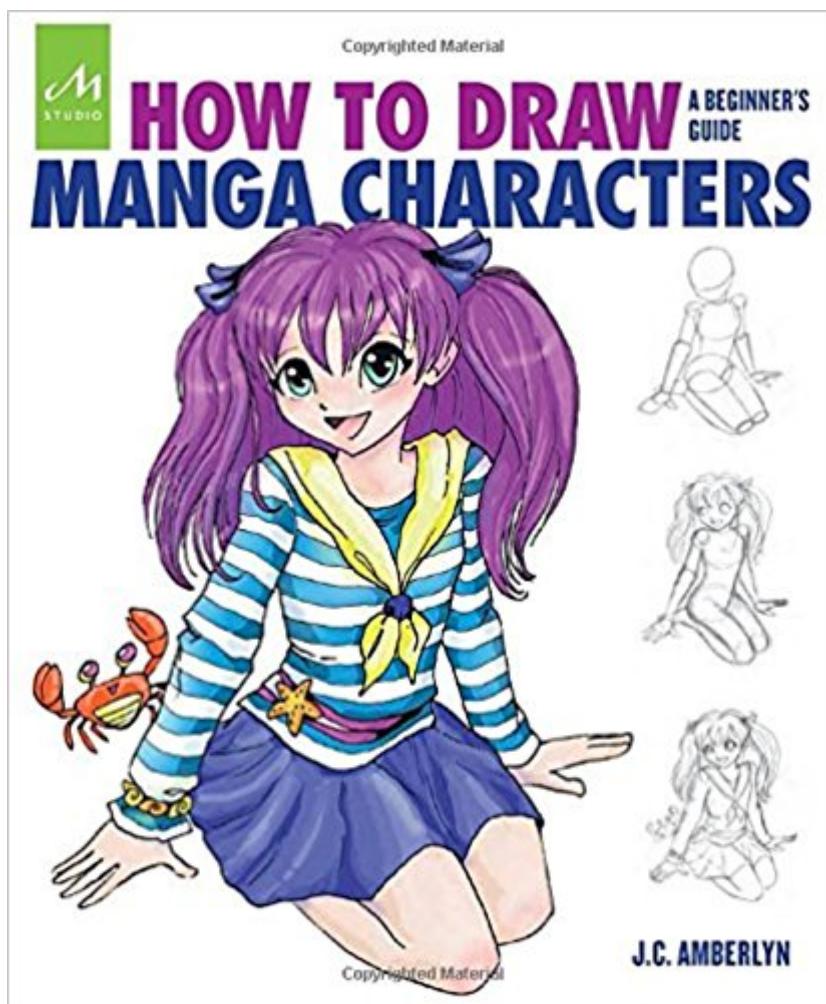


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# How To Draw Manga Characters: A Beginner's Guide



## Synopsis

BRING YOUR IMAGINATION TO LIFE In her second manga book, best-selling author J.C. Amberlyn focuses on favorite manga archetype characters, with a fun and lively how-to-draw book aimed at beginners. Every genre of manga has its typical characters—plucky hero and heroine; school boys and girls; funny friend/sidekick; serious warrior; young innocent; bishounen; genki girls; chibis; chibi animals; cat girls/cat boys; magical girls; adorable animals; strong/scary animals; gothic characters; fantasy characters—and they are all here along with the step-by-step drawing instructions needed to give even beginners the direction they need to create the favorite characters they can't get enough of. A final chapter on backgrounds, scenery, and the environment will further give readers the information they need to pull everything together and create their own manga characters and the worlds they live in. Includes 23 step-by-step demonstrations and exercises. J.C. Amberlyn takes you through everything you need to know to create your favorite manga characters from Japanese comics or design your own. INCLUDES IN-DEPTH INSTRUCTION ON: INTRODUCTION What Is a Character \* Creating a Manga Character \* This Book \* Materials and Supplies CHARACTER TYPES Manga Character Archetypes and Story Genres \* Manga Character Types \* Some Common Terms and Color Associations DRAWING THE HEAD AND FACE Human Heads and Faces \* Noses, Ears, and Mouths \* Eyes \* Hair \* Animals EXPRESSIONS Emotions \* Accessories \* Exaggerating Features \* Using Fur, Feathers, and Scales \* Perspective \* Animal Expressions \* Dragons BODIES AND GESTURES Anatomy of a Chibi, Child, Woman, and Man \* Gestures \* Posture, Angles, and Character Appeal \* Clothing and Accessories \* Wings \* Animal Bodies SETTINGS, SCENES, AND SAMPLES Props \* Character Design Examples \* Silhouettes \* Scenes \* Character Sheets

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The perfect book for anyone who wants to understand and draw the Japanese world of Manga characters. If you are new to Manga it explains everything from the different types of humans and creatures as well as the personality traits of each one. The book goes way beyond just simply drawing for drawing sake. You can see how J.C. is able to build a character up from a sketch to a fully clothed and properly posed figure and how to give them the appearance of thought. Something a lot of other books on drawing leave out, but extremely important if you are drawing a comic or creating an animation." —Marc Spess, author of *Secrets of Clay Animation Revealed*

J.C. Amberlyn is an artist, book author, photographer, and animator. She is the author of *Drawing Wildlife*; *Drawing Manga Animals, Chibis, and Other Adorable Creatures*; and *The Artist's Guide to Drawing Animals: How to Draw Cats, Dogs, and Other Favorite Pets*. J.C. loves art, animation, animals, and adventure in the great outdoors. She seeks to create visual and written works of art that strike a chord with her audience, whether they celebrate the life that shares the planet with us or the rich inner workings of the human mind and experience. With her books, she shares techniques for creating epic stories, engaging characters, and appealing art for readers of all skill levels. Her work has received recognition and a number of awards and has been published in various media. She lives in Arizona.

J. C. Amberlyn's *HOW TO DRAW MANGA CHARACTERS* is a really cool tool to help beginners draw their own characters. The guidebook begins by outlining the general archetypes and traits of manga and anime characters, and then proceeds to illustrate exactly how to draw these characters, including tips on how to individualize the characters you're drawing to make them your own. The first few chapters focus on very simple drawings (faces, including details on eyes, noses, mouths, and hair). But by the end there are instructions for drawing animals (including fantasy creatures, like dragons), full body characters, specific emotional expressions, and detailed clothing and accessories. The book itself is beautifully done, with a heavy-weight cover and glossy pages. I've never tried to draw anything like these characters and I'm definitely not an artist but I did manage to pull off a reasonable manga boy's face (see my photos). And

I feel that the target audience for this book is teenagers and young adults. I taught high school for many years, and I had countless students who drew manga characters in the margins of their notebooks, and I know they would love this book. The instructions use a very simple four-line template to help the artist align faces (getting eyes and mouth in the right place is important!). Once you complete your pencil sketch, you will go over the lines with ink to finalize your drawing, and then erase the pencil lines. One tip is to get a good-quality eraser (which I did not have). Bottom line, if you are interested in the art of manga and anime and want to create characters of your own, this is a great book to get you started.

The how to book arrived in good order and was highly received by my daughter. She's been drawing Manga characters for close to three years now and this book helps her with the finer details in drawing and filling in the characters. Very easy to follow instructions, that had my daughter going step by step into the world of Manga. She uses the four-line template to help align faces, which she had pretty much mastered but this help solidify her drawing. Once she completed her pencil sketch, she then went over those exact same lines with a Micron .01 black pen to finish the work. She then was able to erase the pencil lines. Since I'm into drawing she had at her disposal a wealth of erasers, pencils and pens so those materials were not needed but certainly appreciated in her drawings. Highly recommended and would make a perfect gift for the budding Manga artist.

I'm not a Manga artist or Manga reader, but I will occasionally get Manga art books because the anatomy is much easier to follow through these books and styles. The best thing about Manga is the style is in the middle of cartoony and realism. Whatever direction you want to take your art work Manga is a good place to start. I will completely recommend this particular book because it's unlike many of the Manga books I find. First, it covers everything. Most Manga books do not try to cover everything in the same book. In this book you'll find tutorials on the head, features of the face, male and female anatomy, clothing, animals, character style sheets, perspective, and setting. It does the skeletal structure with gesture drawing. This is something many beginning artist ignore, but it's one of the major things that will help your work. I'm glad that had that in there as a main way of drawing characters. The tutorials are detailed and easy to follow.

I chose this book for an 11-year-old girl. She often draws me pictures of characters she makes up for stories, and she leans toward the manga style of art. After flipping through the pages, I decided

this book would be perfect for her. It isn't so beginner as to be boring, but it also isn't so advanced that it will frustrate her more than instruct. She has been very excited about it. The instructions are clear and concise. The graphics are bright and beautiful. I'm 100% happy with my choice.

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