How to Draw Zoro

12 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

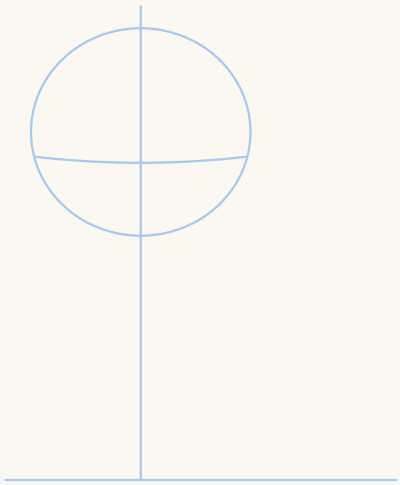
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black fineliner
- Colored pencils or markers
- Plain paper

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 →

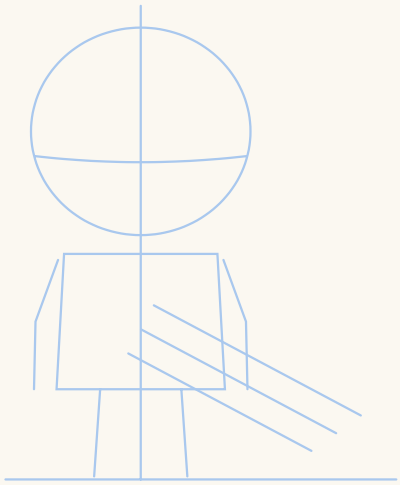
STEP 1 Draw a big head circle and a center line



When I teach this, I start with a light ground line near the bottom and a straight line up the middle. Near the top, draw a large circle for the head with a gentle curve across it, a little below the middle, where the eyes will sit. The head takes up almost half of the figure, which is what makes him a chibi.

💡 **Tip:** Press lightly. Every line in this step gets erased later, so keep it faint.

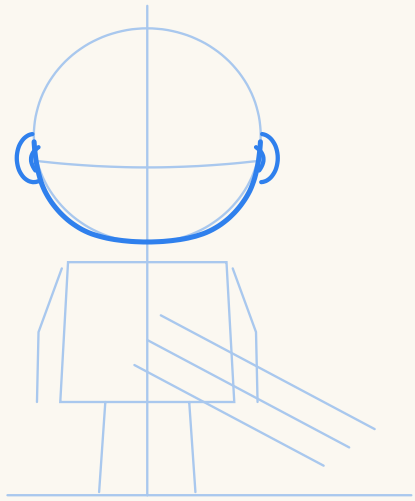
STEP 2 Add the body box, the arm lines and the sword guides



Under the head, sketch a box that's slightly wider at the bottom for the body. Two short lines mark the legs, and two bent lines hang from the shoulders for the arms. Then draw three long slanted lines on the right side of the page, from the waist down past the leg. Those are the swords.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the three sword lines parallel and evenly spaced. If they fan out or cross, the swords turn into a tangle later.

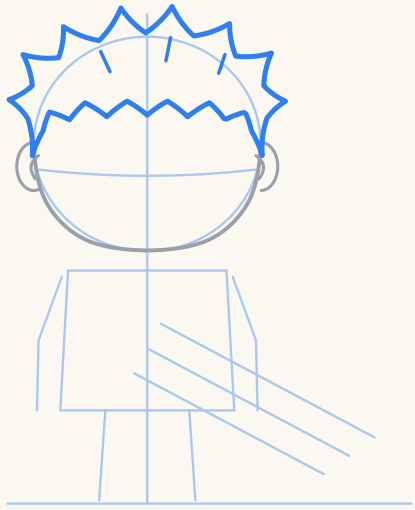
STEP 3 Shape the face and add the ears



Trace around the lower part of the head circle so the cheeks are round and the chin is soft and wide. The hair will cover the top, so you only need the bottom half. Add a small C-shaped ear on each side, level with the eye line.

💡 **Tip:** Make the chin wide and gentle. A pointed chin makes a chibi look older and a bit sharp.

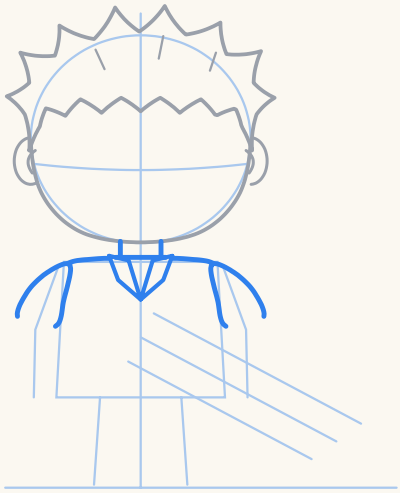
STEP 4 Draw the short spiky hair



His hair is short, so it sits close to the head. Draw small spikes around the top of the circle, a little outside the guide, and let them stick up and out at the sides. Across the forehead, the hairline is a low zigzag of short points. Add three tiny lines inside the hair for texture.

💡 **Tip:** I make the spikes slightly different sizes. Perfectly even spikes look like a crown instead of hair.

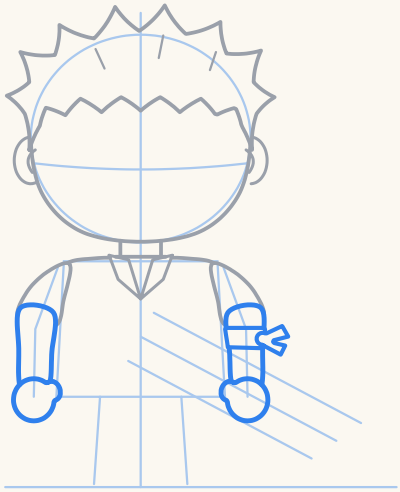
STEP 5 Add the neck and the open-collar shirt



A short, wide neck joins the chin to the body, so the head doesn't look pasted on. Below it, I draw rounded shoulders and a small V where the shirt opens, with two folded collar flaps. The short sleeves puff out from each shoulder.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the neck almost as wide as the gap between the eyes. A thin neck looks wobbly under a big chibi head.

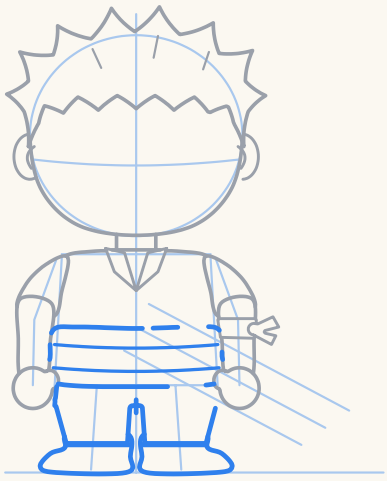
STEP 6 Draw the arms, mitten hands and the bandana



Follow the arm guides with two lines each, so the arms have real width, and finish them with round mitten hands at hip height. On his sword side, the hand sits where the sheaths will pass. Just under that sleeve, draw a band with a tiny knot and two short tails for his black bandana.

💡 **Tip:** Give the arms about the width of your thumb on the paper. Stick-thin arms make the body look empty.

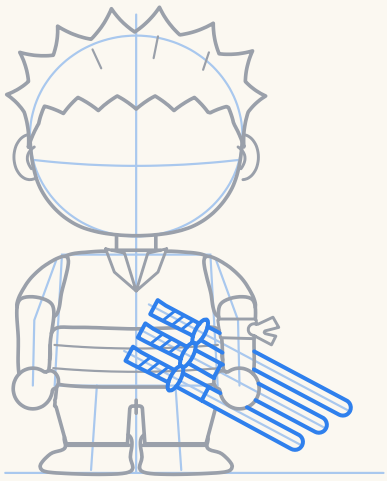
STEP 7 Add the sash, the pants and the boots



Across the waist, draw a wide band with soft rounded sides for his haramaki, the green belly sash, plus two curved lines for the knit ribs. The dark pants underneath are short and chunky, with a small gap between the legs. Finish with two rounded boots, toes pointing a little outward.

💡 **Tip:** Turning the boot toes slightly outward makes him look like he's standing firmly, not floating.

STEP 8 Draw the three sheathed swords at his hip



Follow each slanted guide with a long, narrow sheath that has a rounded end. Where each sheath meets the sash, add a small oval guard and a short handle that pokes up toward the middle of his body, with a few slanted lines for the wrapping. I keep all three swords in their sheaths, passing behind his hand.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the front sword first, then the ones behind it. That way you never draw a line you'll have to erase.

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STEP 9 Draw the eyes, the brows and a confident smile



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On the eye line, draw two ovals with a darker lid line on top, a big dark iris in each and two white shine dots. Thick, short brows tilt slightly toward the center. A tiny hook for the nose and one curved smile, raised a little at one end, give him that calm, sure look.

💡 **Tip:** Tilting the brows a little is the whole trick. Flat brows look sleepy, while a slight tilt reads as confident.

STEP 10 Add three gold earrings

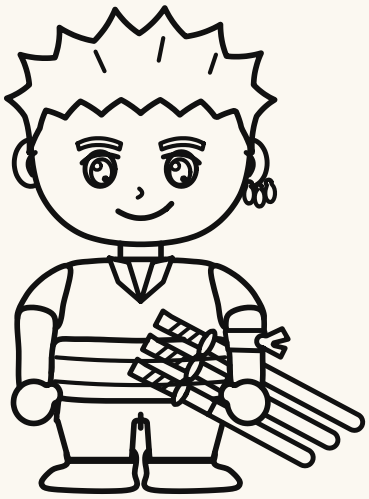


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On the ear on his left side (your right), draw three small oval drops hanging side by side from the earlobe, each with a tiny ring on top. Fans look for them right away.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the earrings the same size and close together. Three different sizes look like a random cluster.

STEP 11 Ink the lines and erase the guides



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Go over the keeper lines with a black fineliner, wait a minute for the ink to dry, then erase the circle, the box and the guides. I always check around the swords and hands, because that's where stray pencil marks like to hide.

💡 **Tip:** Ink slowly in short strokes. A quick, long stroke on the spiky hair usually overshoots the points.

STEP 12 Color your Zoro



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Color the hair a deep green and the sash a lighter green so they don't blend. Use peach for the skin, white or very light gray for the shirt and dark gray for the pants, with black boots and bandana. For the swords, I color one sheath off-white, one red and one black, with gold guards and earrings.

💡 **Tip:** Leave a thin pale stripe across the hair. That little shine makes the green look glossy and round.