How to Draw a Mitten

11 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

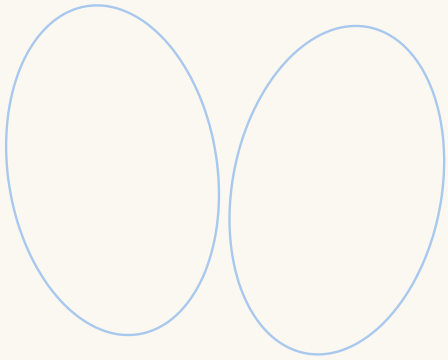
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black marker or fineliner
- Colored pencils or crayons
- Plain paper

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 →

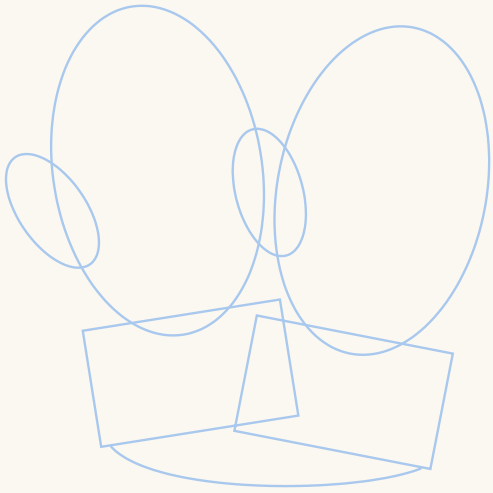
STEP 1 Draw two tilted ovals



Sketch two tall ovals side by side, a little above the middle of the page. Tip the left one slightly to the left and the right one slightly to the right. The right oval sits a bit lower and its left edge just touches the first oval, because that mitten will end up in front.

💡 **Tip:** Make each oval about one and a half times as tall as it is wide. Rounder ovals turn into puffy oven gloves.

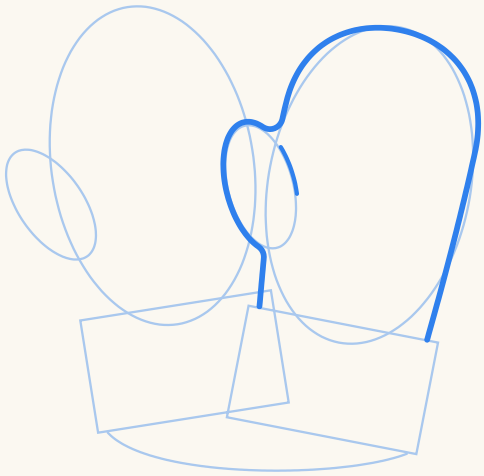
STEP 2 Add cuff boxes, thumbs and a string line



Under each oval, draw a short wide box for the cuff, tilted the same way as its oval. The box should be a little wider than the oval's bottom. Then add a small slanted oval for each thumb on the left side, about a third of the way up. Last, swing one curved line below both cuffs for the yarn string.

💡 **Tip:** Both thumbs point left here. That's what a real pair looks like when one mitten lies flipped over.

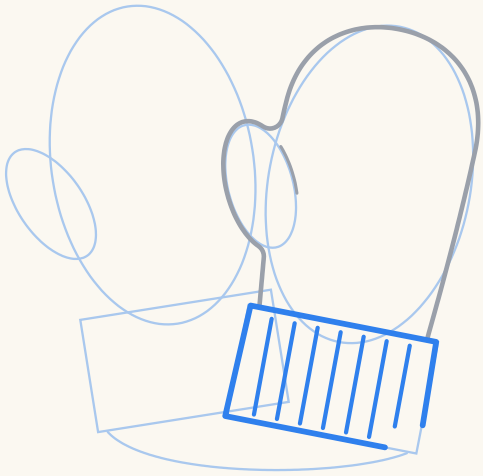
STEP 3 Outline the front mitten



Start with the mitten on the right, since nothing covers it. Trace around the top of the oval, come down the right side to the cuff, then go back to the top and curve down into the thumb. Round the thumb's tip, dip back in toward the hand and finish at the cuff. A short curved seam line inside shows where the thumb joins.

💡 **Tip:** The dip between thumb and hand should be a soft curve, not a sharp V. Knitted yarn never makes sharp corners.

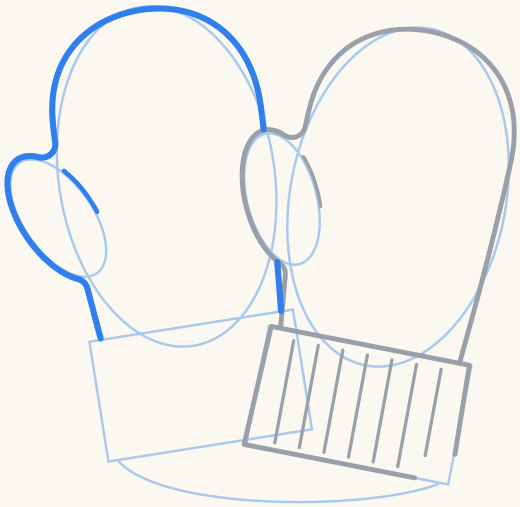
STEP 4 Draw the front ribbed cuff



Firm up the cuff box with slightly rounded corners. Then fill it with straight lines running from the top edge to the bottom edge, evenly spaced. These are the ribs, the stretchy knit that keeps a mitten from slipping off.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the middle rib first, then the outer ones, and fill the gaps last. The spacing stays far more even.

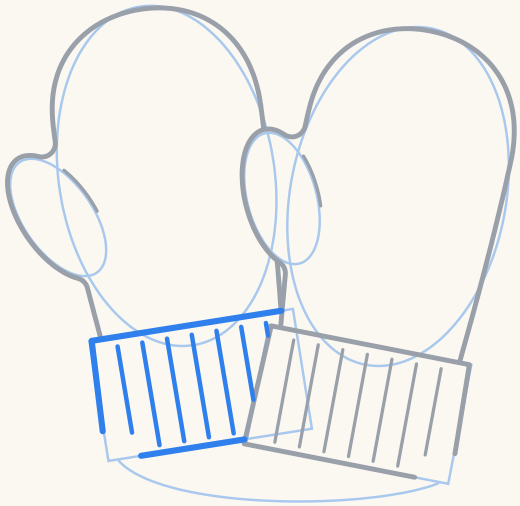
STEP 5 Draw the back mitten behind it



Now outline the left mitten the same way, but stop every line the moment it reaches the front mitten. That's the whole trick of overlapping: the back shape simply disappears behind the front one. Give it the same thumb and the same little seam.

💡 **Tip:** If you're unsure where to stop, lightly shade the front mitten with your pencil side first. Then just don't draw into the shaded area.

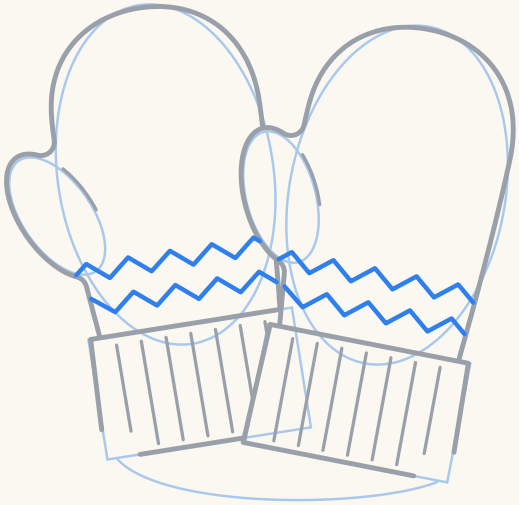
STEP 6 Add the back ribbed cuff



Draw the second cuff and its rib lines. Its right side tucks behind the front cuff, so the lines end where they meet it. Keep the ribs about as far apart as on the front cuff, otherwise the two mittens won't look like a matching pair.

💡 **Tip:** Leave the bottom left corner a little open. A pom-pom will cover it in step 9.

STEP 7 Draw zigzag knit bands



Just above each cuff, draw two zigzag lines across the hand, one under the other, with the points lined up. The space between them becomes a cream stripe later. Zigzags are a classic knit pattern and they're easier than they look, because each zag is just a short tilted line.

💡 **Tip:** Count your points. Six or seven peaks across one mitten looks like knitting, while twenty tiny ones just look scribbled.

STEP 8 Add a heart to each mitten



Draw a small heart on the back of each hand, near the top and a little toward the middle. I start with the dip at the top, curve down one side to the point, then do the other side. Keep both hearts the same size so the pair matches.

💡 **Tip:** Small kids can swap the hearts for a star, a dot pattern or their first initial.

STEP 9 Draw the yarn string and pom-poms



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At the bottom left corner of the back cuff and the bottom right corner of the front cuff, draw a fluffy pom-pom: a small circle with a bumpy edge. Then follow your string guide with two close lines that run from one pom-pom to the other, passing under both mittens.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the bumps on the pom-pom small and many. Big bumps make it look like a flower.

STEP 10 Ink the mittens and erase the guides



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Trace every keeper line with your black marker: outlines, seams, ribs, zigzags, hearts and the string. Leave the light ovals and boxes alone. When the ink is completely dry, erase all the pencil underneath.

💡 **Tip:** Ink the rib lines with one quick stroke each. Slow strokes get wobbly.

STEP 11 Color your mittens



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Color both hands red, then add a strip of darker red along the right edge of each one so they look round and soft. The cuffs, zigzag bands and hearts are cream. The string is maroon and the pom-poms white. A gray smudge underneath grounds the pair so they don't float.

💡 **Tip:** Teal and white mittens look just as cozy if you want a cooler color set.