How to Draw a Gift Box

12 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

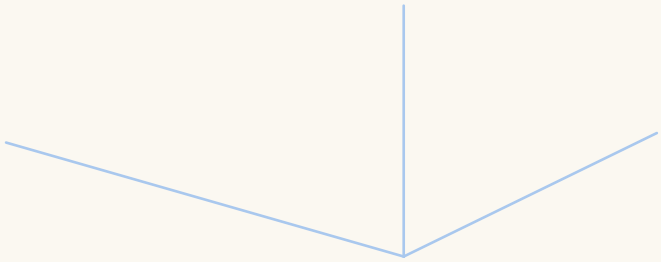
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black marker or fineliner
- Colored pencils or crayons
- Plain paper

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 →

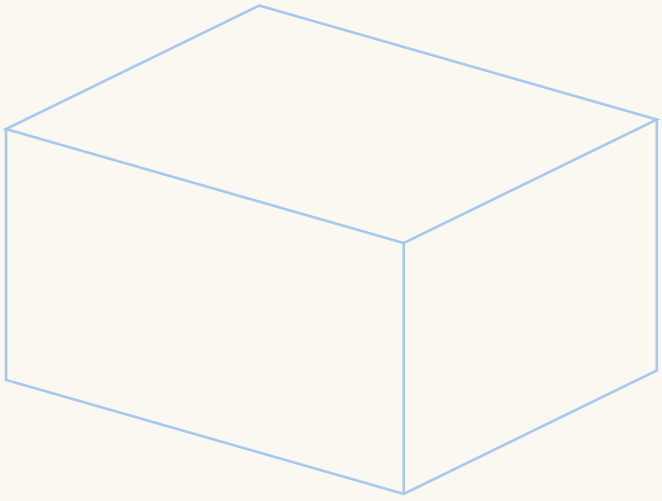
STEP 1 Draw the front corner and two slants



Near the bottom middle of the page, draw a short vertical line. That's the edge closest to you. From its bottom, draw one slant up to the left and one up to the right. I make the left one longer and flatter, so the box turns slightly toward us instead of sitting square.

💡 **Tip:** Keep these lines very light. Every guide you draw today gets erased at the end.

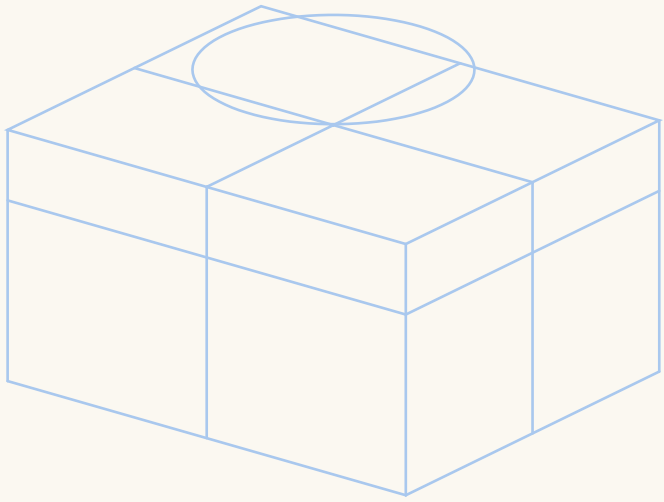
STEP 2 Add the back edges and the top



At the end of each slant, draw a vertical line as tall as the front corner. Join the tops with two lines that copy the slants, then close a flat diamond on top. This is the rule I repeat most when I teach boxes: vertical lines stay vertical, and lines that run the same way stay parallel.

💡 **Tip:** Hold your pencil against the bottom slant, then slide it up to check the top edge leans the same way.

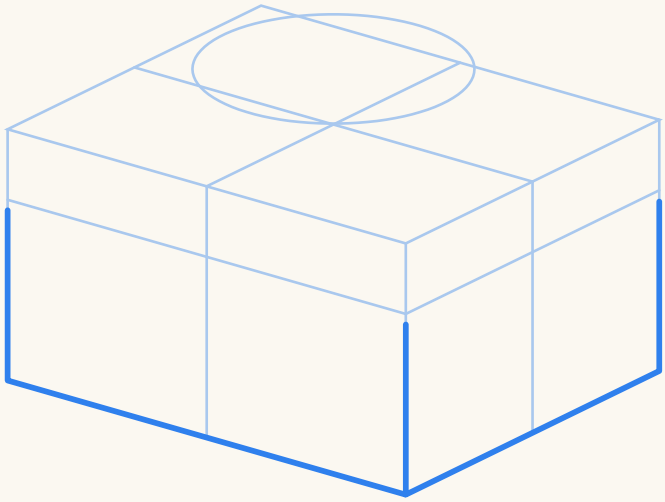
STEP 3 Mark the middle lines, the lid line and a bow oval



Draw a line down the middle of each side and two lines across the top that cross in its center. That's where the ribbon goes. A little below the top, draw a slanted line on both sides for the bottom of the lid. Then sketch a wide oval above the crossing to save room for the bow.

💡 **Tip:** To find a middle quickly, eyeball the halfway point at the top and at the bottom of a side, then join the two dots.

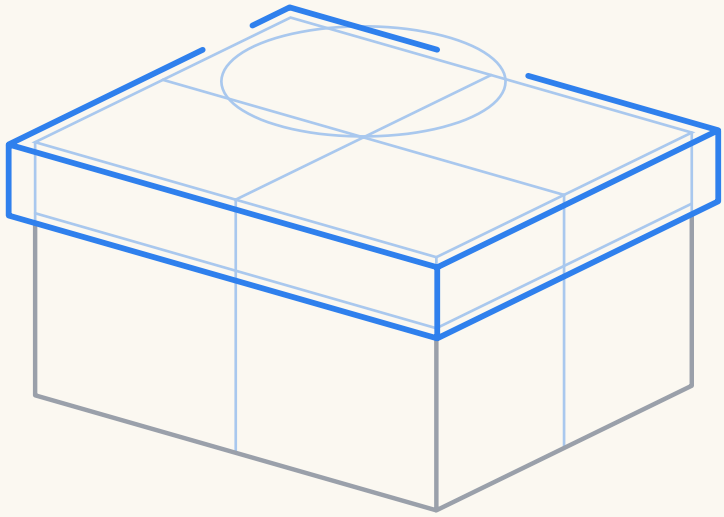
STEP 4 Outline the box sides under the lid



Trace the front corner, the two back edges and the two bottom slants with a firmer line, but only up to the lid line. The lid will cover the rest.

💡 **Tip:** Press a little harder here than on the guides, so you can tell keeper lines apart from helper lines.

STEP 5 Draw a lid that sticks out

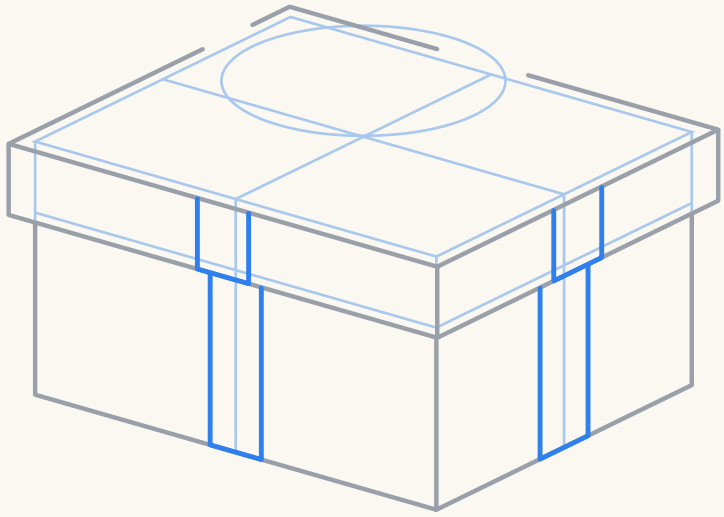


blitsy.com
blitsy.com
blitsy.com

A lid is just a thin, slightly wider box on top. Draw its bottom edge a little outside the box sides so it hangs over on the left, right and front. Add short verticals at the corners and finish with a top diamond a touch bigger than the guide. Leave small gaps in the back edges where the bow oval sits.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the overhang small. If the lid sticks out too far, the box starts to look like a table.

STEP 6 Run the ribbon down the sides

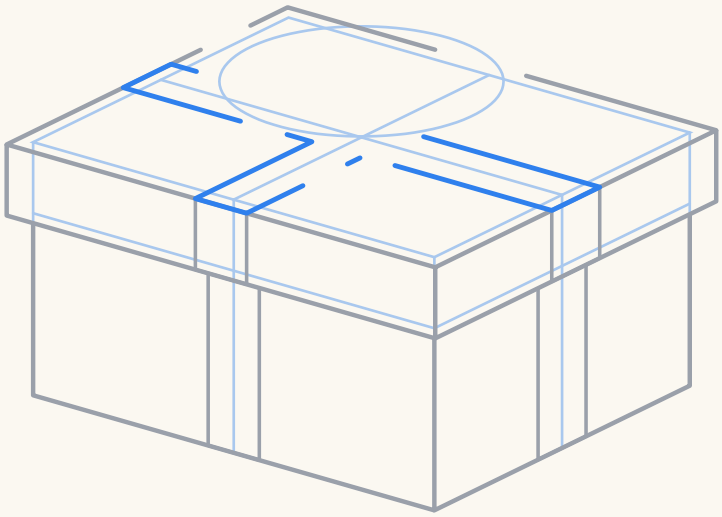


blitsy.com
blitsy.com
blitsy.com

On each side, draw two vertical lines close together around the middle guide, and line up two more on the lid edge. The ribbon on the right looks narrower because that side turns away from us. That small change is perspective doing its job.

💡 **Tip:** Measure the ribbon width with your thumbnail and use the same width every time.

STEP 7 Carry the ribbon across the lid



blitsy.com
blitsy.com
blitsy.com

Each ribbon band climbs over the edge and runs across the top. Draw a band along each cross guide, parallel to the lid edges, and stop at the bow oval. The bow will hide the crossing.

💡 **Tip:** Check that each band on top starts exactly where the band on the side ends. A step there looks like a broken ribbon.

STEP 8 Draw the bow loops and knot

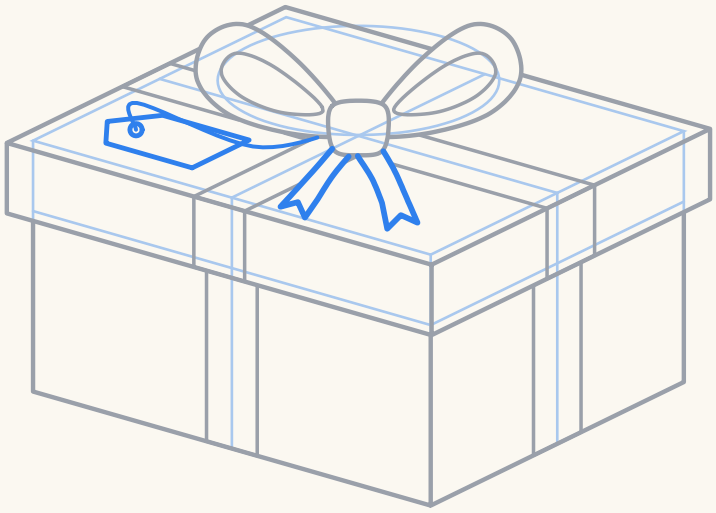


blitsy.com
blitsy.com
blitsy.com

In the middle of the oval, draw a small rounded square for the knot. From each side, pull out a big loop that rises and bends back down, like a teardrop lying on its side, with a smaller curve inside for the opening. I make the loops nearly as wide as the oval, because a tiny bow on a big box looks shy.

💡 **Tip:** Draw one loop, then turn the page upside down to check the second one matches it.

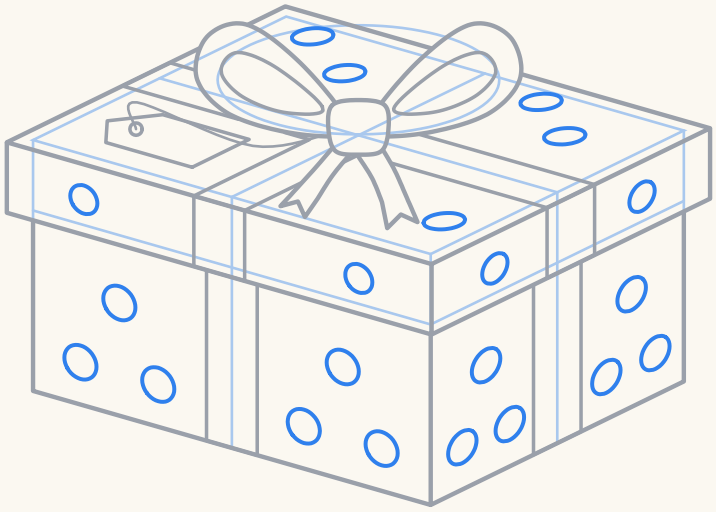
STEP 9 Add the ribbon tails and a gift tag



Below the knot, draw two tails that fall forward onto the lid like an upside-down V, each with a small notch at the end. On the left of the lid, add a tag: a rectangle with one pointed end and a hole. It lies flat, so it follows the slant of the lid edges. A thin wavy string ties it to the knot.

💡 **Tip:** Younger kids can skip the tag. The present still reads fine without it.

STEP 10 Scatter polka dots all over



Fill the empty spaces with dots. On the sides they become squashed ovals that lean with the box, and on the lid they get flatter still. That squashing keeps the pattern stuck to the surface. Keep the dots off the ribbon and leave space between them.

💡 **Tip:** Space the dots in loose rows that follow the bottom edge. Random clumps make the box look spotty, not patterned.

STEP 11 Ink the box and erase the guides



Go over every keeper line with the black marker, but skip the middle lines and the bow oval. When the ink is dry, erase the pencil until only the clean outline is left.

💡 **Tip:** Ink the bow first while your hand is steady. The straight box edges are more forgiving.

STEP 12 Color your gift box



Color the left side and lid edge teal and the right side a darker teal, since it's in shade. The lid top gets a lighter teal where the light lands. Make the ribbon and bow hot pink, with darker pink on the shady ribbon, the tails and inside the loops. Add yellow dots, a cream tag and a soft gray shadow.

💡 **Tip:** Use the same three shades of one color for top, light side and shady side on any box you draw. It makes it look 3D right away.