How to Draw a Violin

12 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

- A pencil
- An eraser
- A ruler
- A black pen
- Colored pencils
- 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 →

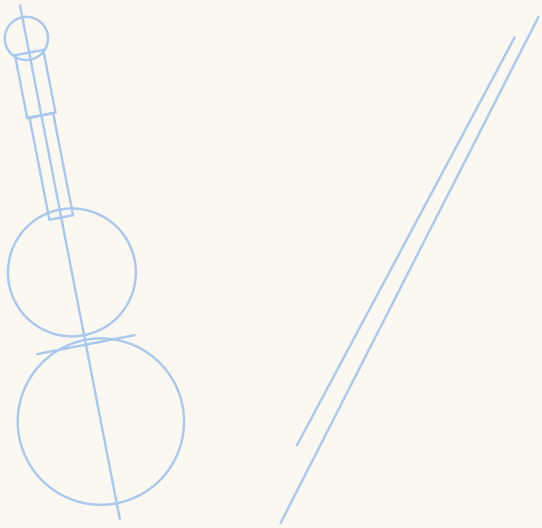
STEP 1 Draw a center line and two circles



Draw a long, light line leaning a little to the left. Everything is built around it. Near the bottom, draw a big circle on the line for the lower body, and right above it a smaller circle for the upper body, overlapping slightly. A short line across where they meet marks the waist.

💡 **Tip:** Make the top circle clearly smaller. On a real violin the lower half is the wider one.

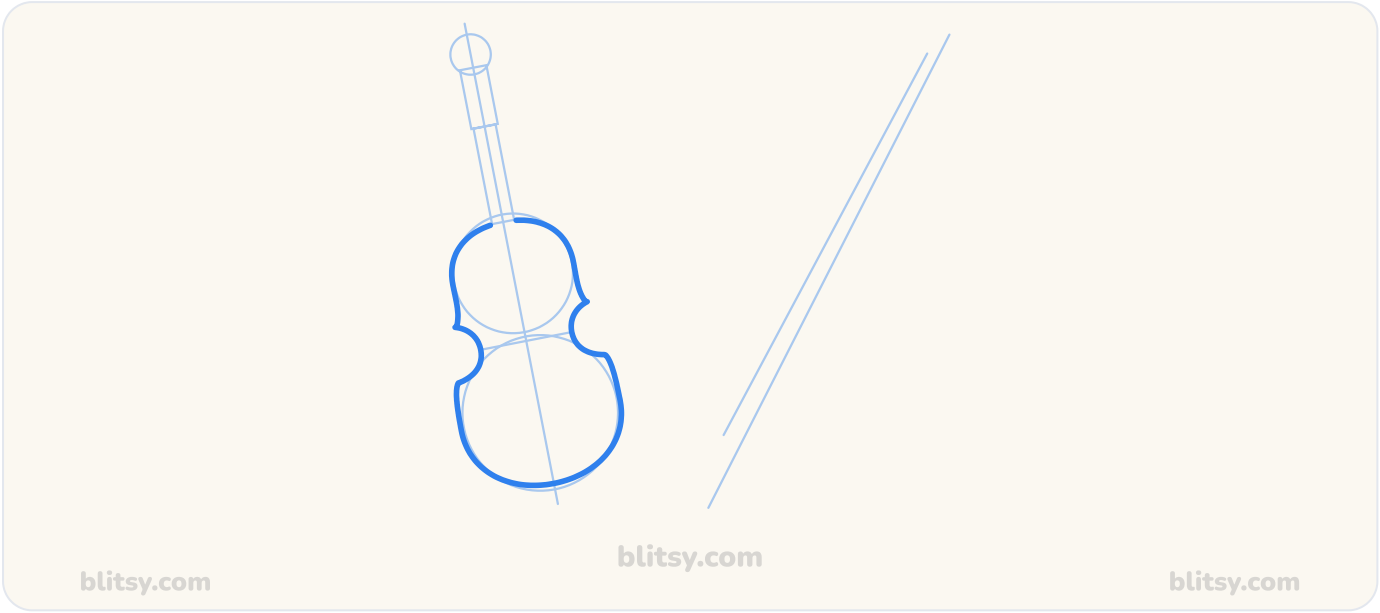
STEP 2 Sketch the neck and scroll guides plus the bow line



Above the top circle, draw a long thin box for the neck and a shorter one for the pegbox. Finish with a small circle at the very top for the scroll. To the right, rule a long line leaning the other way for the bow, plus a second line beside it for the hair.

💡 **Tip:** Leave a gap of about one body width between the violin and the bow so they don't crowd each other.

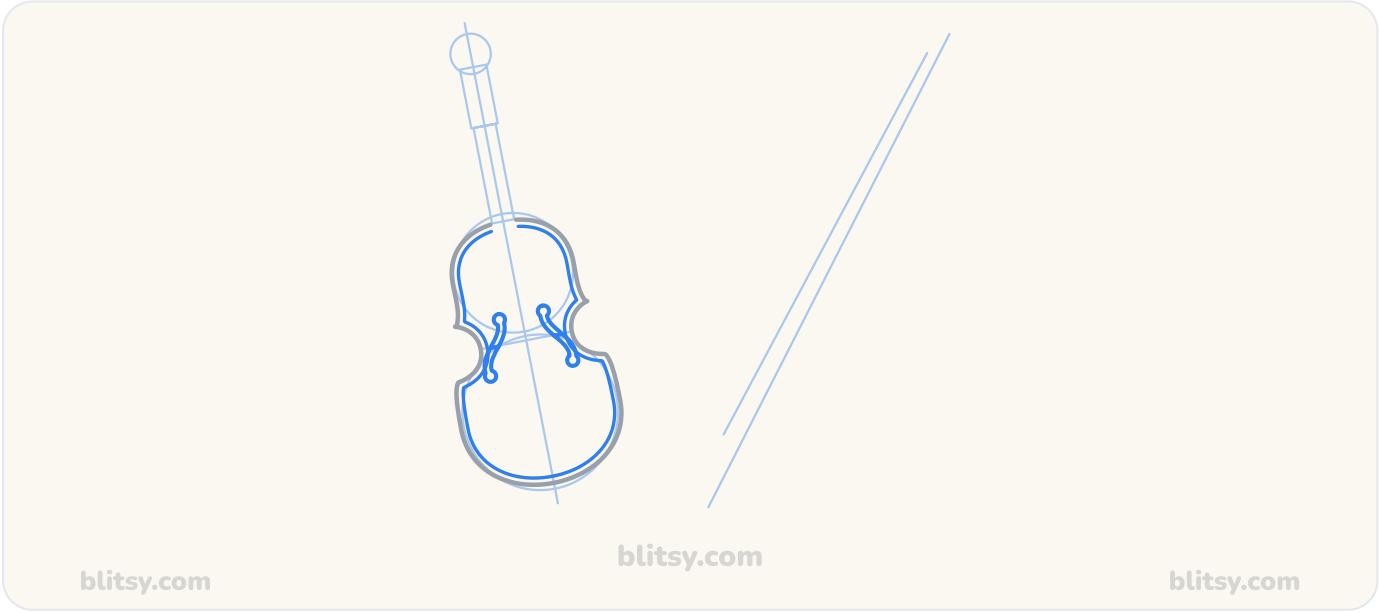
STEP 3 Outline the hourglass body



Now draw the real body over the circles. Follow the round bottom up to a small pointed corner, curve sharply inward for the C-shaped waist cut, then push back out to a second corner and round off the top. I draw the right side first, then copy each bump on the left while checking its distance from the center line.

💡 **Tip:** Measure the waist on both sides with your pencil. If one cut is deeper, the violin looks bent.

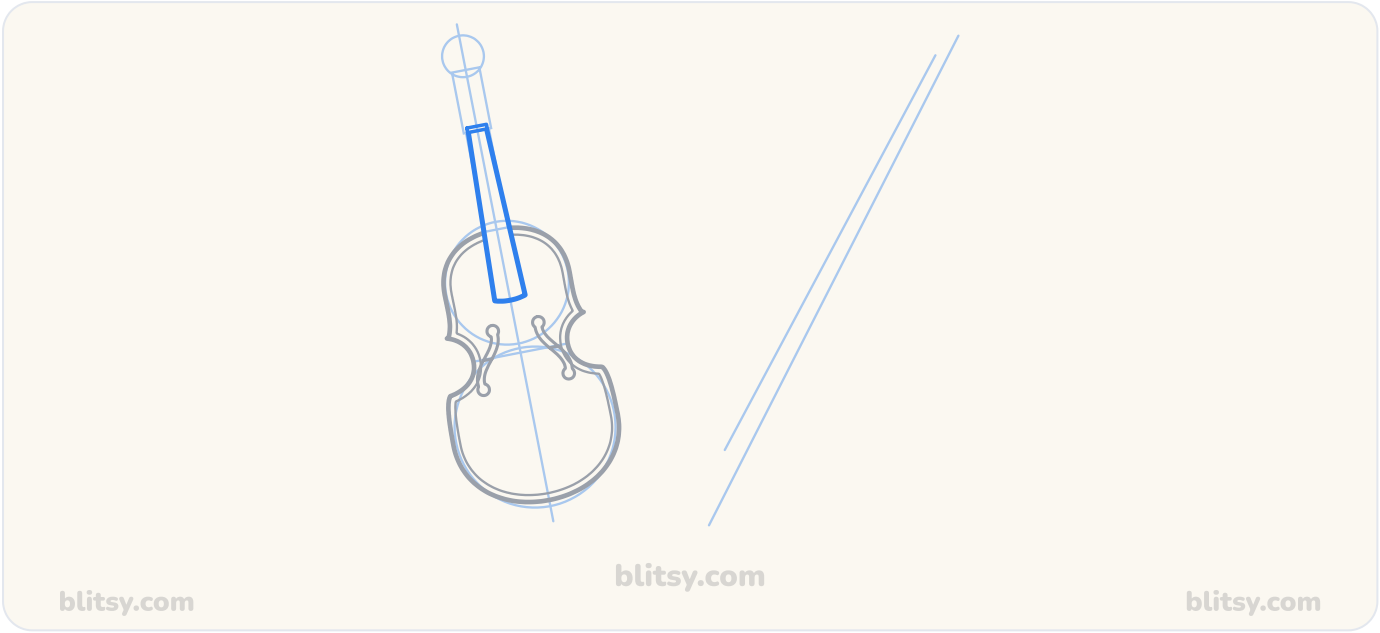
STEP 4 Add the inner edge and the f-holes



Draw a second outline just inside the first. This thin border is the edging that runs around a real violin. Then add an f-hole on each side of the waist: a slim S-shaped line with a round dot at each end. The top dot sits closer to the center, and a tiny notch in the middle shows where the bridge will stand.

💡 **Tip:** Draw one f-hole, then turn the paper upside down to check that the second one mirrors it.

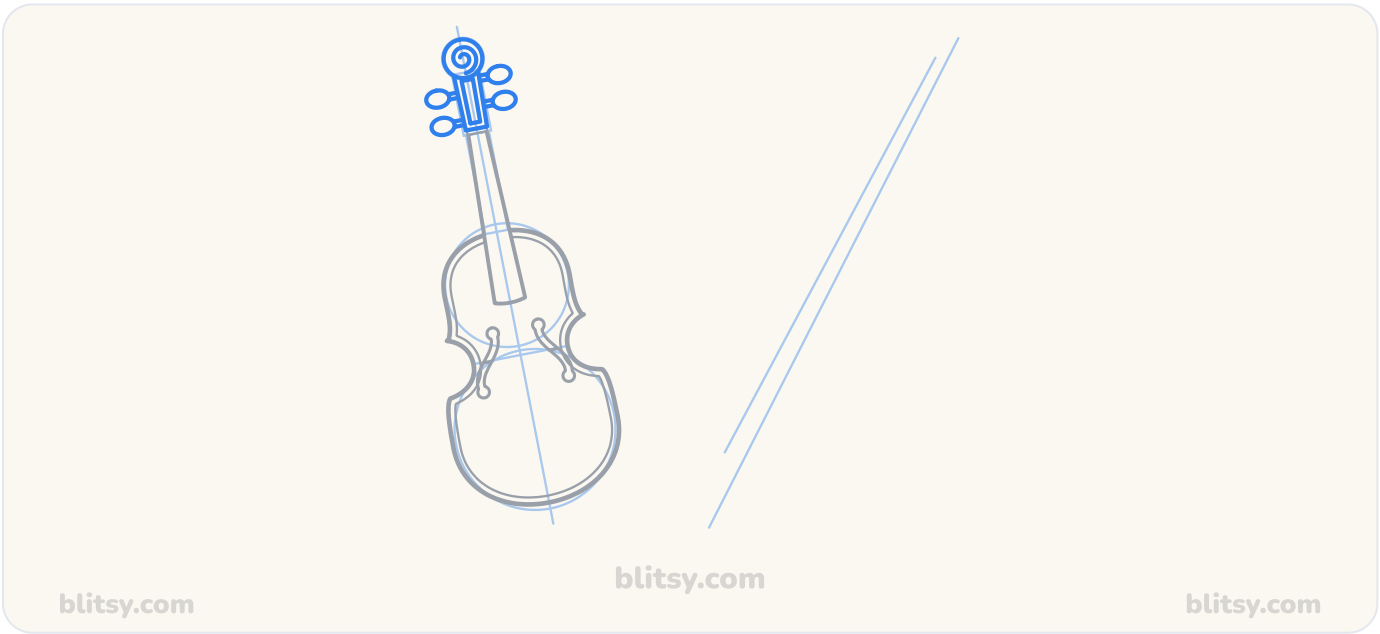
STEP 5 Draw the long fingerboard



The fingerboard is a long strip from the top of the neck guide down over the body, wider at the bottom and slightly rounded there. Stop it about halfway between the body's top edge and the f-hole notches. Add a small bar across its top end for the nut.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the fingerboard short of the f-holes. If it runs all the way down, there's no room for the bridge.

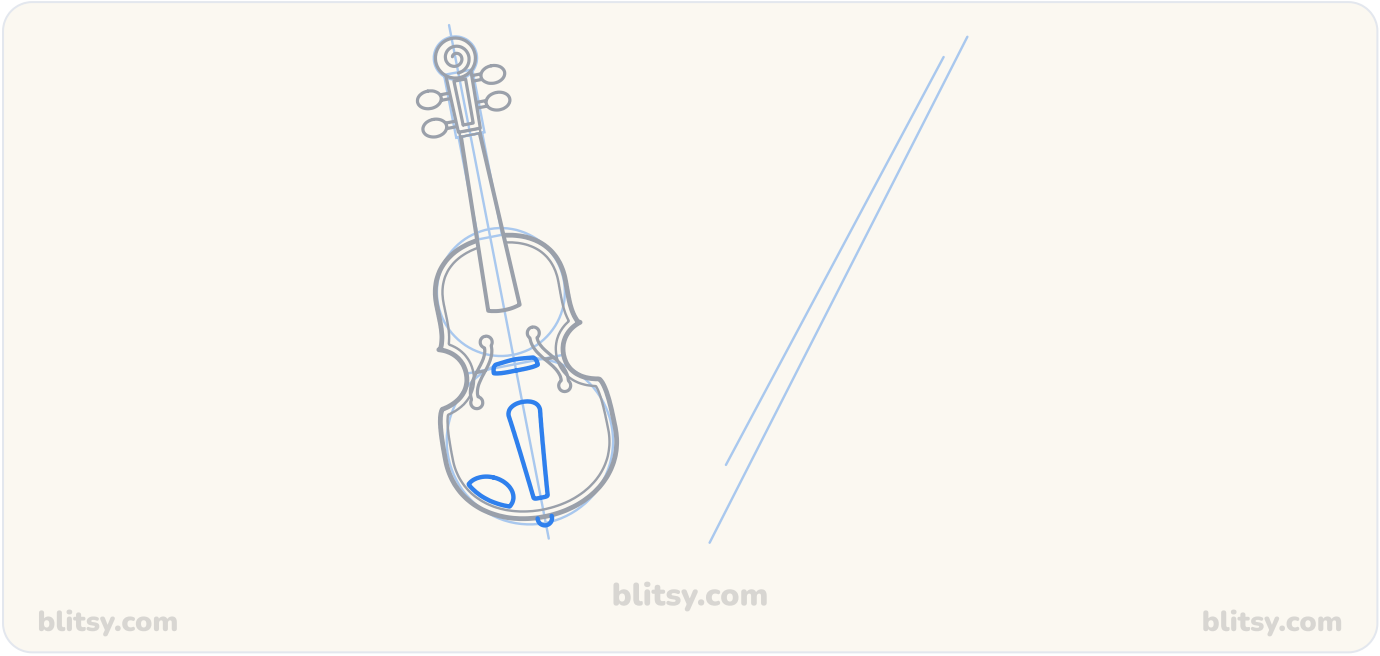
STEP 6 Add the pegbox with its scroll and four pegs



Above the nut, outline the pegbox as a narrow rounded box with a slot down the middle. Trace the scroll circle and draw a spiral inside, curling in like a snail shell. Then add four pegs, two per side, each a short stem with an oval knob. I stagger them so the pairs aren't at the same height, just like on a real violin.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the spiral from the outside in, slowly. Two turns are plenty.

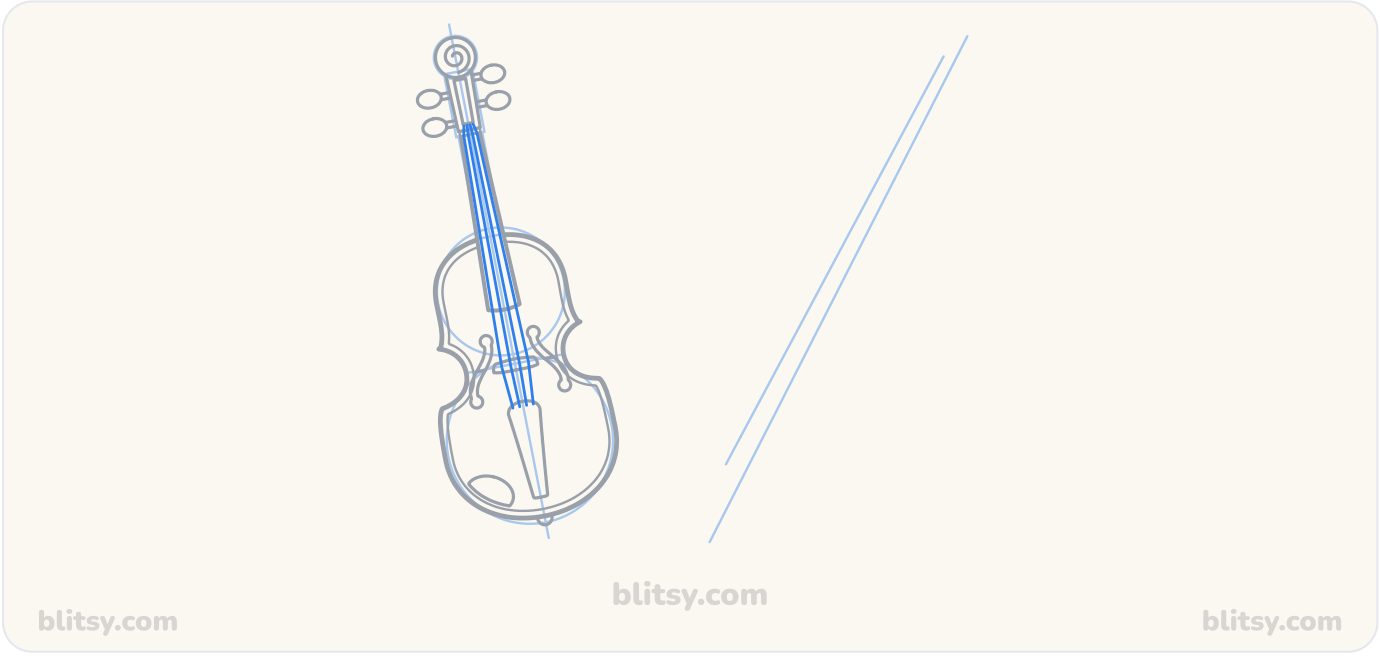
STEP 7 Draw the bridge, then the tailpiece and chinrest



Draw a small flat bridge across the center line, right between the f-hole notches. Below it comes the tailpiece, a tapered shape that's wide near the bridge and narrow at the bottom. Add a little half circle at the bottom edge for the end button, then a rounded chinrest to the left of the tailpiece.

💡 **Tip:** The bridge goes between the notches, not above them. That one spot makes the violin look correct.

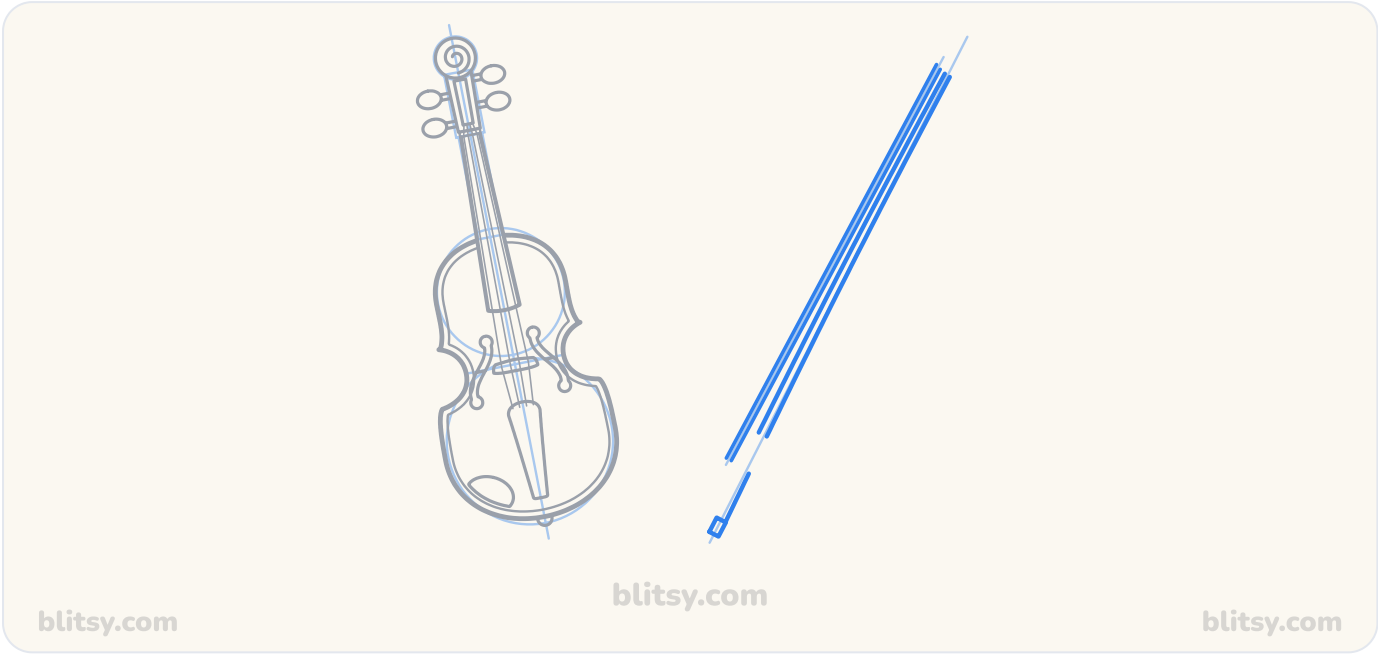
STEP 8 Draw four strings



With a ruler, draw four thin lines from the tailpiece over the bridge and up to the nut. They spread out at the bridge and come closer at the nut. Count them before moving on; an extra string sneaks in more often than you'd think.

💡 **Tip:** Mark four dots on the bridge and four on the nut first, then connect them.

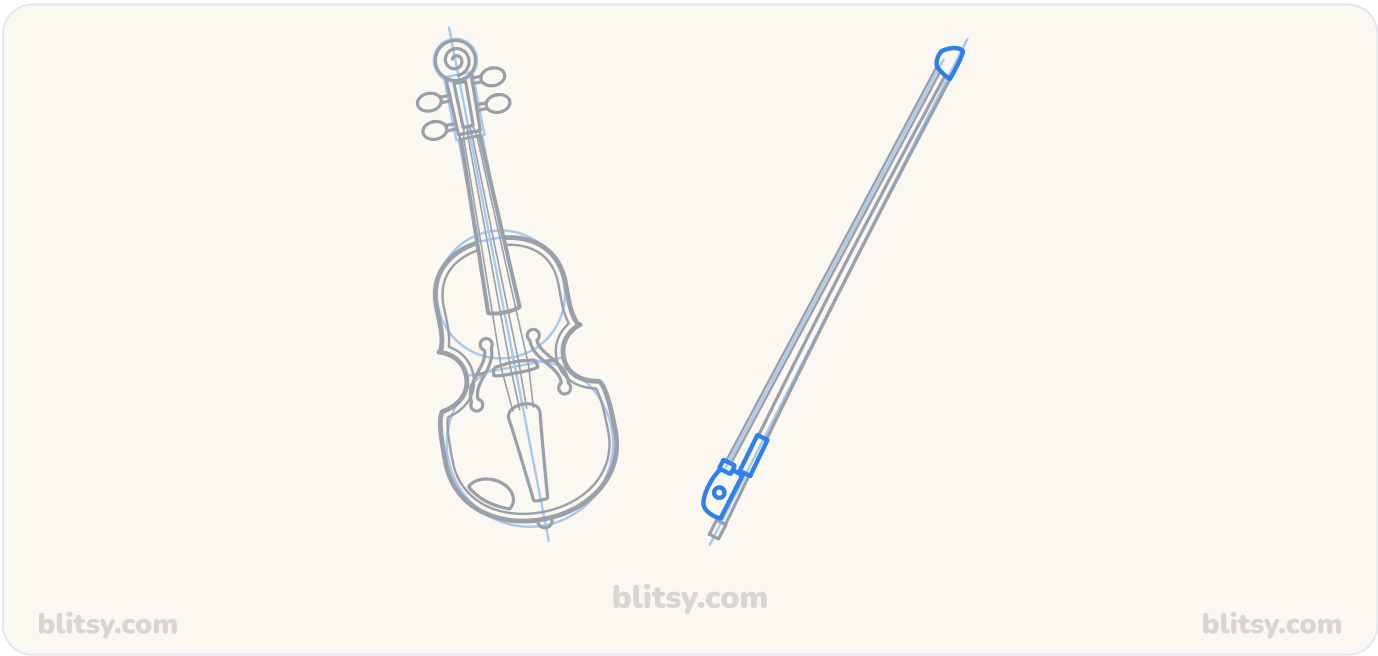
STEP 9 Draw the bow stick and hair



Go over the bow guide with two close lines for the stick, getting thinner toward the top. Leave a short gap near the bottom, because the frog covers it next. Then draw the hair as a narrow ribbon along the second guide, slightly apart from the stick.

💡 **Tip:** Slide the ruler along instead of drawing freehand. Bow lines show every wobble.

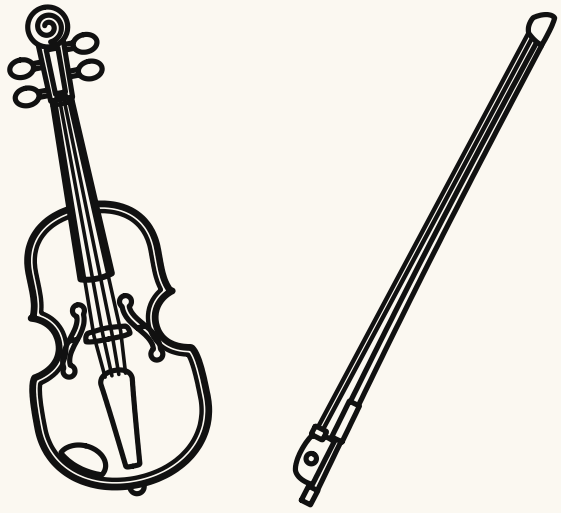
STEP 10 Add the frog and the bow tip



At the bottom, draw the frog, the block a player holds, as a rounded shape under the stick with a small circle eye. Add a short band where the hair leaves it, a wrap on the stick above it and a tiny button at the end. At the top, the tip is a small hatchet shape.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the frog small. If it grows bigger than the scroll, the bow looks like a tool instead of an instrument part.

STEP 11 Ink the violin and erase the guides



Trace the keeper lines with your black pen. I do the body outline first in one calm pass, then the small parts. Let the ink dry, then erase every guide, center line included. The symmetry stays, even without the guides.

💡 **Tip:** Use the ruler again for the strings and the bow when you ink them.

STEP 12 Color the violin and bow



Color the body orange, along with the pegbox and scroll. Go darker with brown along the outer edge so the middle seems to bulge, and leave a light orange stripe on the right of each bout for shine. Black goes on the fingerboard and pegs, the frog, the tailpiece and the chinrest. Use cream for the bridge and hair, red brown for the stick and gray for the strings.

💡 **Tip:** Blend the brown edge into the orange with light circles. A hard border looks painted on.