

HOW TO DRAW A MANDALA

By Jessie Oleson Moore, *Craftsy Art Blog*

<https://www.craftsy.com/art/article/how-to-draw-a-mandala/>

First things first: what is a mandala? The word comes from Sanskrit, and roughly translates as “circle.” Visually, the circle represents wholeness, and typically a mandala will include intricate, usually symmetrical imagery.

SUPPLIES

- A pencil, pen, or whatever drawing medium you prefer
- Drawing surface
- A ruler
- Circular objects that you can trace

PROCESS

- 1) Draw a circle on your paper; this will be the size of your mandala. You can trace around an object such as a plate, a roll of packing tape or the rim of a drinking glass. If you're up to the challenge, you can also draw it freehand.
- 2) Draw one line horizontally in the center of your circle, then another vertically, so that you have four equal quadrants in the circle.
- 3) Start by drawing a small circle in the center of your large circle.
- 4) Create organic shapes coming out of each of the four quadrants from the small circle.
- 5) Working from the “negative” spaces in your current design, draw additional shapes. These can be a new shape or the same shapes you initially drew at a different height.
- 6) From here, you will basically continue this process — building your way out from the central image, maintaining a consistent and symmetrical design. I find that making additional sectors as you work out helps you create evenly spaced imagery.
- 7) Continue adding shapes until you run out of space in your circle. Or, if you decide that you want to go bigger, simply expand the circle and keep going. You may find that it's addictive and you're not ready to stop.
- 8) From here, you can either leave the mandala as-is or continue drawing within the shapes for an even more intricate look. Once you're happy with the work, erase any pencil lines still showing, if applicable.



DRAWING NOTES

As an alternative to starting with one circle as shown in step 3, you could start your mandala with a series of circles nestled within a larger circle. Then, you would add shapes within each ring.

