How to Draw a Crown

12 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

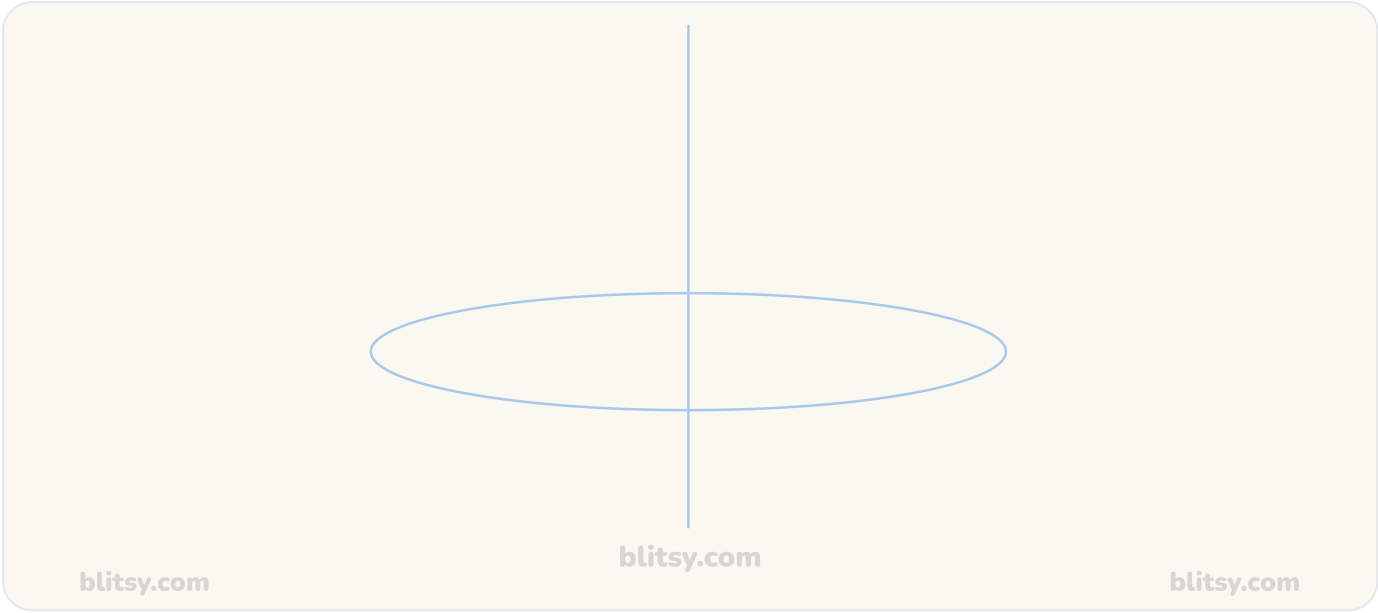
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black marker or fineliner
- Crayons or colored pencils
- Plain paper

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 →

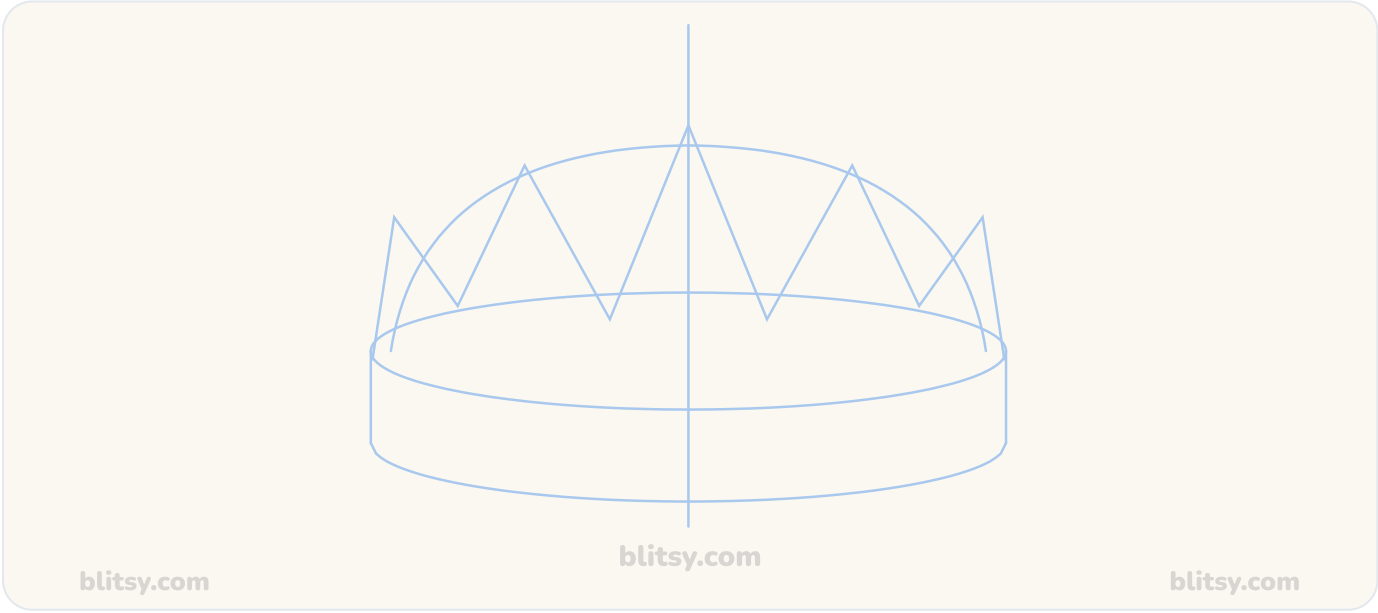
STEP 1 Draw a center line and a flat oval



Draw a straight line down the middle of the page. Then draw a wide, flat oval that the line cuts exactly in half, a bit below the middle of the paper. This oval is the top rim of the crown seen from slightly above. When I teach this, I call the center line the mirror, because every peak and gem gets a partner across it.

💡 **Tip:** Make the oval about four or five times wider than it is tall. A rounder oval makes the crown look tipped toward you.

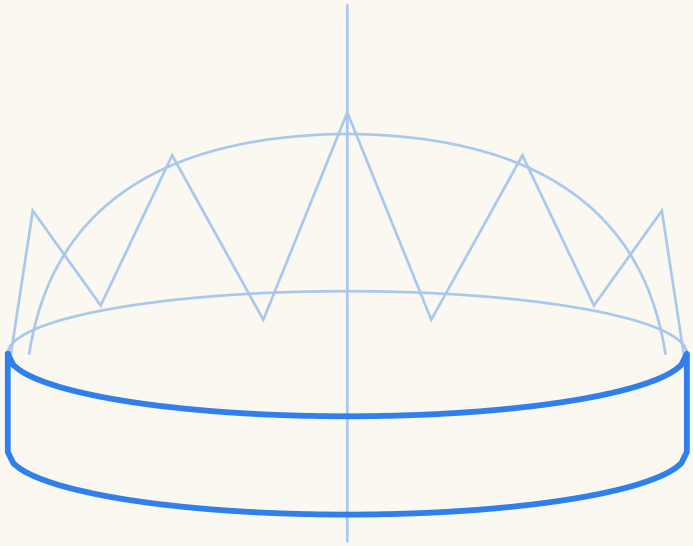
STEP 2 Add guides for the band, the peaks and the cushion



From both ends of the oval, drop two short lines down and join them with a curve that matches the front of the oval. That's the band. Above the oval, sketch a zigzag with five points: the middle one highest, two a little lower, and two lower still at the ends. Finish with a light dome over the oval for the cushion.

💡 **Tip:** Count the zigzag points out loud as you go. Five tips and four dips between them.

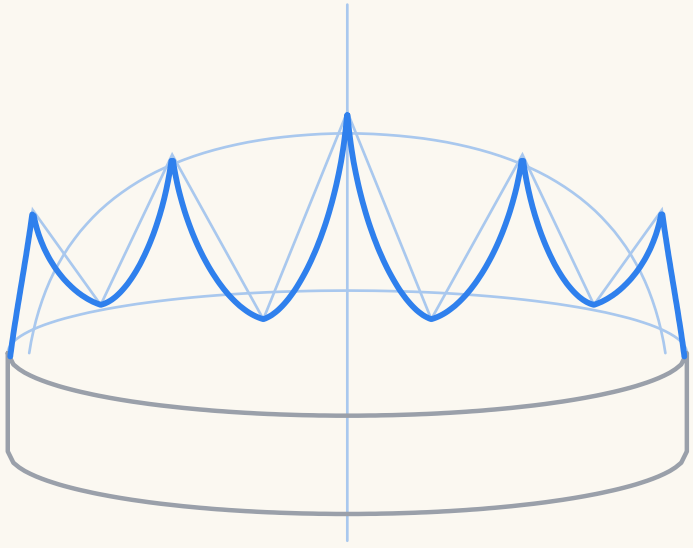
STEP 3 Draw the curved band



Go over the band with firmer lines: the front curve of the oval, the two short sides and the lower curve. Leave the back half of the oval alone, since the peaks will cover it. Both curves bend the same way, and that matching bend is what makes the band look round.

💡 **Tip:** Draw each curve in one slow sweep from left to right instead of short scratchy strokes.

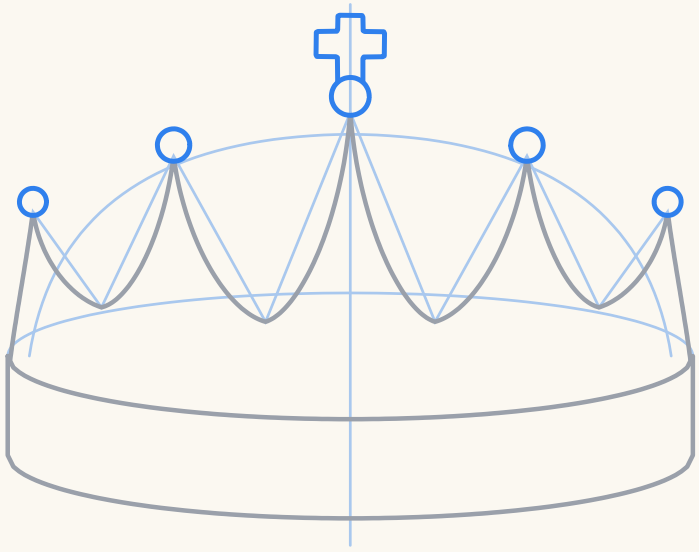
STEP 4 Draw five pointed peaks



Follow the zigzag, but curve each side inward a little so the peaks are slim at the top and wide at the base. Each dip between peaks is a soft rounded V. I make the outer peaks shorter because they're turning away from us, and that small change sells the round shape.

💡 **Tip:** Draw one peak on the left, then its twin on the right, and check that both touch the same height on the center line's sides.

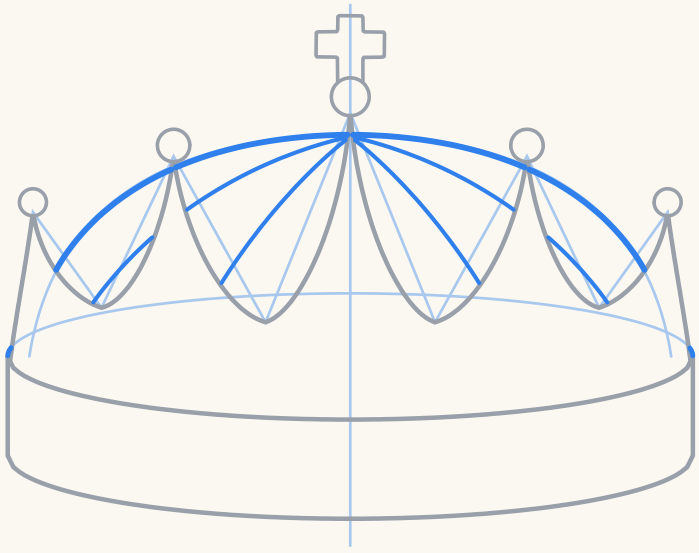
STEP 5 Put pearls on the tips and a cross on top



Draw a small circle on the tip of each side peak, with the outer two a little smaller. On the middle peak, draw a slightly bigger ball and stand a simple cross on it, like a plus sign with a longer lower arm. The pearls should sit on the points, not float above them.

💡 **Tip:** If a cross feels too fiddly, put a star or a heart on the ball instead.

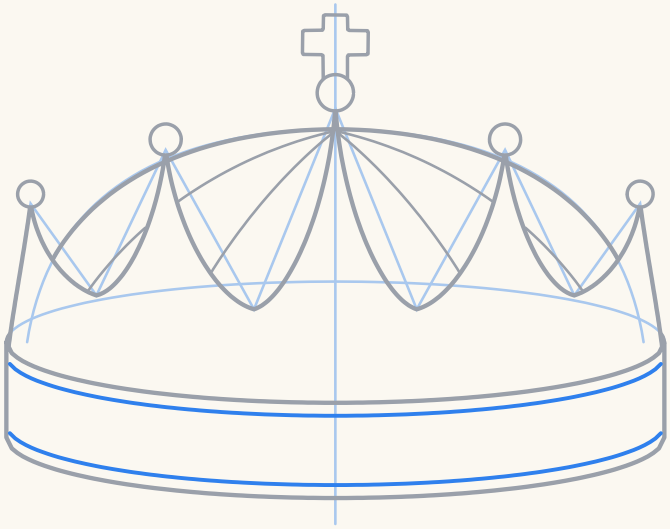
STEP 6 Draw the velvet cushion inside



Trace the dome guide only where it shows between the peaks, and stop the line at every peak, because the gold sits in front of the cushion. Then draw a few curved seams that fan out from the top of the dome toward the band. Those lines turn a plain bump into soft, puffy fabric.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the seam lines curved like slices of an orange, not straight like spokes.

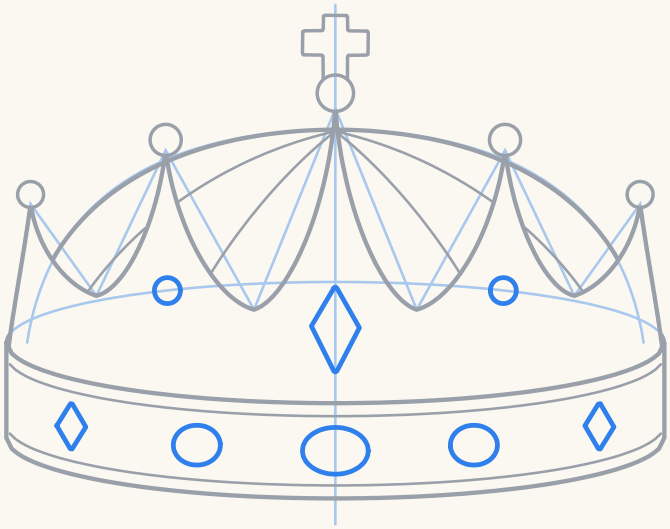
STEP 7 Add trim lines along the band



Draw one curve just under the top edge of the band and another just above its lower edge. Keep both the same distance from the edge all the way across. They look like a raised gold strip and give the gems a neat lane to sit in.

💡 **Tip:** Turn your paper as you draw these long curves. Your hand is steadier when it moves in its natural arc.

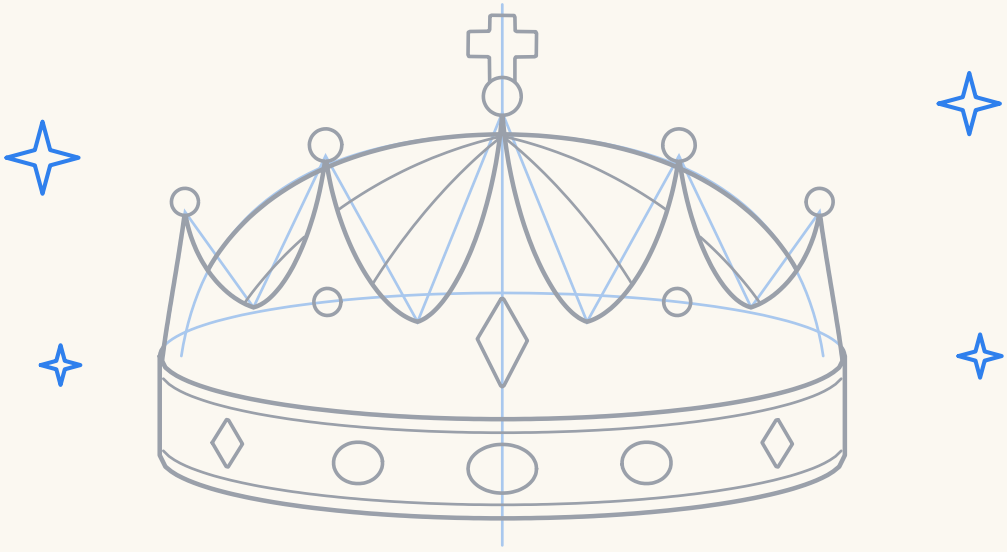
STEP 8 Draw gems on the band and the peaks



Start with a wide oval right on the center line. On each side, add a smaller oval and then a diamond shape near the end of the band. The end gems are narrower because that part of the band curves away. Finish with a tall jewel on the middle peak and a small round gem on each inner peak.

💡 **Tip:** Draw every gem as a pair, left then right, and measure the gap to the center line with your eye.

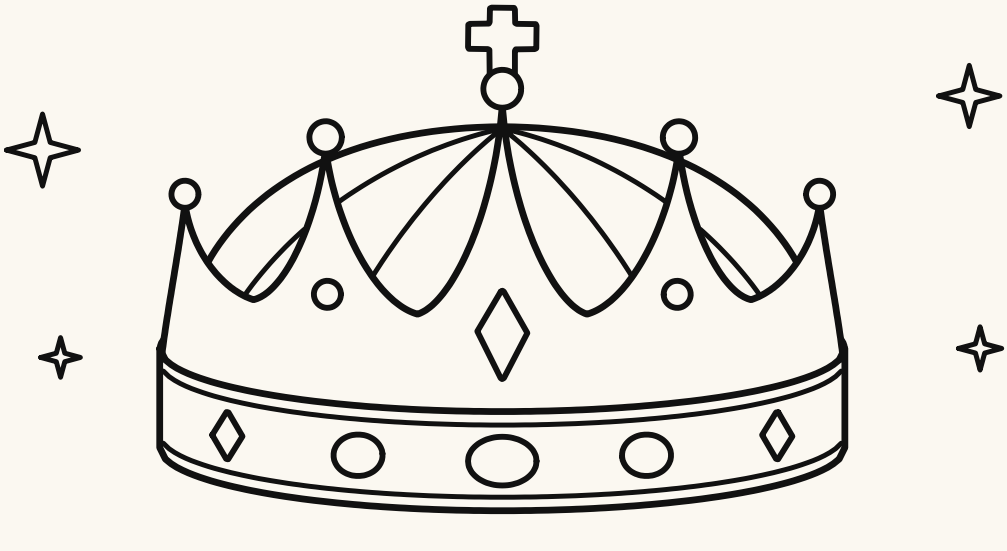
STEP 9 Add a few sparkles around the crown



Draw a few four-pointed stars in the empty space around the crown, one big and the others small. Sparkles tell the viewer the crown is shiny metal before you even pick up a crayon.

💡 **Tip:** Place the sparkles at different heights so they don't line up like a fence.

STEP 10 Ink the outline and erase the guides



Trace every keeper line with a black marker. Give the ink a minute to dry, then erase the center line, the oval, the zigzag and the dome guide. If you drew the guides lightly, they come off in a few passes and the crown looks finished.

💡 **Tip:** Ink the pearls and gems last, so your hand doesn't drag through wet lines on the band.

STEP 11 Color the gold



Fill the band, the peaks, the ball and the cross with golden yellow. Then color the right half of every peak and the right end of the band in a darker orange, and leave a thin streak near the left edge of each peak almost white. Light on one side and dark on the other is my whole trick for gold.

💡 **Tip:** Press lightly for the yellow and harder for the orange, so the two colors blend where they meet.

STEP 12 Color the velvet and the gems



Color the cushion deep red, darker on the right with a little purple on top. The middle band gem and the peak gems are red, the tall jewel and the end gems blue, and the last two band gems green. Leave a tiny white dot on each gem and pearl. A soft gray shadow under the band keeps the crown from floating.

💡 **Tip:** Color the gems last, after the gold, so a dark crayon doesn't smear into the yellow.