How to draw a snowflake

Detailed guide

Pale dashes show placement. Dark plum is the new line. Gray shows earlier work.

Place the guides

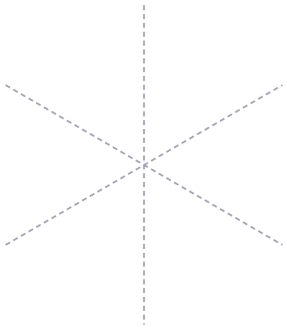
1. Draw a light upright line

Draw one faint pencil line through the middle. Leave room beyond both ends for the rounded tips.

Place the guides

2. Cross it with two diagonals

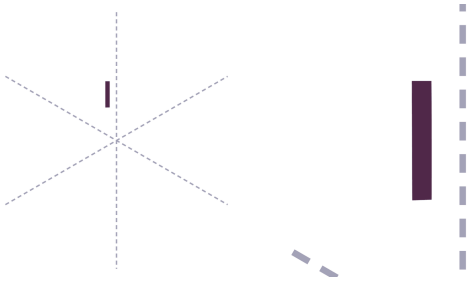
Put both diagonals through the same center. Aim for six roughly equal gaps and six ends about the same distance out.



Learn the pattern on the top arm

3. Start the left edge of the top arm

Start a short distance above the center, just left of the upright. Go up beside the guide and pause just before the first twig turns out.

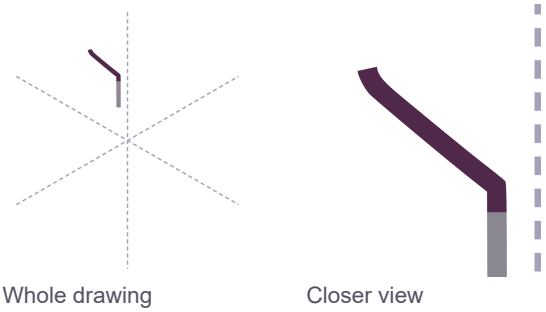


Whole drawing Closer view

Learn the pattern on the top arm

4. Go out along the first twig

Slope up and left from the line you drew. Ease into the rounded end and pause halfway around it.



Whole drawing Closer view

How to draw a snowflake

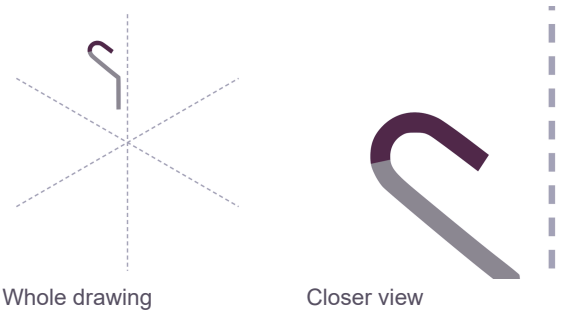
Detailed guide

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Learn the pattern on the top arm

5. Return toward the first notch

Finish rounding the twig. Head diagonally back toward the upright and pause just before the inside notch, higher than where you turned out.



Whole drawing Closer view

Learn the pattern on the top arm

6. Take the left edge up to the tip

Turn at the notch and go almost straight up. Leave enough space across the guide for a broad arm.

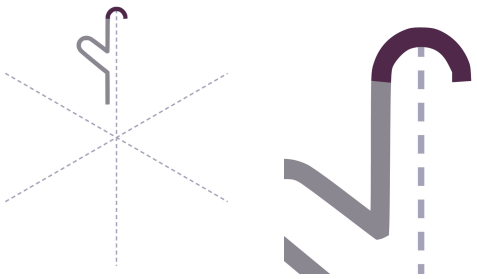


Whole drawing Closer view

Learn the pattern on the top arm

7. Round the main tip

Make a broad curve across the end of the upright. Stop when the line points down on the other side.

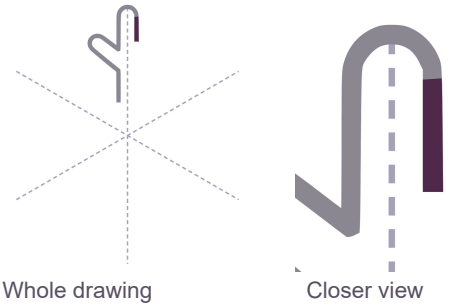


Whole drawing Closer view

Learn the pattern on the top arm

8. Come down toward the second notch

Go down beside the upright. Pause just before the second notch, which will sit about level with the first.



Whole drawing Closer view

How to draw a snowflake

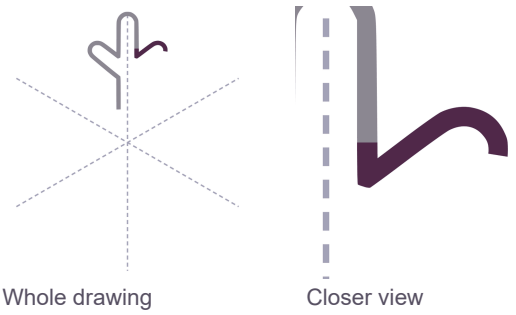
Detailed guide

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Learn the pattern on the top arm

9. Go out along the second twig

Angle up and right from the notch. Start to round the twig at about the same height as the first one.

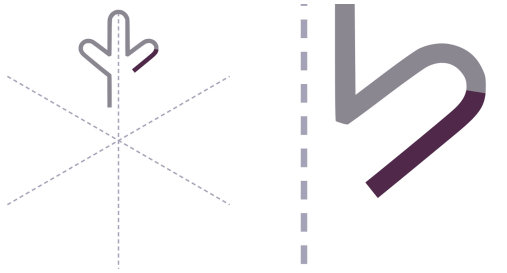


Whole drawing | Closer view

Learn the pattern on the top arm

10. Return toward the right edge

Finish the rounded end and head back toward the upright. Pause just before the twig turns into the stem.



Whole drawing | Closer view

Learn the pattern on the top arm

11. Bring the right edge down

Continue straight down toward the center. Stop level with your starting point, leaving the middle open for the other arms.

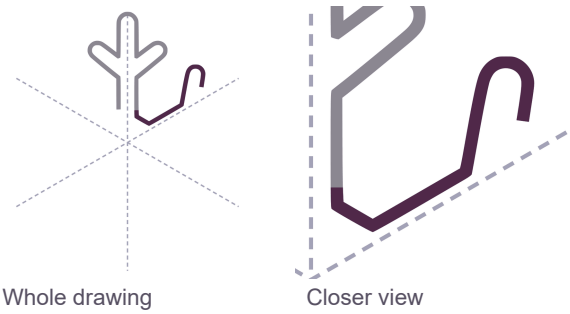


Whole drawing | Closer view

Repeat around the other five arms

12. Join into the upper-right arm and turn through its first twig

Make the shallow inward V shown near the center. Follow the new spoke outward, leave it to round the first twig, then approach the inside notch. Use the same turns as on the top arm.



Whole drawing | Closer view

How to draw a snowflake

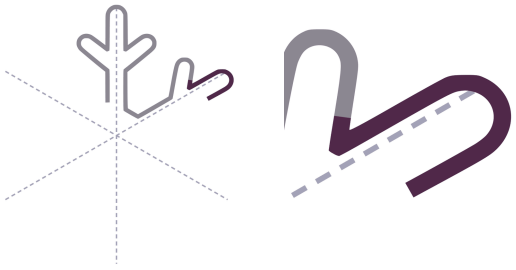
Detailed guide

Pale dashes show placement. Dark plum is the new line. Gray shows earlier work.

Repeat around the other five arms

13. Round the upper-right tip

Turn at the notch and draw out beside the spoke. Round the main tip, then come back along the other edge toward the second notch.

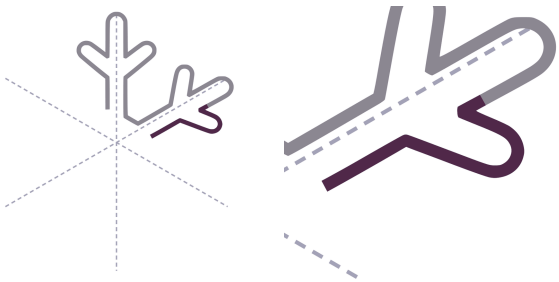


Whole drawing Closer view

Repeat around the other five arms

14. Finish the second twig on the upper-right arm

Go out to round the second twig, come back to the stem edge and follow it toward the center. Pause at the same distance in as the previous inner join.

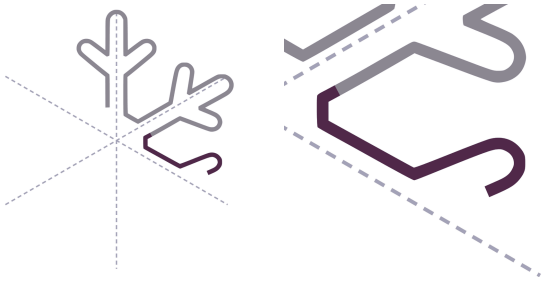


Whole drawing Closer view

Repeat around the other five arms

15. Join into the lower-right arm and turn through its first twig

Make the shallow inward V shown near the center. Follow the new spoke outward, leave it to round the first twig, then approach the inside notch. Use the same turns as on the top arm.

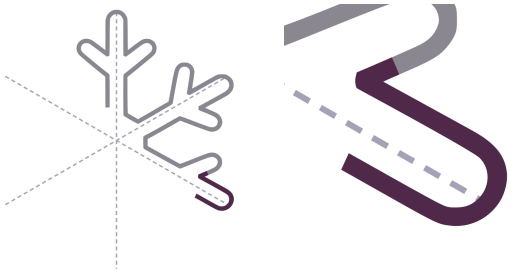


Whole drawing Closer view

Repeat around the other five arms

16. Round the lower-right tip

Turn at the notch and draw out beside the spoke. Round the main tip, then come back along the other edge toward the second notch.



Whole drawing Closer view

How to draw a snowflake

Detailed guide

Pale dashes show placement. Dark plum is the new line. Gray shows earlier work.

Repeat around the other five arms

17. Finish the second twig on the lower-right arm

Go out to round the second twig, come back to the stem edge and follow it toward the center. Pause at the same distance in as the previous inner join.

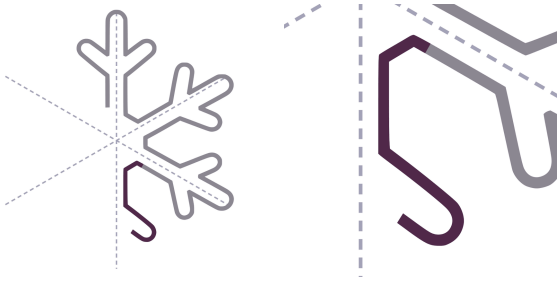


Whole drawing | Closer view

Repeat around the other five arms

18. Join into the bottom arm and turn through its first twig

Make the shallow inward V shown near the center. Follow the new spoke outward, leave it to round the first twig, then approach the inside notch. Use the same turns as on the top arm.



Whole drawing | Closer view

Repeat around the other five arms

19. Round the bottom tip

Turn at the notch and draw out beside the spoke. Round the main tip, then come back along the other edge toward the second notch.

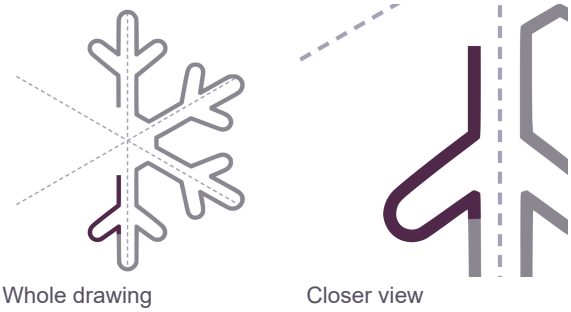


Whole drawing | Closer view

Repeat around the other five arms

20. Finish the second twig on the bottom arm

Go out to round the second twig, come back to the stem edge and follow it toward the center. Pause at the same distance in as the previous inner join.



Whole drawing | Closer view

How to draw a snowflake

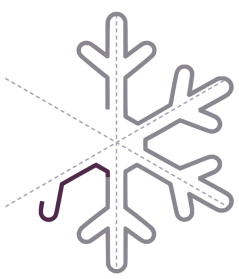
Detailed guide

Pale dashes show placement. Dark plum is the new line. Gray shows earlier work.

Repeat around the other five arms

21. Join into the lower-left arm and turn through its first twig

Make the shallow inward V shown near the center. Follow the new spoke outward, leave it to round the first twig, then approach the inside notch. Use the same turns as on the top arm.



Whole drawing

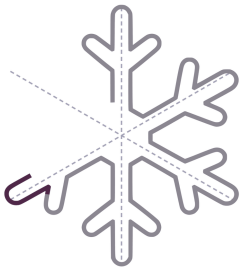


Closer view

Repeat around the other five arms

22. Round the lower-left tip

Turn at the notch and draw out beside the spoke. Round the main tip, then come back along the other edge toward the second notch.



Whole drawing

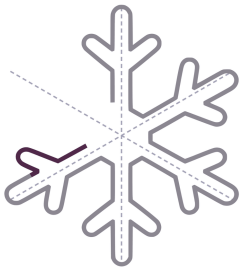


Closer view

Repeat around the other five arms

23. Finish the second twig on the lower-left arm

Go out to round the second twig, come back to the stem edge and follow it toward the center. Pause at the same distance in as the previous inner join.



Whole drawing

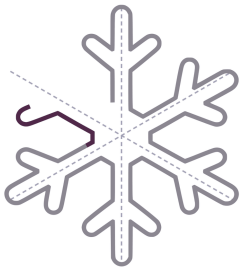


Closer view

Repeat around the other five arms

24. Join into the upper-left arm and turn through its first twig

Make the shallow inward V shown near the center. Follow the new spoke outward, leave it to round the first twig, then approach the inside notch. Use the same turns as on the top arm.



Whole drawing



Closer view

How to draw a snowflake

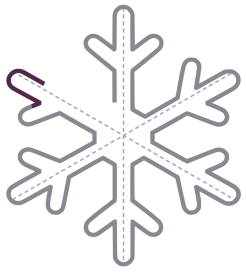
Detailed guide

Pale dashes show placement. Dark plum is the new line. Gray shows earlier work.

Repeat around the other five arms

25. Round the upper-left tip

Turn at the notch and draw out beside the spoke. Round the main tip, then come back along the other edge toward the second notch.



Whole drawing

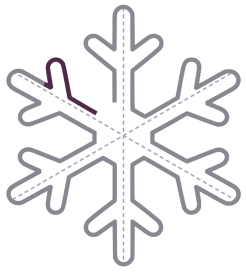


Closer view

Repeat around the other five arms

26. Finish the second twig on the upper-left arm

Go out to round the second twig, come back to the stem edge and follow it toward the center. Pause at the same distance in as the previous inner join.



Whole drawing

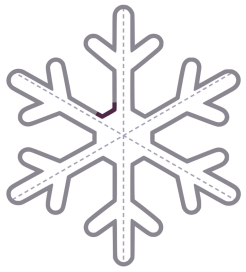


Closer view

Close and clean up the outline

27. Join the last edge to the first

Use one last shallow inward V to meet the point where you began. Follow the whole perimeter with your eye and check that the outline closes.



Whole drawing

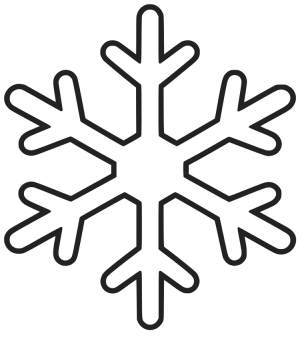


Closer view

Close and clean up the outline

28. Erase the light guides

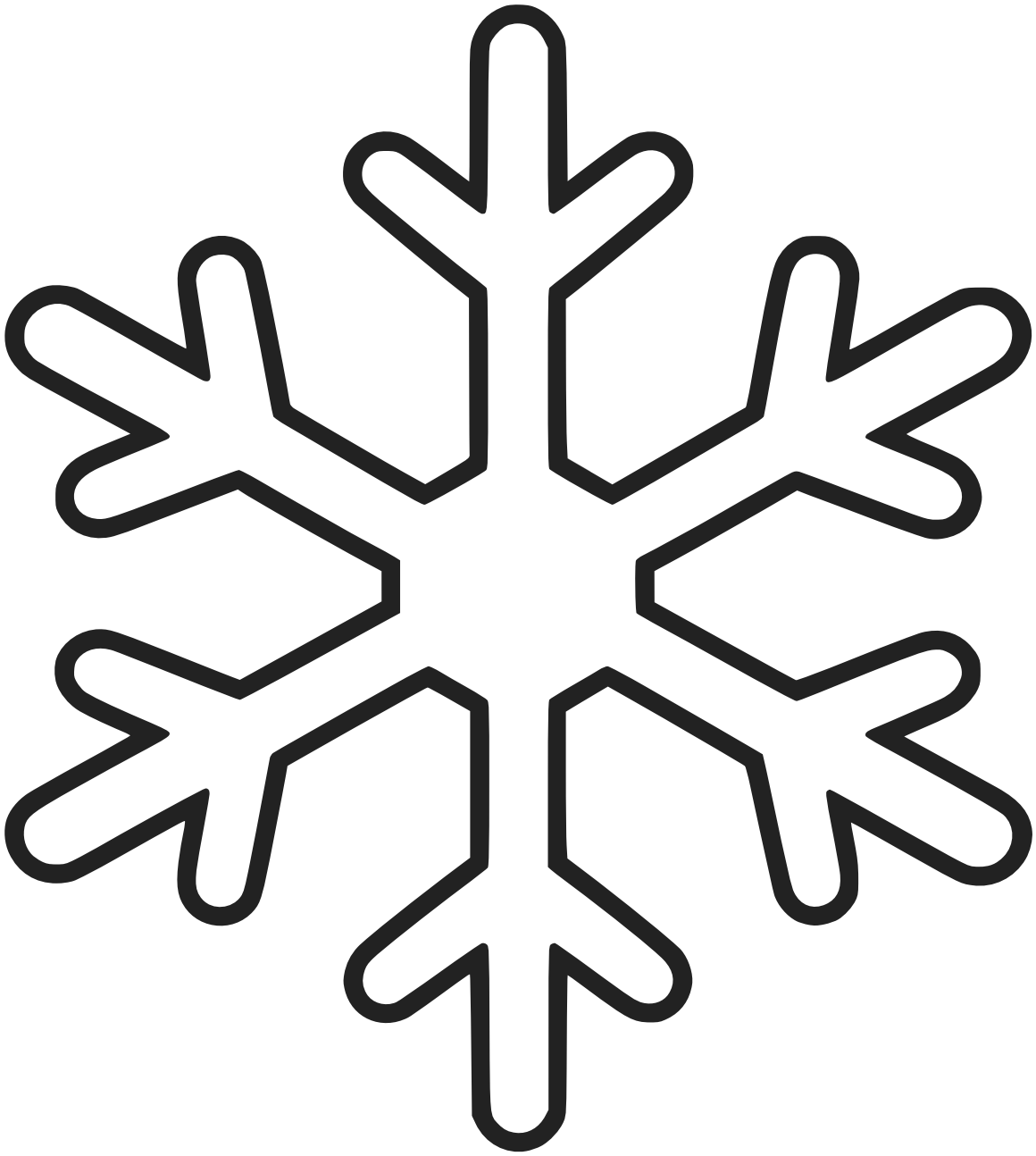
Keep the closed outline and rub out the three placement lines. Strengthen any faint joins after you are happy with the shape.



How to draw a snowflake

Blank outline

Use the finished shape to check your drawing or color it in.



How to draw a snowflake

Color reference

Try pale blue across the center, twigs and rounded tips.

