How to Draw a Teddy Bear

12 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

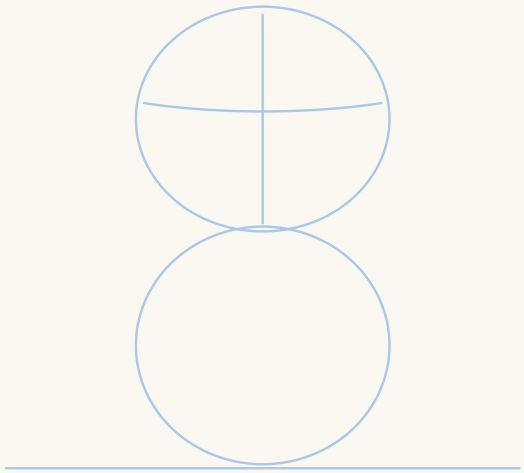
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black marker or fineliner
- Colored pencils or crayons
- Plain paper

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 →

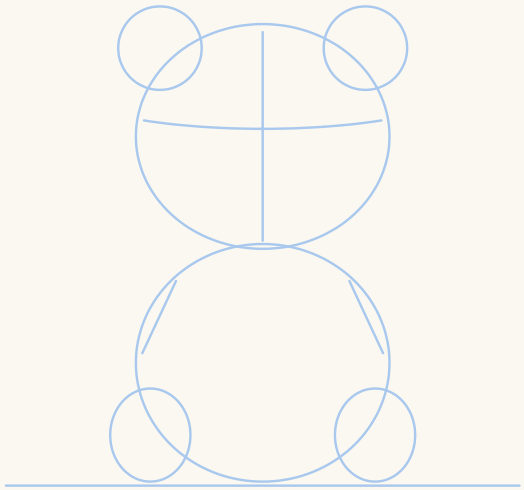
STEP 1 Sketch the head and body circles



Draw a light line near the bottom of the page for the floor. Above it, sketch a big circle for the body that sits right on that line, then a slightly wider circle on top for the head. The two should just touch. Add a vertical line through the head and a gentle curve across it, a little above the middle, to mark where the eyes go.

💡 **Tip:** A toy bear has a big head. Make the head circle as wide as the body or even a touch wider.

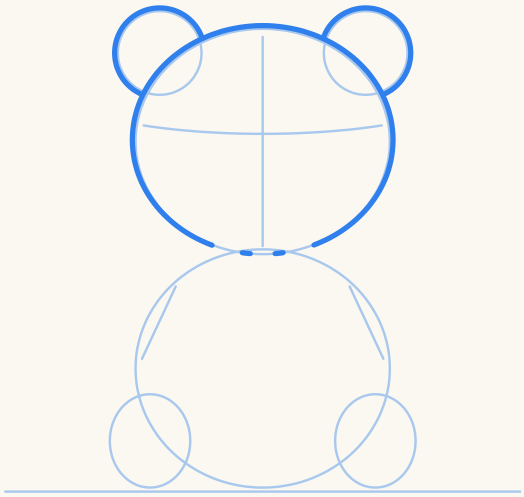
STEP 2 Add guides for the ears, arms and feet



Place two small circles on the top corners of the head for ears. Next, draw two slanted lines from the shoulders down and out to show where the arms will hang. At the bottom corners of the body, sketch two ovals sitting on the floor line. Those are the feet, which point straight at you because the bear is sitting.

💡 **Tip:** Let the ear circles overlap the head a little. Ears that only touch the head look stuck on.

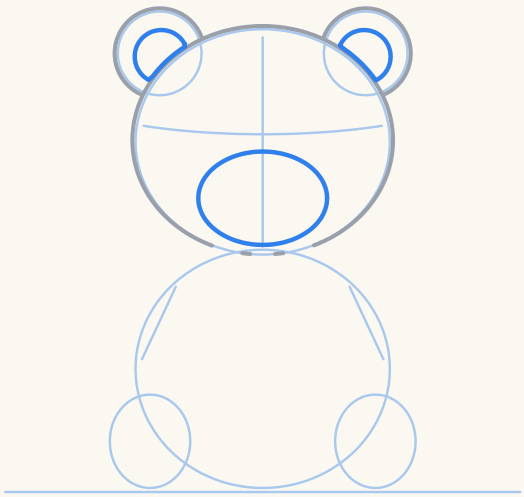
STEP 3 Draw the round head and ears



Now trace over the head circle with a firmer line and round out the cheeks a bit. Go over the two ear circles too, but stop each one where it meets the head. That small break is what makes the ears sit behind the head instead of floating in front of it.

💡 **Tip:** Keep your wrist loose and draw the head in two halves, left side then right side. The curve comes out smoother.

STEP 4 Add the inner ears and the muzzle patch



Inside each ear, draw a smaller curve for the soft inner patch. Then sketch a wide oval low on the face, centered on the vertical guide, for the muzzle. On real teddy bears this patch is often sewn from a lighter fabric, and that's exactly the look we're going for.

💡 **Tip:** Put the muzzle low. If it sits in the middle of the face, the bear looks surprised instead of sweet.

STEP 5 Draw the nose, smile and button eyes



At the top of the muzzle, draw a rounded triangle nose pointing down. From its tip, pull a short line down and split it into two small curves for the smile. For the eyes, draw two circles on the eye guide with two tiny holes in each, like real sewn-on buttons. Small curved brows above them add a happy look.

💡 **Tip:** Space the eyes wide apart, roughly in line with the edges of the muzzle. Close eyes make a toy look worried.

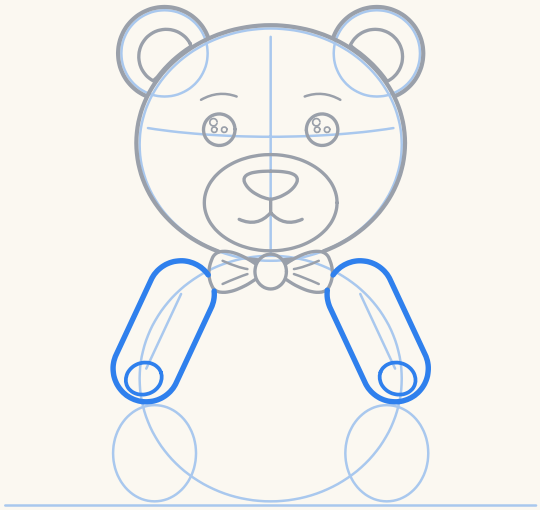
STEP 6 Add a bow tie under the chin



Right where the head meets the body, draw a small oval for the knot. On each side, add a rounded triangle wing that points outward. Two short lines inside every wing show the folds of the ribbon. I like the bow because it hides the neck join, which is the trickiest spot on any bear.

💡 **Tip:** Keep each wing about as wide as one eye area. A huge bow covers the shoulders you need next.

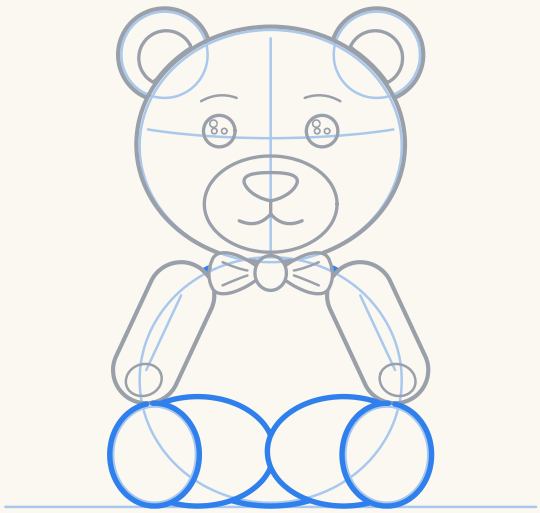
STEP 7 Draw the arms with paw pads



Follow the slanted guide lines to draw two long, rounded arms like sausages, starting just under the bow and ending above the feet. Make each arm thick, roughly as wide as the muzzle is tall. Put a small oval pad near the end of each arm. These soft shapes are what make the bear read as a plush toy and not a real animal.

💡 **Tip:** Round both ends of each arm. Pointy arms make the bear look like it has claws.

STEP 8 Draw the legs and big foot soles



Below the arms, draw two wide, chunky legs that bulge out from the bottom of the body and meet in the middle. At the outer end of each leg, trace a tall oval for the foot sole, facing you. Finish by drawing the small curve of the bottom between the legs where the bear rests on the floor.

💡 **Tip:** Make the soles big. Oversized feet help the toy sit steady, and they look cute.

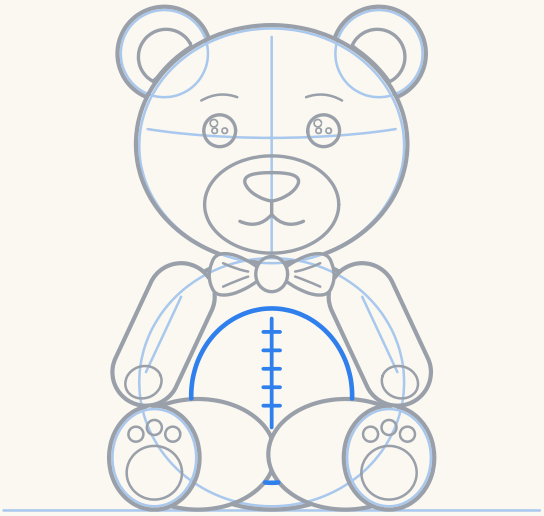
STEP 9 Add the foot pads and toes



Inside each sole, draw a round pad in the lower part. Above it, add three little toe circles in a small arc. On a stuffed bear these are usually stitched-on felt, so plain, simple circles work best here.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the middle toe first, then one on each side. That keeps the three of them even.

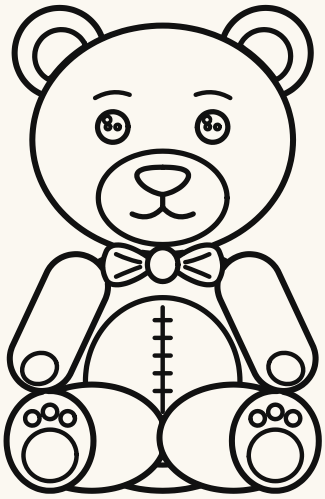
STEP 10 Draw the tummy patch and the stitched seam



Sketch a big oval on the belly between the arms, from just under the bow down to the tops of the legs. Through its middle, draw a straight line and cross it with short dashes, like stitches. That seam is my favorite detail, because it instantly tells everyone this bear was sewn and stuffed.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the stitches the same length and spacing. A ruler is fine for the center line if your hand wobbles.

STEP 11 Ink the outline and erase the guides



Go over every keeper line with your black marker or fineliner. Wait a minute for the ink to dry, then erase all the light guide circles and lines. Check the spots where the arms meet the legs, since that's where stray pencil marks like to hide.

💡 **Tip:** Ink the face first while your hand is fresh. Small details like the button holes need the steadiest lines.

STEP 12 Color your teddy bear



Fill all the fur with light brown. Use peach for the muzzle, inner ears, tummy patch and all the paw pads. Then add a darker brown along the right edge of every furry part for soft shading, and finish with a dark nose, black buttons and a red bow tie.

💡 **Tip:** Color the fur with small circular strokes. It gives the bear a soft, fuzzy look like real plush fabric.