucopia

12 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

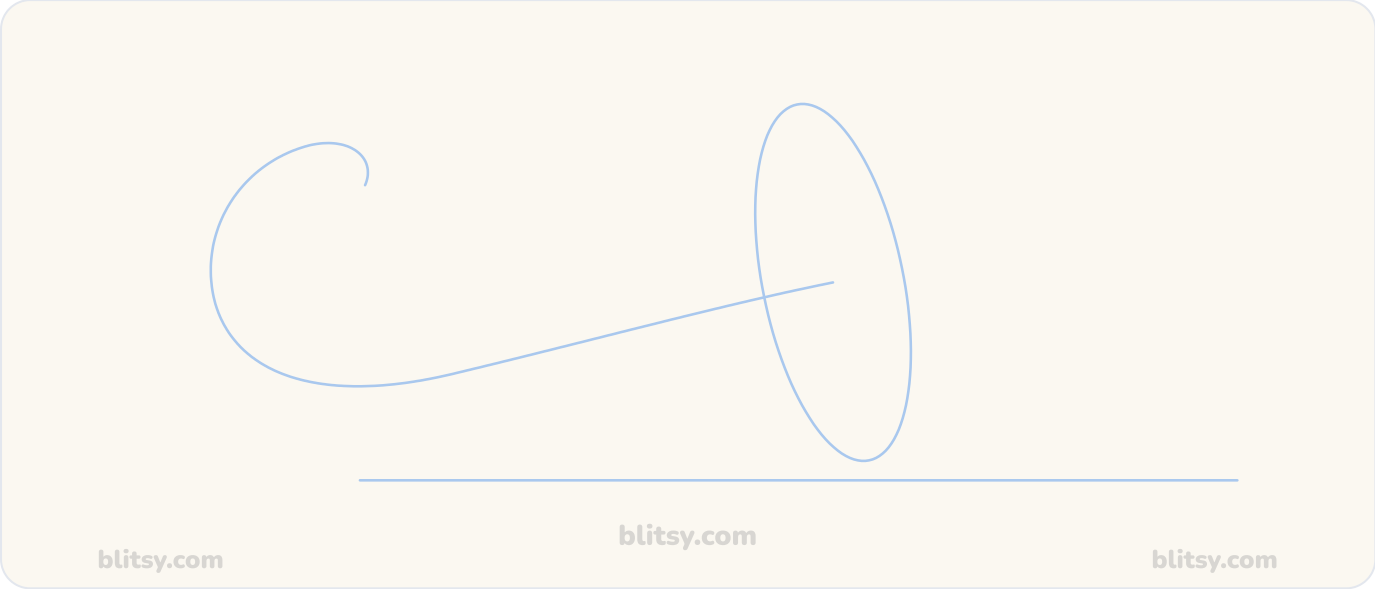
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black marker
- Colored pencils or crayons
- Plain paper

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 →

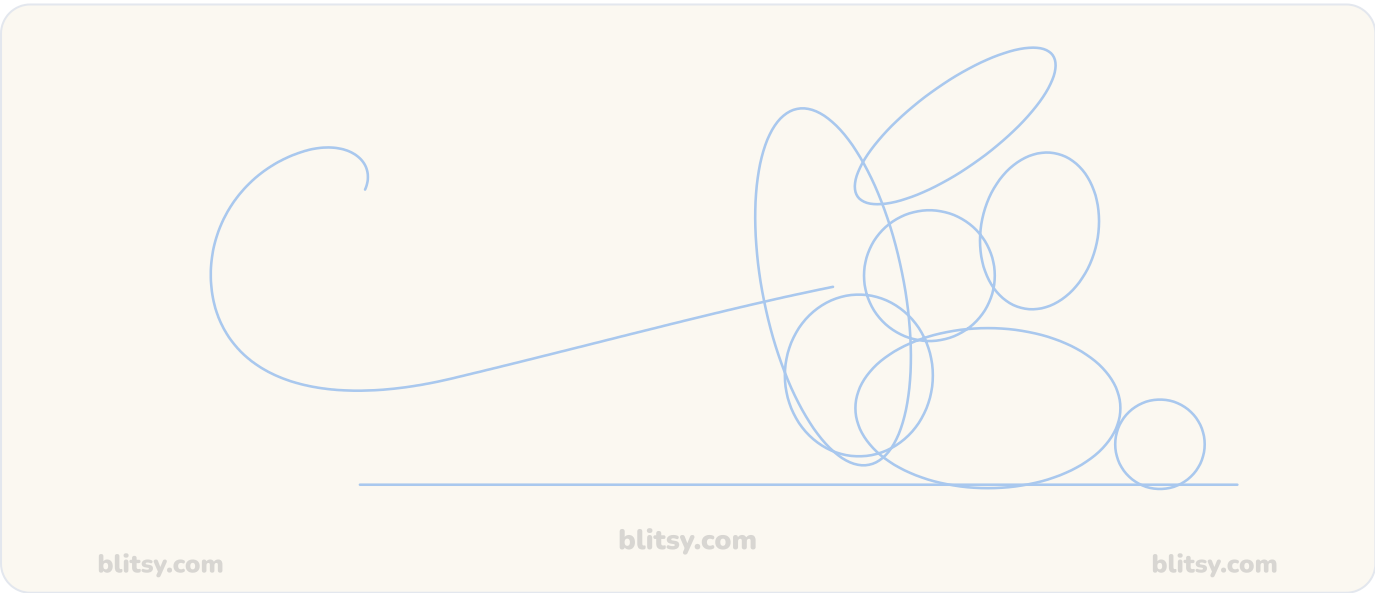
STEP 1 Sketch the curved spine and the mouth oval



Press lightly for this whole step. Draw a ground line near the bottom of the page. Then draw the spine of the horn: a gently sloping line running left that curls up and over like the top of a question mark. At its right end, draw a tall, narrow oval that leans back a little. That's the open mouth of the basket.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the oval about twice as tall as it is wide. A round circle makes the horn look like a tube.

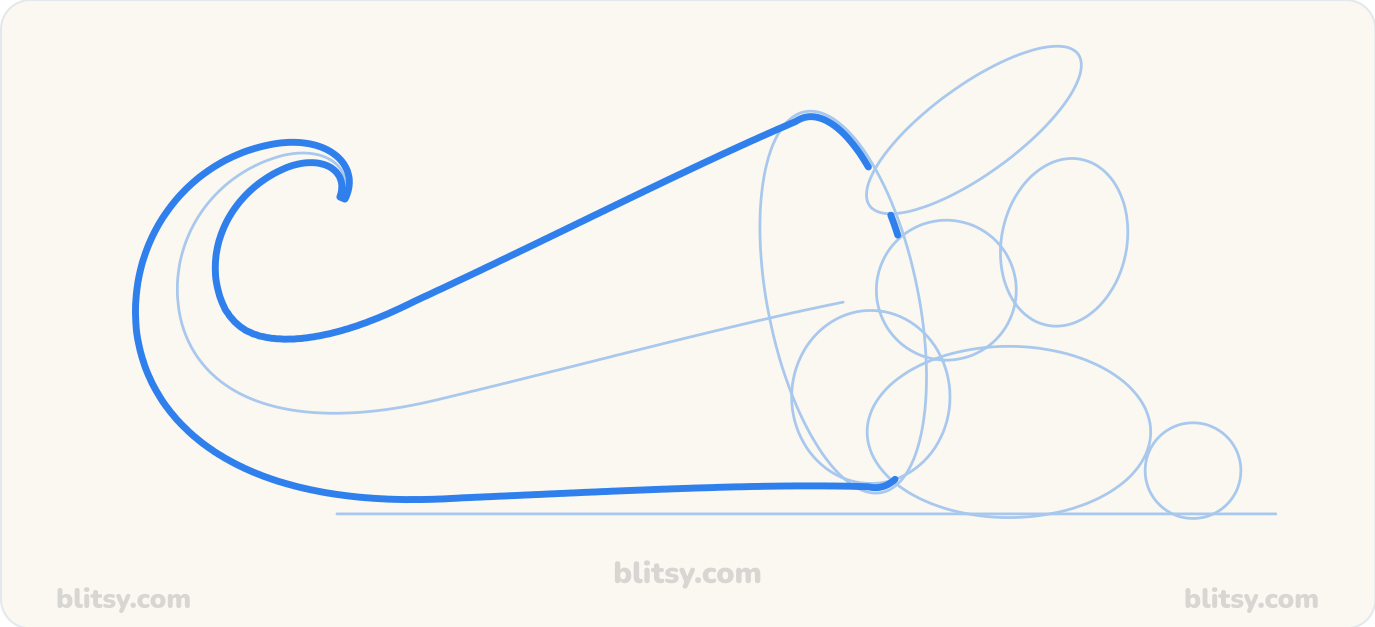
STEP 2 Add circles where the harvest goes



Plan the pile before you draw any fruit. Put a wide, flat oval on the ground in front of the mouth for the pumpkin, a circle above it for an apple, a taller oval to its right for a pear, and a small circle at the far right for a second apple. Add a long slanted oval for the corn and a soft oval on the lower lip for the grapes.

💡 **Tip:** Let the guide shapes overlap each other. Fruit in a real pile always hides part of its neighbors.

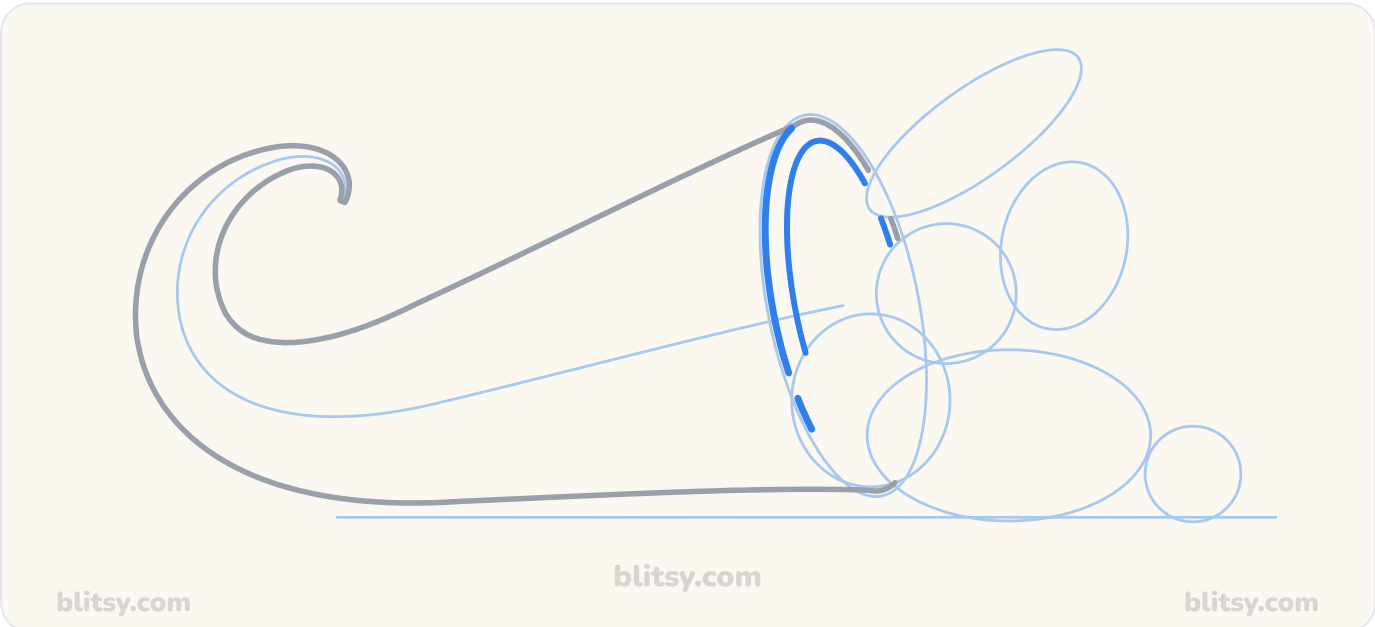
STEP 3 Draw the horn curling to a point



Using the spine as your middle, draw the top and bottom edges of the horn. They start at the ends of the oval, get closer together as they travel left, then wrap around the curl and meet in a small rounded point. The bottom edge rests almost flat on the ground. Stop wherever a line runs into a fruit guide.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the outer edge of the curl first, then the inner one. The gap between them should shrink smoothly.

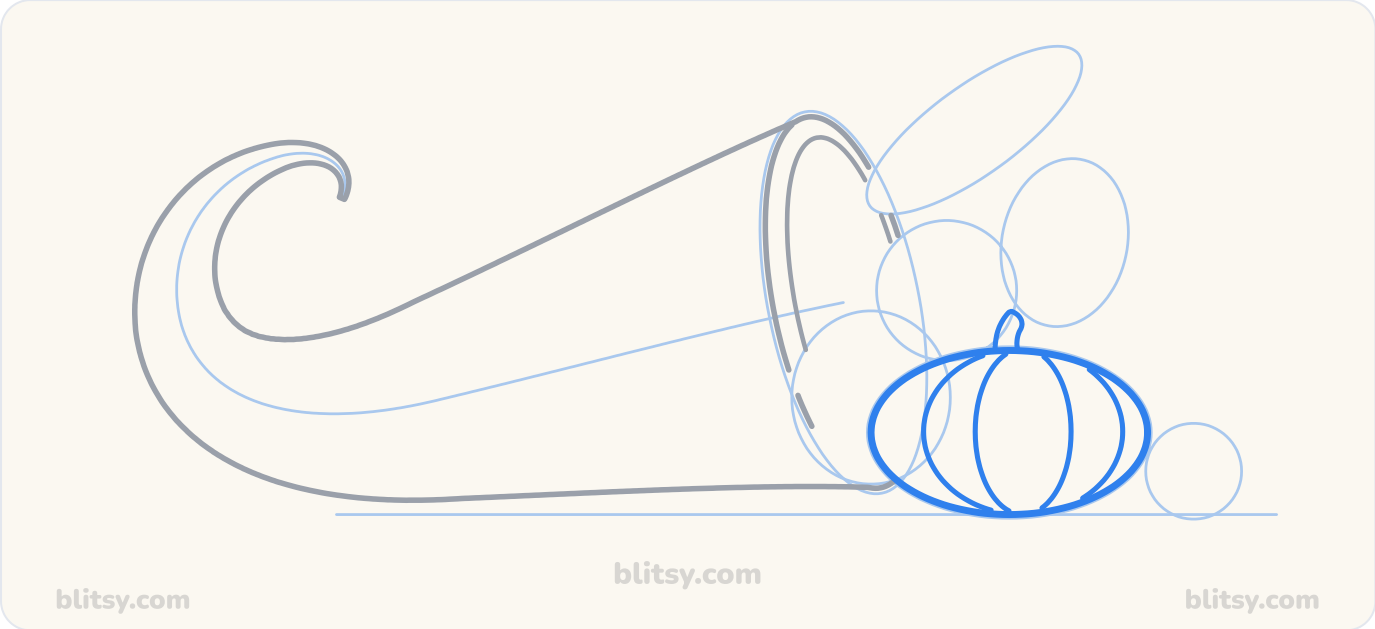
STEP 4 Outline the rim and the dark opening



Go over the mouth oval with a firm line, then draw a slightly smaller oval just inside it. The thin band between them is the rim, and the inner oval is the hollow you can see into. I keep the band a little wider on the left, because that side of the opening faces us.

💡 **Tip:** Skip the parts of both ovals that sit behind the apple and grapes. Short gaps are fine here.

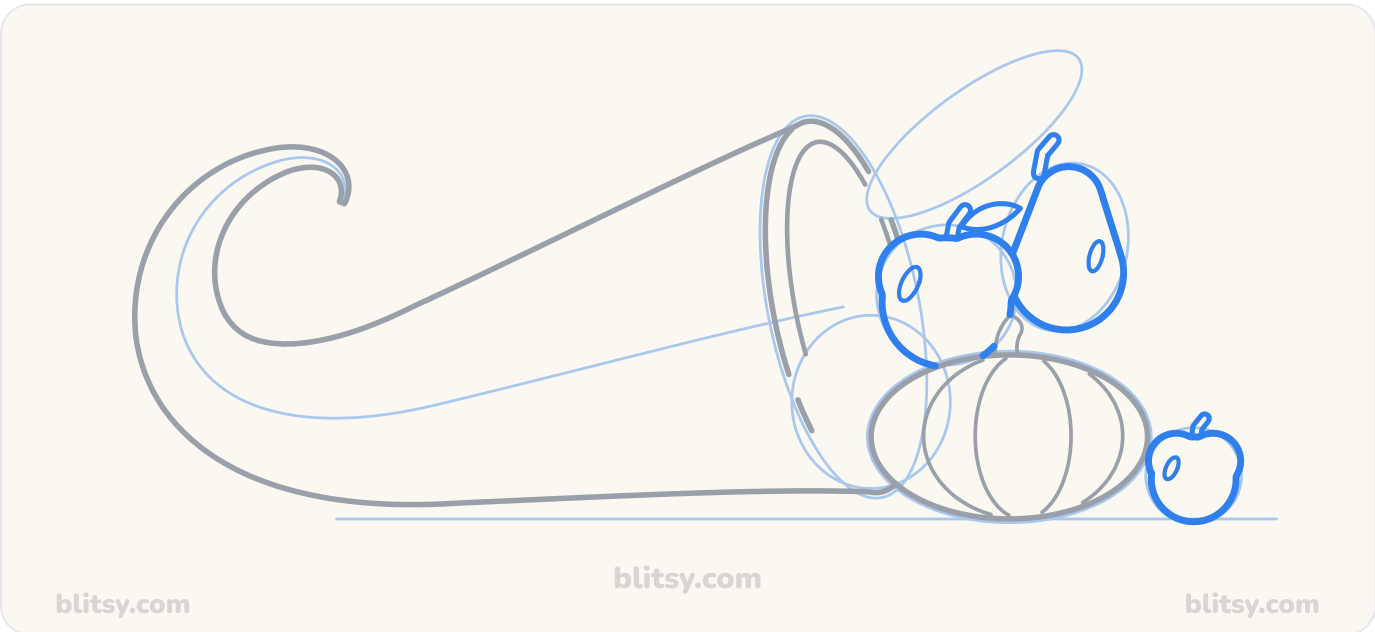
STEP 5 Draw the pumpkin in front



The pumpkin is the front of the pile, so it gets drawn whole. Trace the wide oval on the ground, then add two pairs of curved ribs inside it: a narrow pair near the middle and a wider pair near the sides. A short, thick stem sticks up from the top and leans slightly.

💡 **Tip:** Start every rib at the stem and end it at the bottom center. That's what makes the pumpkin look round instead of striped.

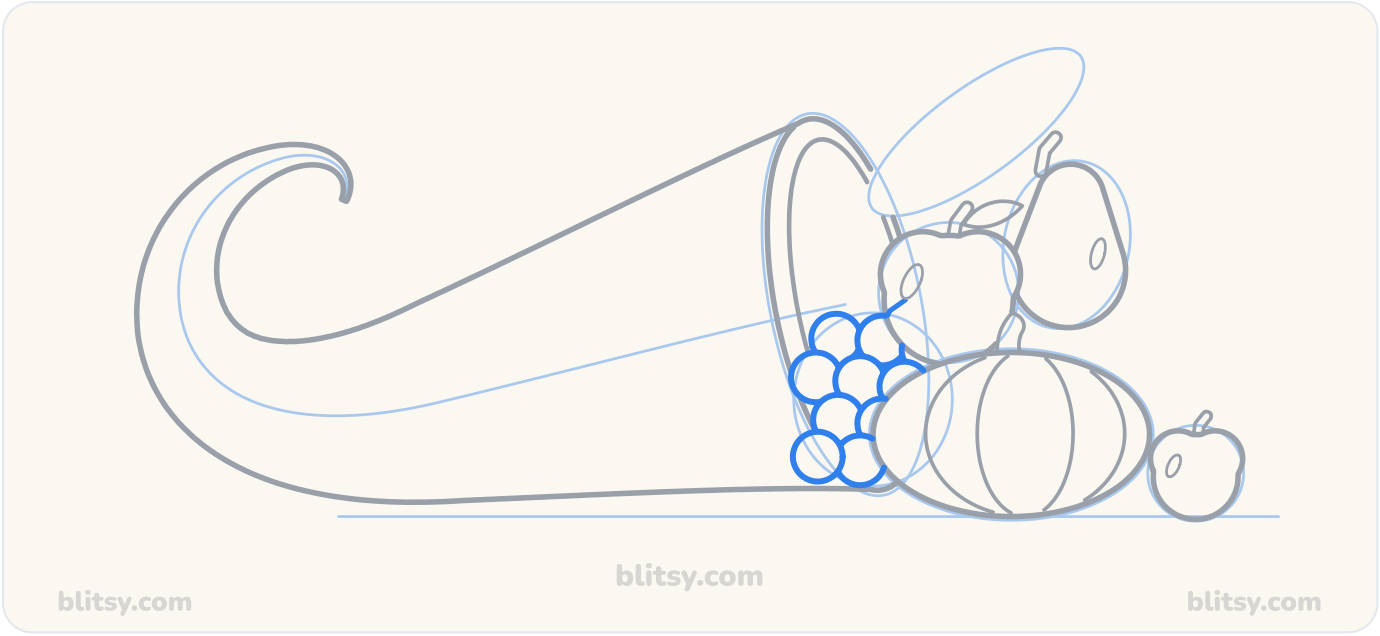
STEP 6 Shape two apples and a pear



Turn the circle above the pumpkin into an apple with a small dip at the top, a stem and a little leaf. Do the same for the small apple on the right. Behind the big apple, draw the pear: a round bottom with a narrower top, leaning slightly right. Add an oval shine on each fruit.

💡 **Tip:** Put every shine on the same side, the upper left here. Mixed shines make the light look confused.

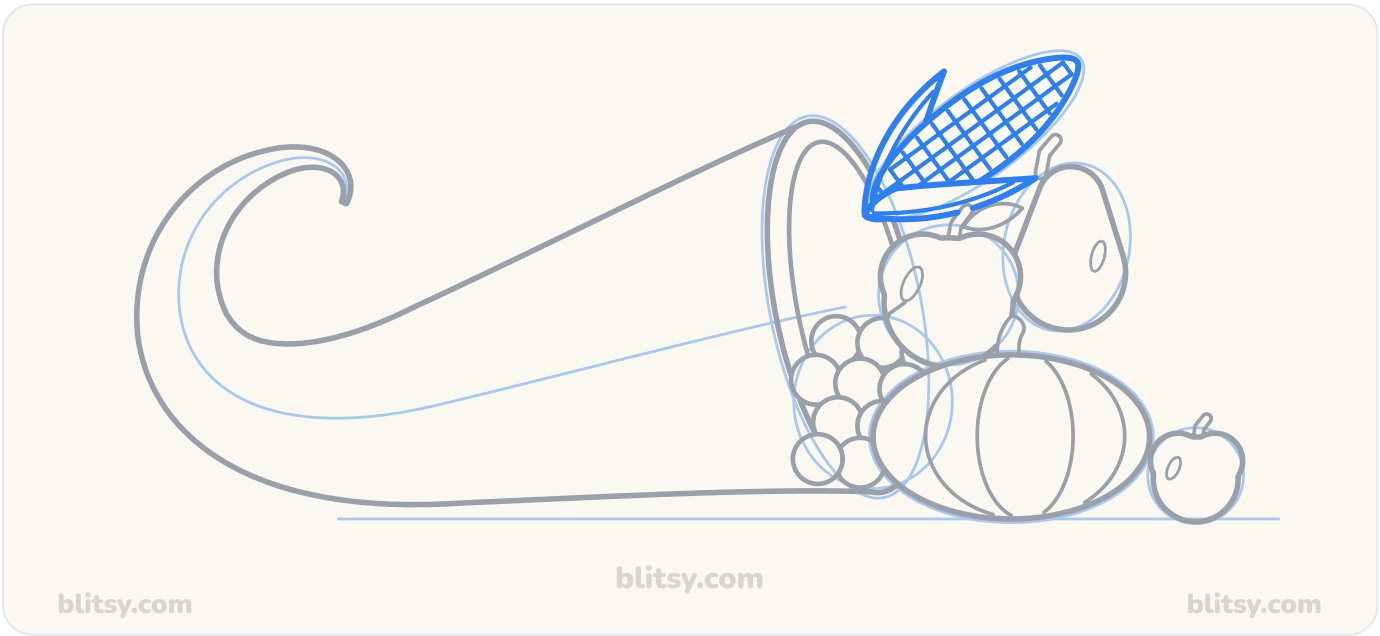
STEP 7 Hang a bunch of grapes over the lip



Fill the grape oval with about ten small circles, stacked in rows that get narrower toward the bottom. The top row sits on the rim and the bunch spills down toward the ground. Draw the front grapes whole first, then only the visible edges of the ones behind.

💡 **Tip:** Make all the grapes roughly the same size. One giant grape looks like a plum got lost in the bunch.

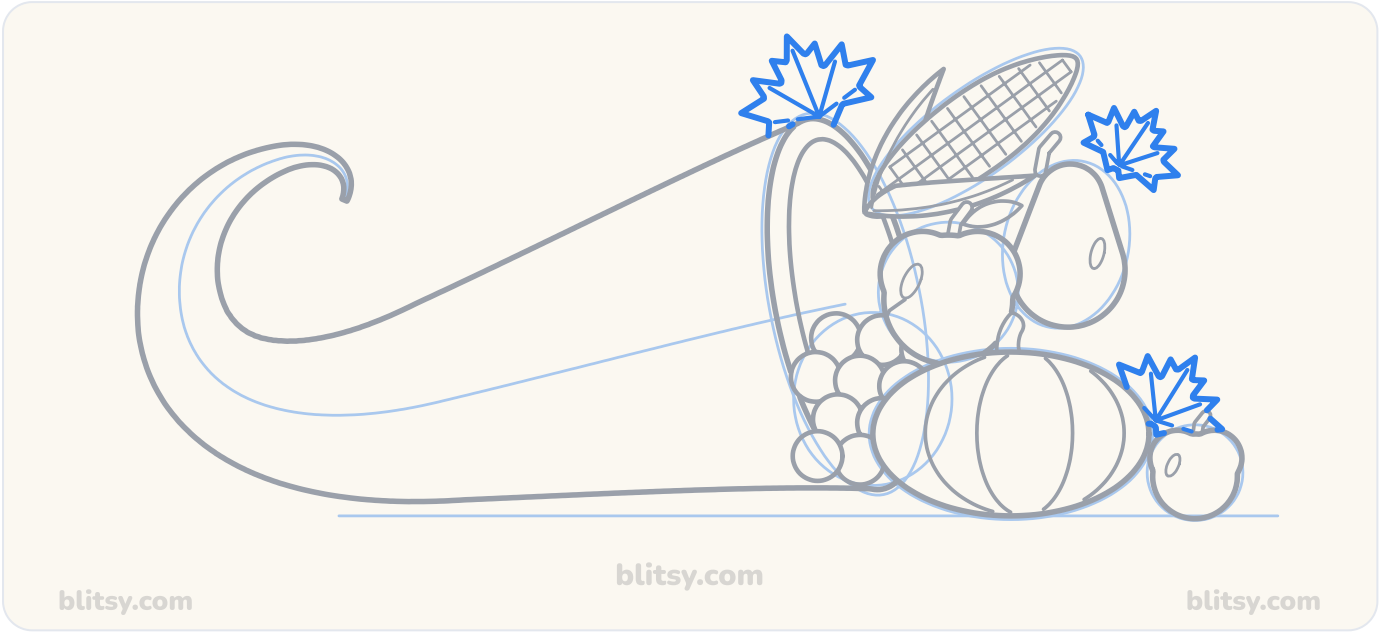
STEP 8 Draw an ear of corn in its husk



Inside the slanted oval, draw the cob with a rounded tip pointing up and to the right. Two husk leaves peel back from its base, one above and one below, each with a line down the middle. Fill the cob with a grid of kernels.

💡 **Tip:** The kernel lines don't need to be perfectly even. Slightly wobbly rows look more like real corn.

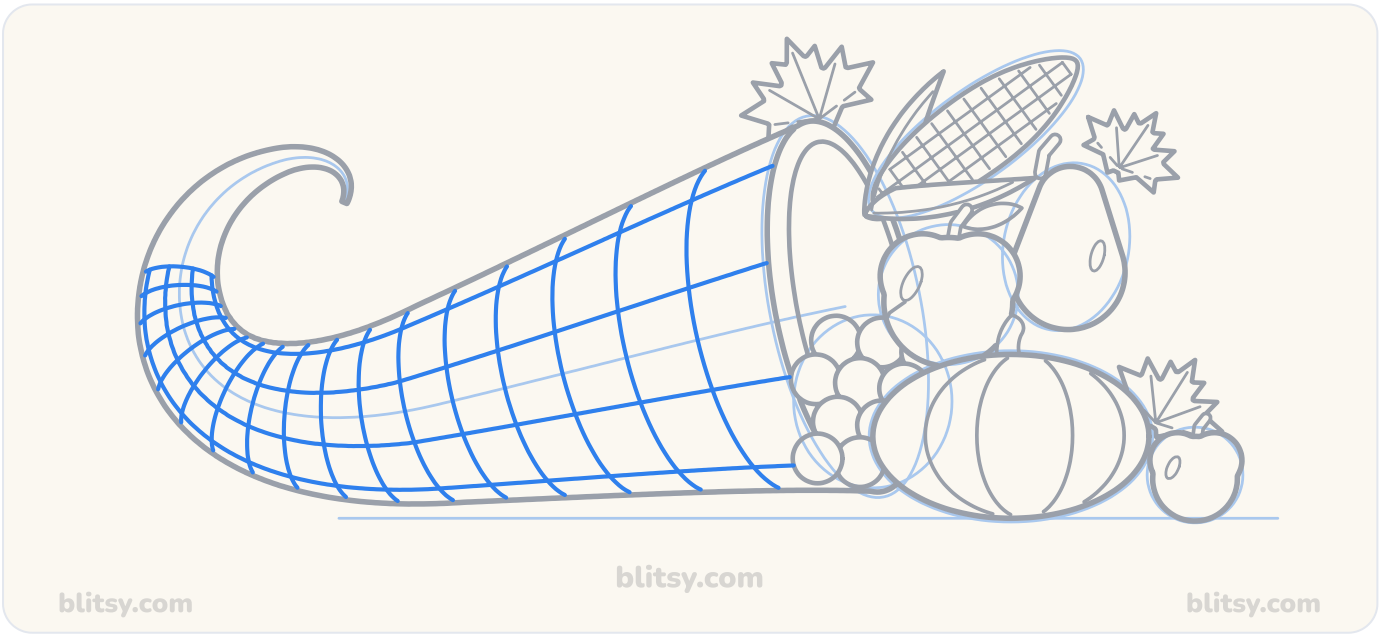
STEP 9 Tuck in a few autumn leaves



Maple leaves fill the gaps. Draw one peeking up behind the rim, one behind the pear, and one between the pumpkin and the small apple. Each has three big pointed lobes on top and two smaller side lobes, plus a few vein lines.

💡 **Tip:** Draw only the part of each leaf that sticks out. Tucked-in leaves make the pile look full and cozy.

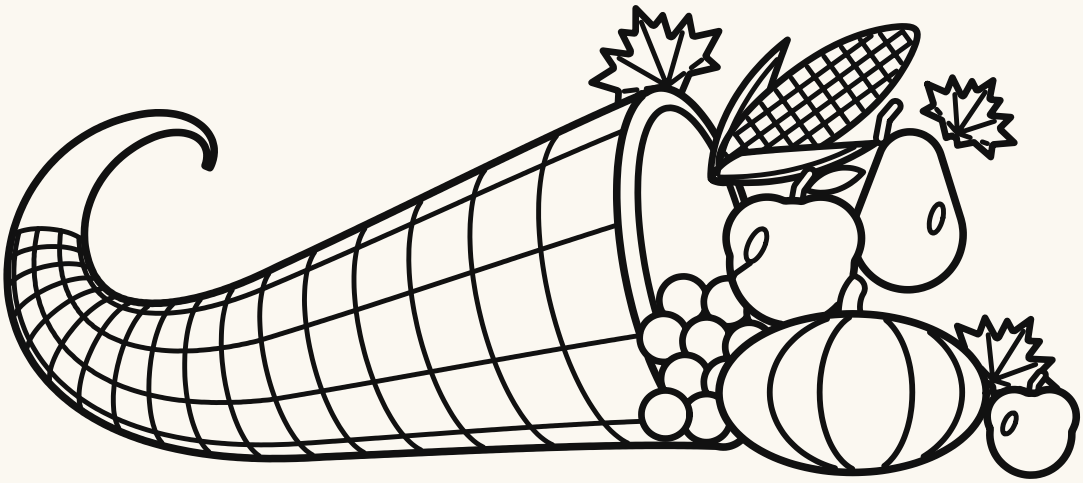
STEP 10 Add the basket weave pattern



This step turns a plain horn into wicker. Draw bands across the horn, each curving the same way as the left side of the mouth, spaced wide near the opening and closer as the horn narrows. Then run four long strands along the horn, following its curve, so they cross every band and make a grid of little boxes.

💡 **Tip:** Younger kids can draw just the bands and skip the long strands. It still reads as a basket.

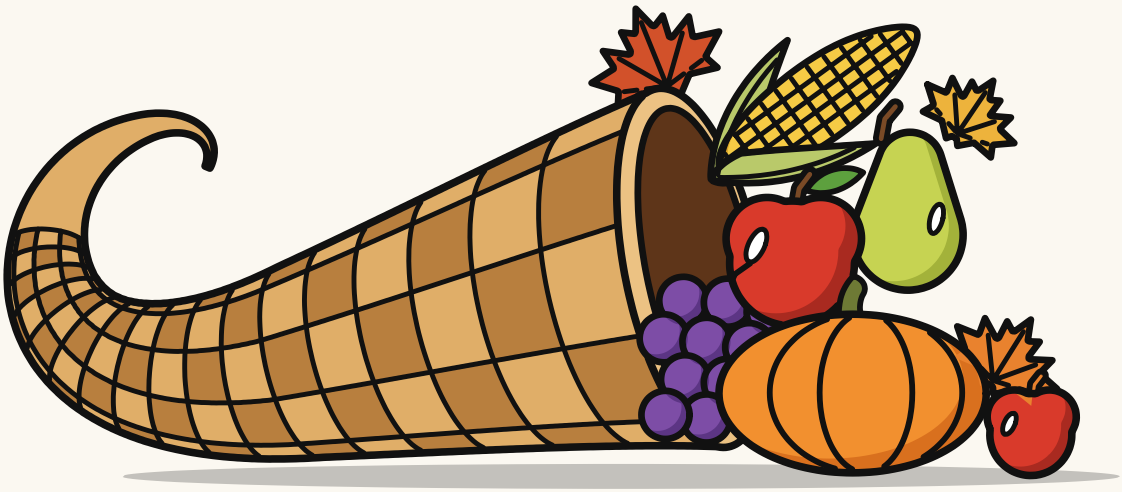
STEP 11 Ink the drawing and erase the guides



Trace all your keeper lines with the black marker. I ink the fruit first while my hand is fresh, and the weave last because it has the most lines. Leave the guides alone, and once the ink is completely dry, erase them.

💡 **Tip:** Turn the paper as you ink the curl so you can pull each stroke toward you in one smooth move.

STEP 12 Color your cornucopia



Color the horn tan, then color every other box of the weave a darker brown, like a checkerboard. The opening is dark brown and the rim stays pale. Make the pumpkin orange, the apples red, the grapes purple and the pear yellow green. Corn gets yellow kernels with pale green husks, and each leaf can be its own warm color.

💡 **Tip:** Add a slightly darker shade on the side of each fruit away from the shine. It makes the whole pile look round.