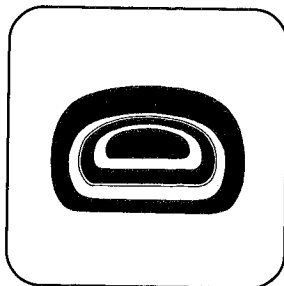


# How to Draw Ovoids

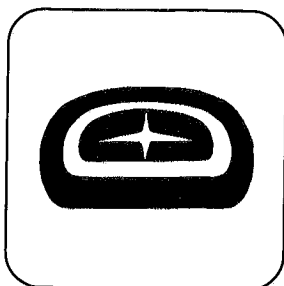


*North coast art style ovoid*

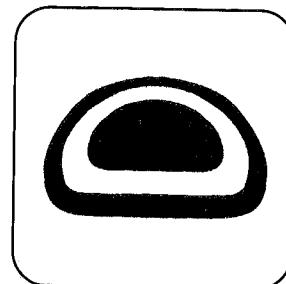
An ovoid is the basic building block of any northwest coast formline design. It is usually a bilaterally symmetrical design unit which is extremely flexible in shape and can vary from a near circle to a shallow, elongated rectangle with rounded corners.

The bottom line of the ovoid can be straight, slightly convex or concave. Often, the longer and more slender the ovoid, the more concave the bottom. Usually, the more circular in shape or where width and depth are similar, the more convex the bottom line. Top and sides are always convex with the greatest width being at the bilateral centre of the ovoid unit regardless of the shape.

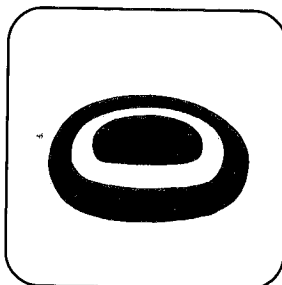
Ovoids often represent heads, eyes, joints, and bodies.



*West coast art style ovoid*



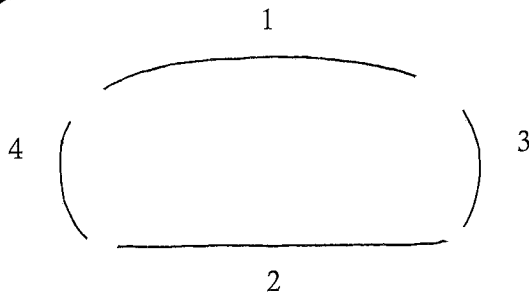
*Mid coast art style ovoid*



*South coast art style ovoid*

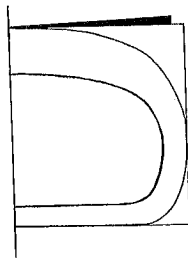
## Approaches to Drawing Ovoids

There can be several approaches to drawing ovoids. Each person develops a favourite after attempting each approach. An ovoid can be sketched freehand, drawn within a rectangular guideline, half-drawn and folded or made into a template.



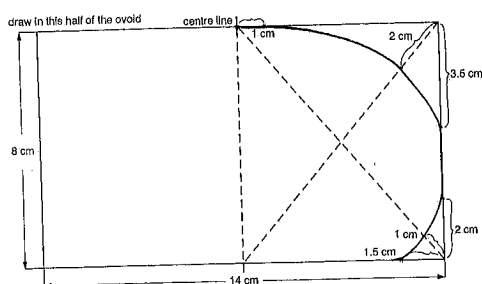
*Using sketch lines to draw an ovoid*

This ovoid is sketched using a quick curved line for the top, a straight line for the bottom and two curved lines which join the top and bottom.



*Making and using an ovoid template*

This ovoid shows the use of a template. Until an artist becomes familiar with the symmetry of an ovoid, a template makes drawing easier. How to make a template will be described on the following pages.



*Using a reference rectangle to draw an ovoid*

This ovoid was drawn using a reference rectangle. Measurements are made at diagonal points from the corners and lines are drawn to join the points. This method is explained in detail in the book, *Learning by Doing Northwest Coast Native Indian Art*, by Karin Clark and Jim Gilbert.

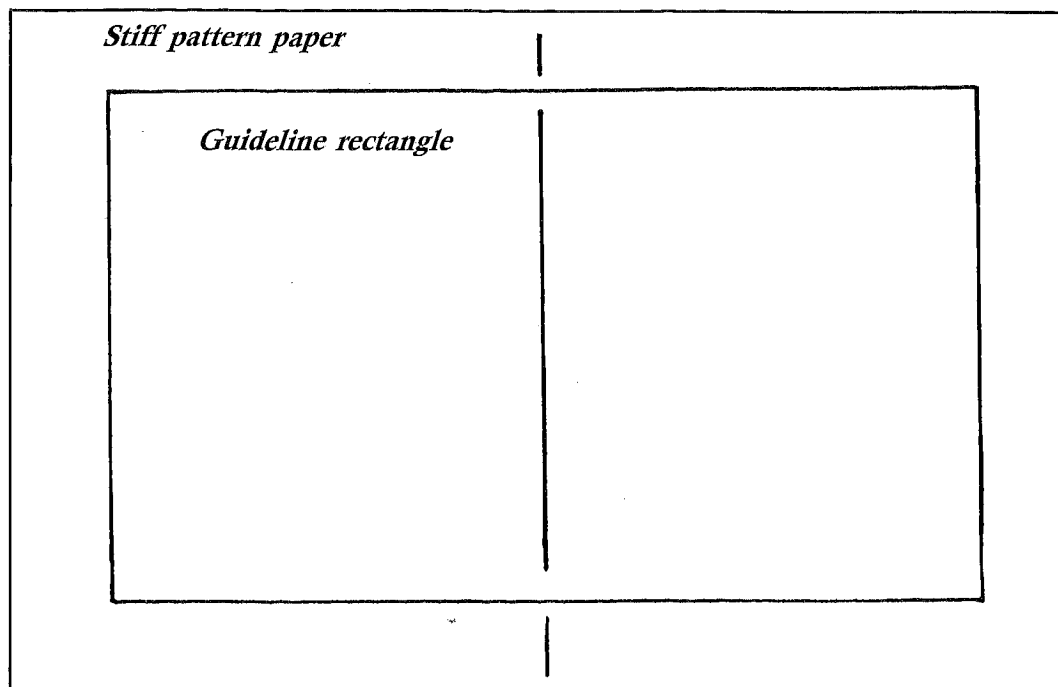
## Making Ovoid Patterns or Templates

Patterns or templates were used by First Nations artists. These templates were often made out of thin tree bark. Not all designs were created using patterns. Until an artist becomes familiar with design shapes and can draw them freehand to his/her satisfaction, it is helpful to use patterns.

Great variation in size, internal design structure and shape can be seen in ovoids. Ovoids may be circle-like, tall and narrow, long and thin, or have straight, concave or convex bottom lines.

Ovoid formline thickness varies a great deal among different artists or coast cultural groups. For example, Tlingit (north coast art style) ovoids may have thick wall width with the thickest line width at the top of the ovoid. Kwakwaka'wakw (mid coast art style) ovoids may have a thin wall width, straight bottom line, with the thickest line width at the bottom of the ovoid.

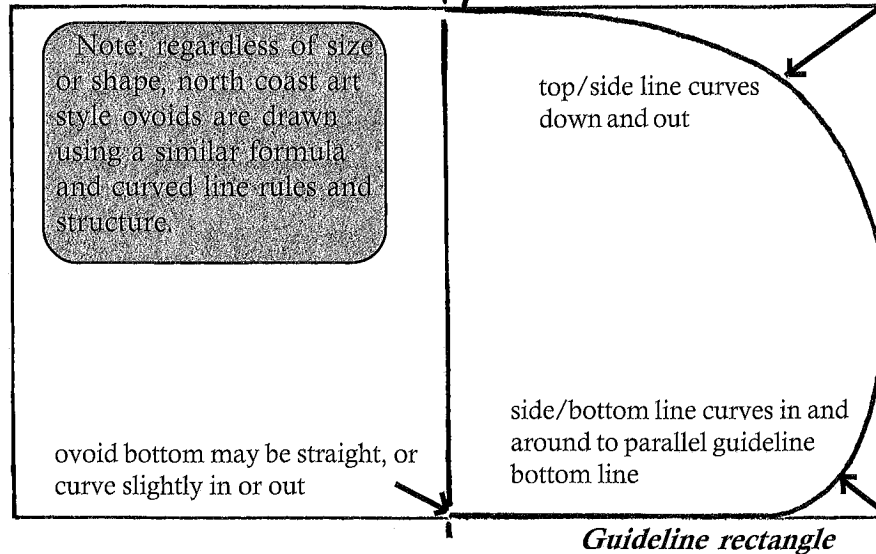
### *Step 1. Guideline rectangle*



1. Determine length and height of ovoid and draw a guideline rectangle. Draw a centre line through the rectangle.

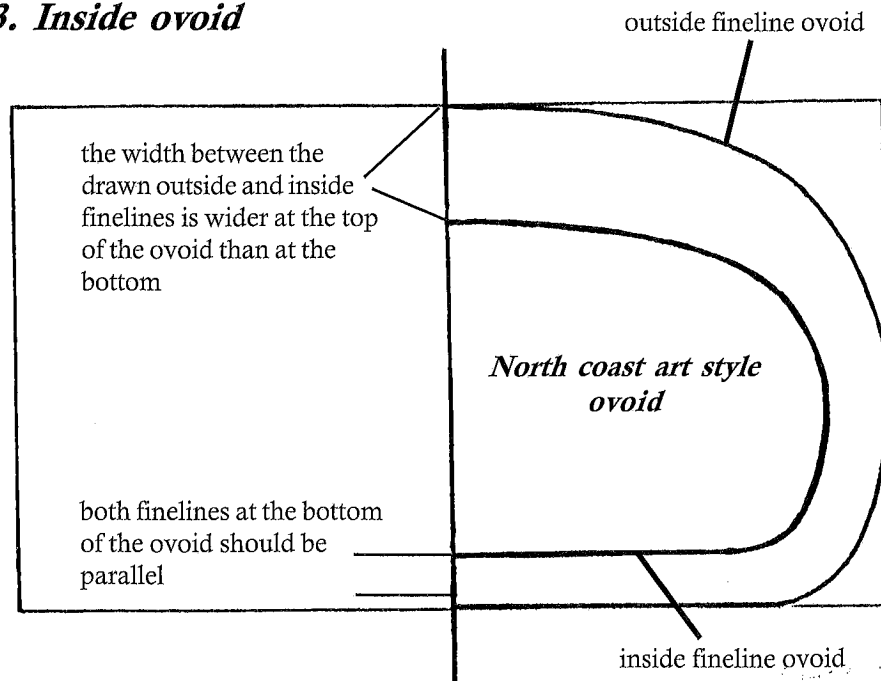
## Making Ovoid Patterns or Templates continued

### Step 2. Outside ovoid



2. In *one side only* of the rectangle draw the outside fineline of the ovoid.

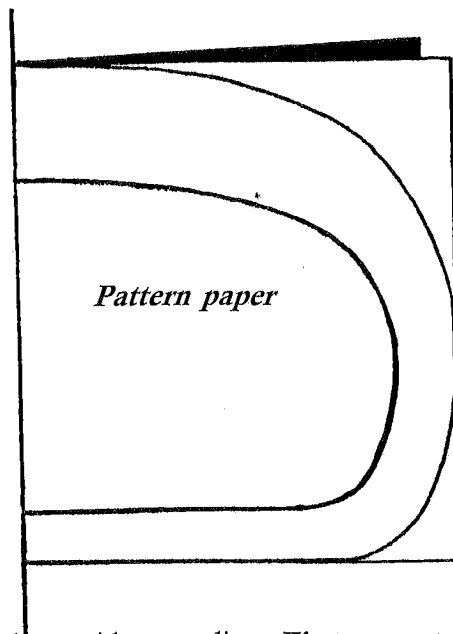
### Step 3. Inside ovoid



3. Draw another ovoid inside the first ovoid using the same straight and curved line formula as was used to draw the outside fineline.

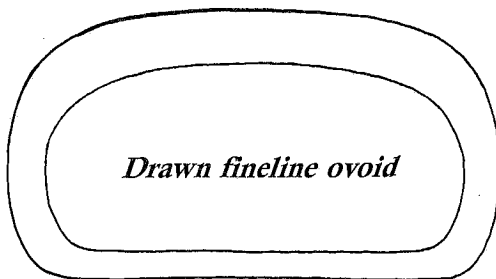
## Making Ovoid Patterns or Templates continued

### Step 4. Fold and cut



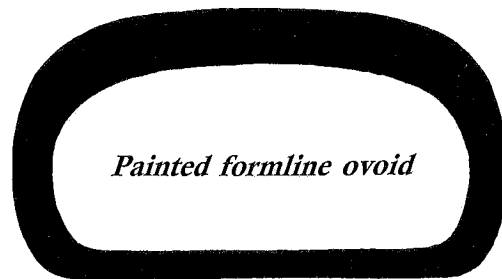
4. Carefully fold pattern paper on the ovoid centre line. *First*, cut out on the **inside** ovoid fineline. *Second*, cut out on the **outside** ovoid fineline.

### Step 5. Finline ovoid



5. Open and lay out cut ovoids where they are needed to complete the main design. Trace around the outside of both templates. This creates a fineline ovoid that is bilaterally symmetrical.

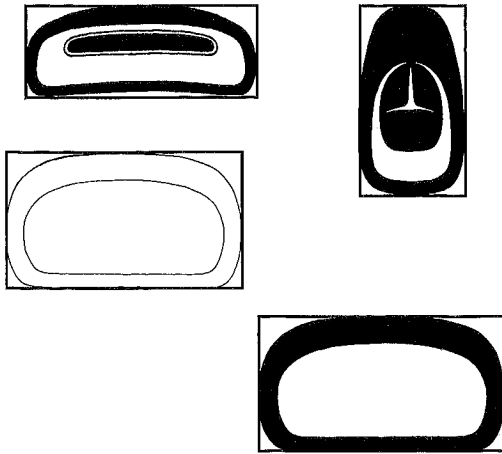
### Step 6. Painted ovoid



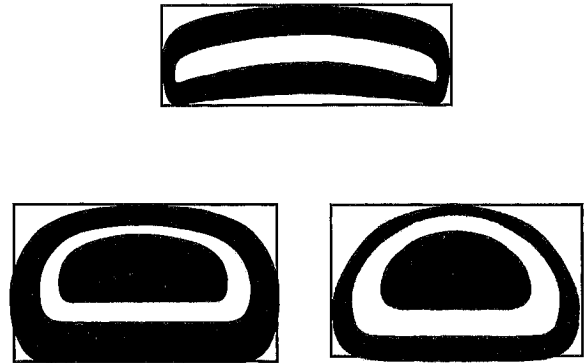
6. Paint in the area between the inside and outside finelines. This creates a formline ovoid. The shape of this ovoid is typically north coast art style because the top formline width is wider than the side or bottom width.

## How to Draw Ovoids Across Art Styles

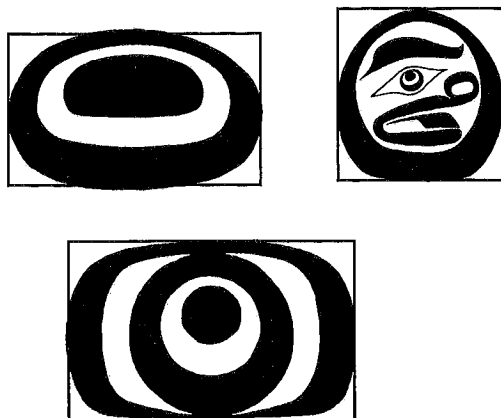
Reference rectangles reflect how ovoids vary in structure from the rigid, almost square/rectangular shapes of the north coast art style areas to the free-flowing circular style of the south.



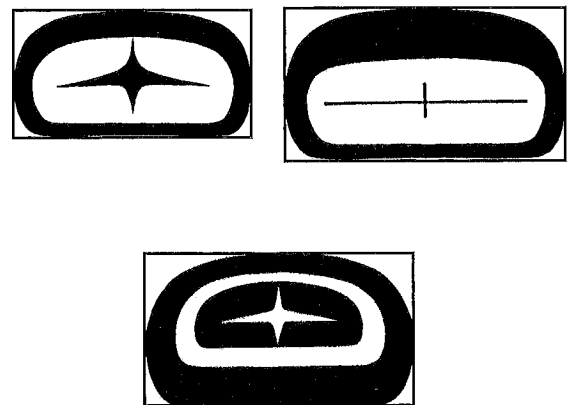
*North coast art style ovoids*



*Mid coast art style ovoids*



*South coast art style ovoids*

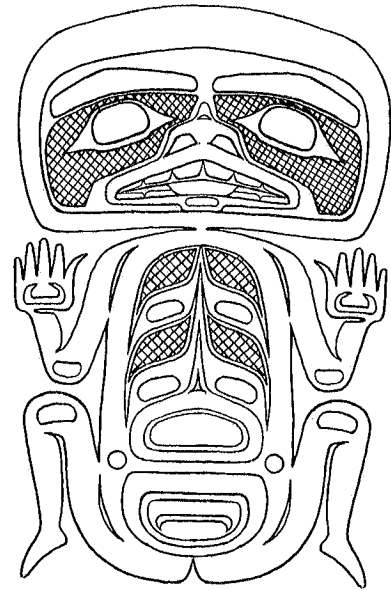


*West coast art style ovoids*

## Ovoids Used in Designs Across Art Styles



*Painted mid coast art style human*



*Drawn north coast art style human*

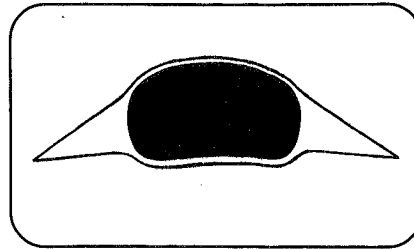


*Drawn west coast art style thunderbird*



*Painted south coast art style thunderbird*

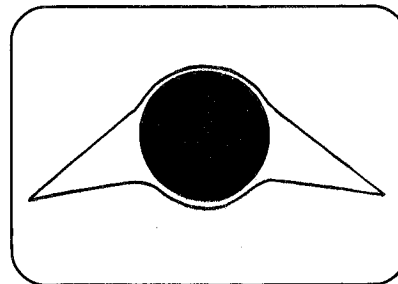
## How to Draw a North Coast Art Style Eye and Eyelid



*North coast art style ovoid eye with eyelid*

There is enormous variation in how eyes and eyelid lines are drawn in Pacific Northwest Coast art. Eyeballs can be oval, ovoid (solid or relieved), or circular (solid or relieved). Eyelid lines vary in length, slant and edges. There are variations in the eye orbit, colour, position, of the eye within the orbit, position of the pupil within the eyeball, and positive or negative eye orbits. Most eyeballs have non-concentric design features.

Eyelid lengths are usually equal but in some designs the eyelid line is shorter towards the nose and longer towards the ear. Many artists use negative relieving shapes to reduce the weight of a solid colour. These relieving shapes can be crescents, trigons, quadrons, ovoids, or circles. The iris can be attached or not attached to the eyelid line, but the eyelid line closest to the iris is always the thinnest. The iris and its pupil can be placed to show where the creature is looking. For additional examples, please see *Examples of Head Components - Eyes*



*North coast art style circular eye with eyelid*

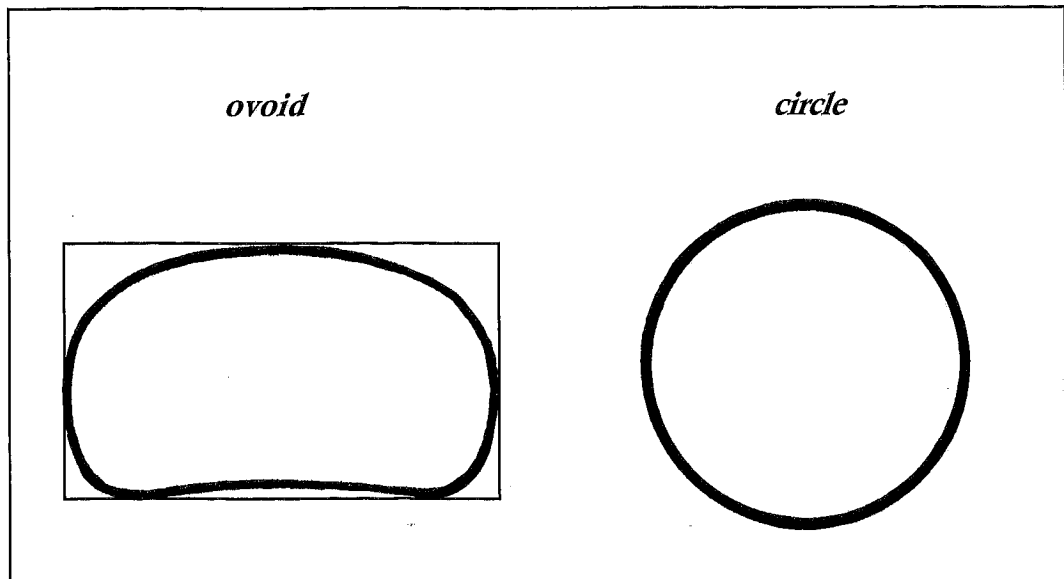


## Drawing a North Coast Art Style Eye and Eyelid

### Design Principles

1. An eyeball and eyelid design, shape or size often depends on the type of creature and the size of the eye orbit.
2. Eyeball designs are always placed in the top half of an eye orbit.
3. The eyeball design unit is usually symmetrical.
4. The painted eyelid ends are usually level in relation to the enclosed eyeball.
5. The eyelid line parallels the top and bottom of the eyeball, regardless of shape. The bottom eyelid line is usually slightly farther away from the eyeball than the top eyelid line.
6. At the top sides of the eyeball, the top eyelids curve out and down toward the pointed ends.
7. At the bottom sides of the eyeball, the lower eyelids curve out and up toward the pointed ends.
8. The eyelid lines may, in some instances, be slightly concave.
9. Regardless of eyeball design complexity, the eyeball and eyelid are usually painted black.

### Step 1. Drawn eyeball

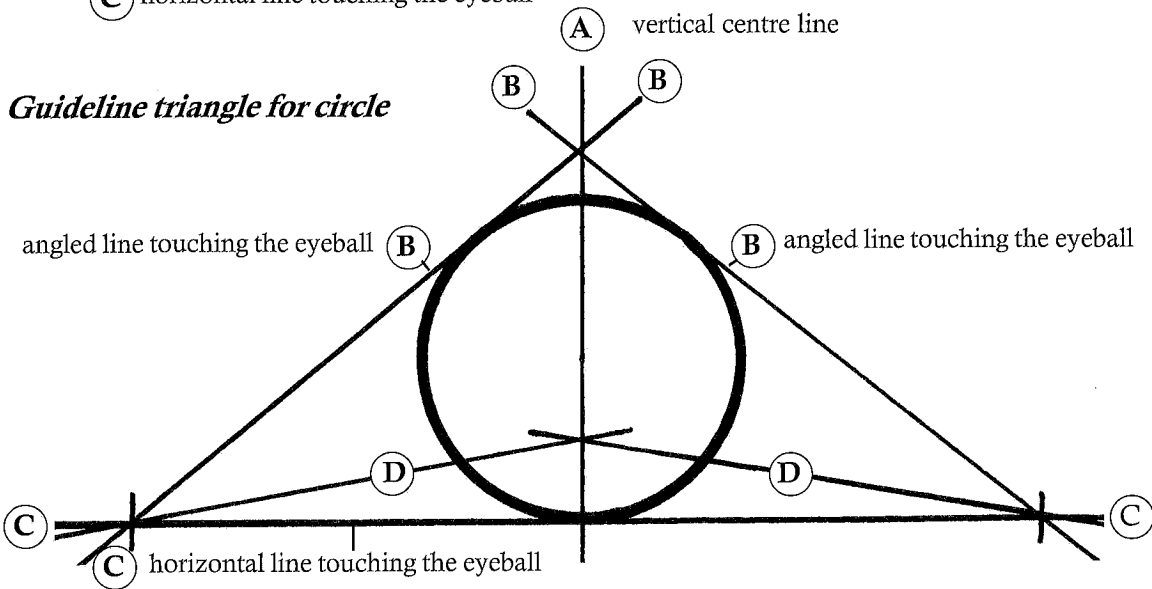
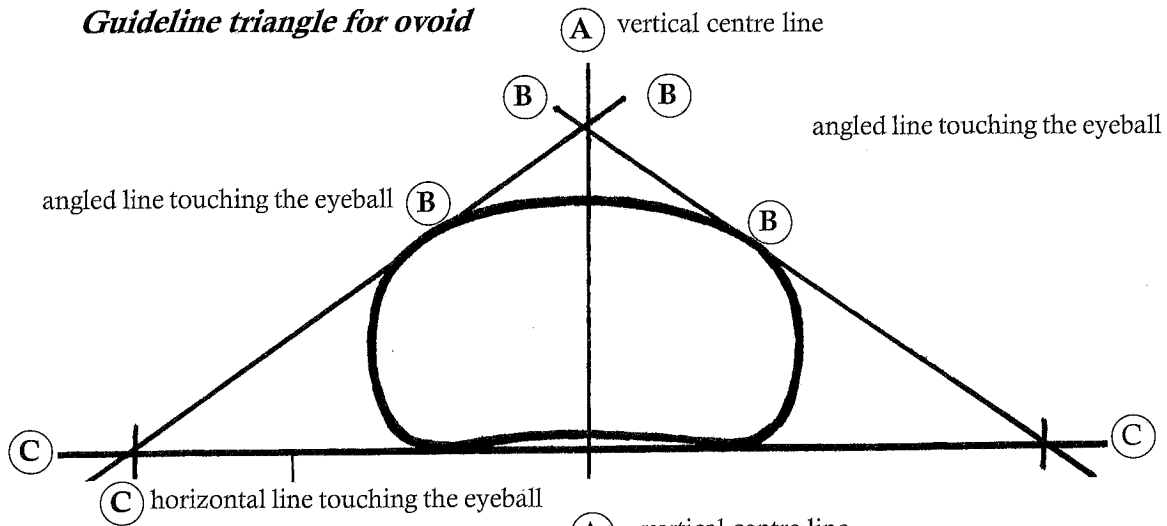


1. Choose an eyeball shape. Draw an ovoid using the information in the *How to Draw an Ovoid* chapter. Draw a circle using a circle template or compass.

**Drawing a North Coast Art Style Eye and Eyelid continued**

**Step 2. Guidelines**

**Guideline triangle for ovoid**

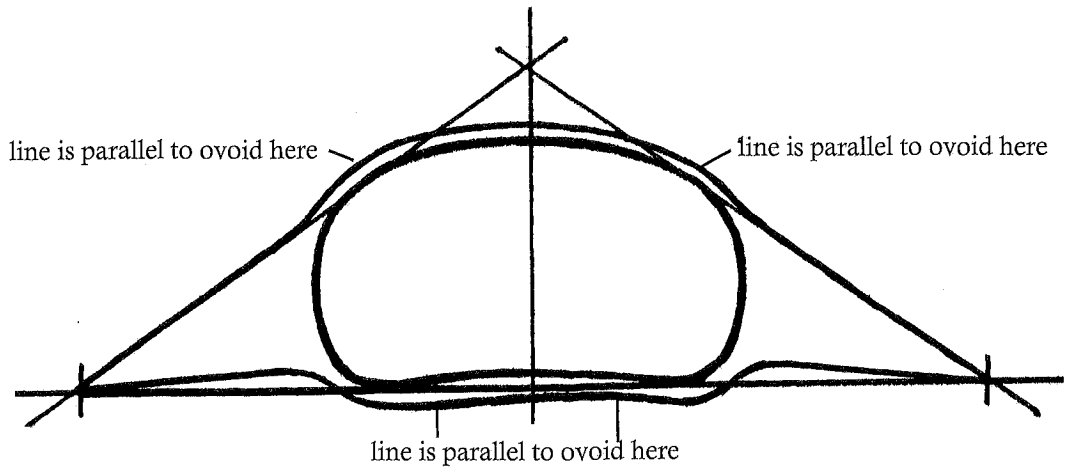


2. Draw light pencil guidelines that look like a triangle surrounding the eyeball.
  - A. Draw a vertical line down the centre of the circle or ovoid.
  - B. Draw two angled lines that come down from above the eyeball and touch on the top right and left of the eyeball.
  - C. Draw a horizontal line that touches the bottom of the eyeball.
  - D. CIRCLE: Draw an additional two slightly angled lines from the two bottom corners of the triangle that meet at the vertical centre line, slightly above the base of the triangle.

★ In both cases, the pointed eyelid ends are usually equidistant from centre line (A).

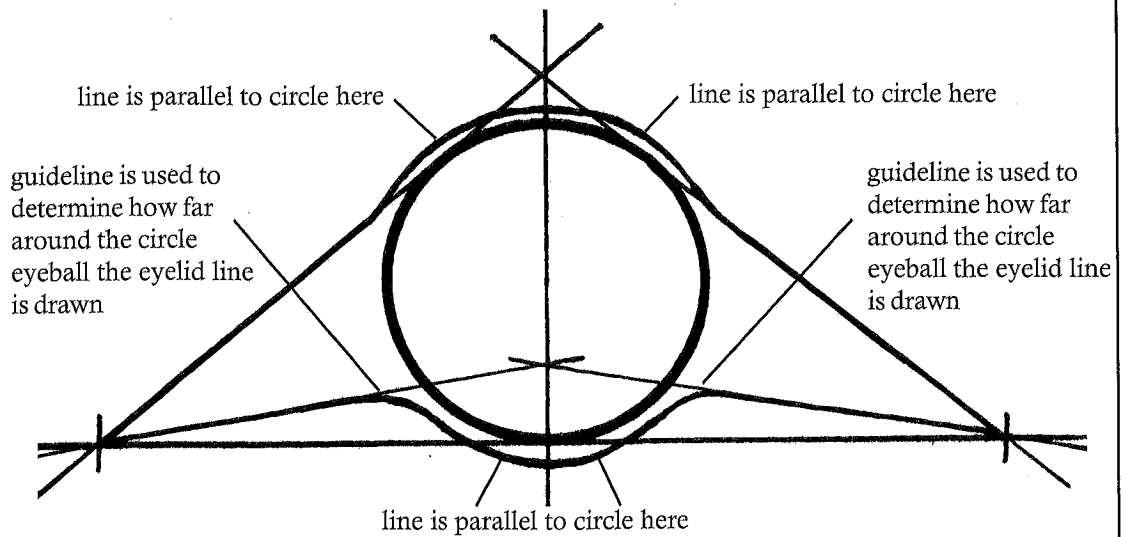
**Drawing a North Coast Art Style Eye and Eyelid continued**

**Step 3. Ovoid eyelid lines**



3. Draw in eyelid lines using guidelines.

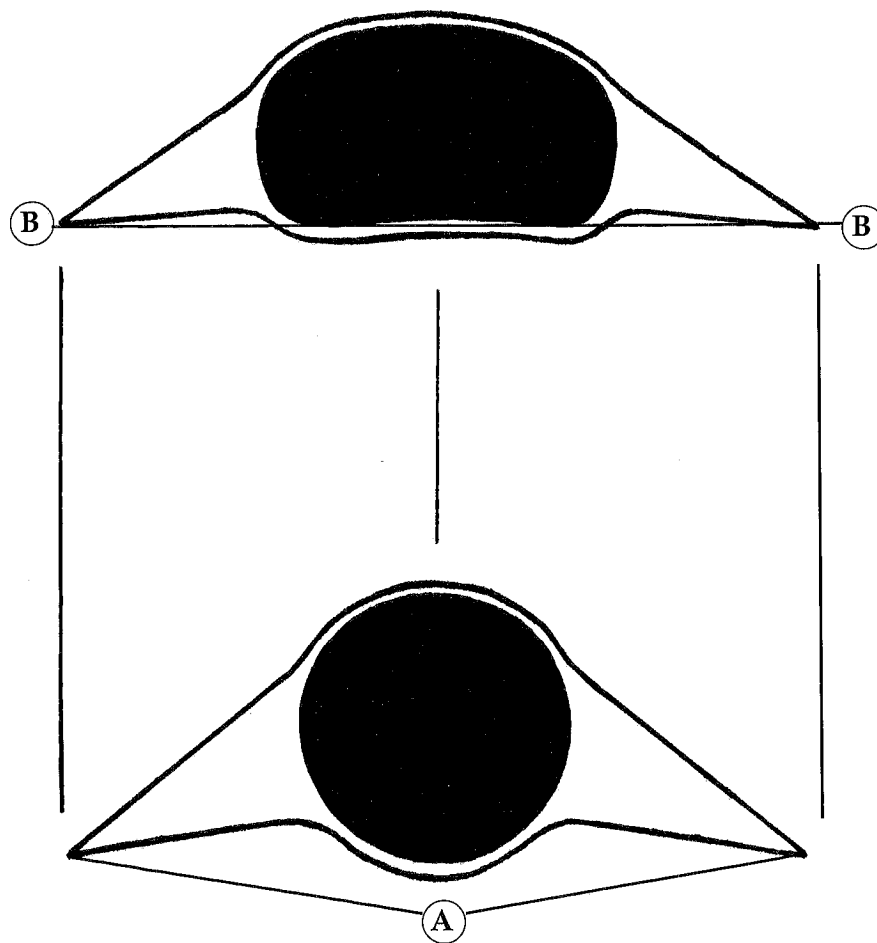
**Step 3. Circle eyelid lines**



3. Draw in eyelid lines using guidelines.

## Painted North Coast Art Style Eye and Eyelid

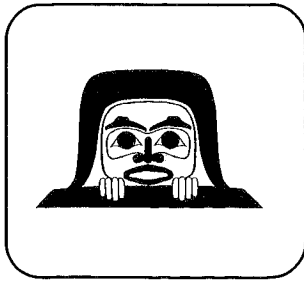
### Step 4. Erase and paint



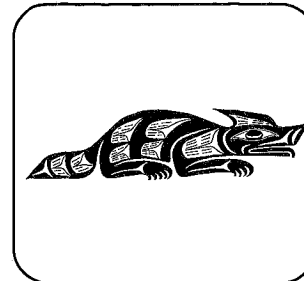
4. Erase guidelines and paint eyeball with eyelid line.

- A. Eyelid lengths vary, often in geometric relationship to the eyeball shape - width and height. The pointed eyelid ends are usually at equal distances from the eyeball centre.
- B. On the horizontal plane, the eyelid corners are rarely above the centre of the eyeball or below the bottom of the eyeball.
- C. Eye orbit size determines eye and eyelid size.

# How to Draw U shapes



*North coast art style U shape as ear*



*South coast art style U shapes showing fur*

U shapes are a commonly used design unit. Their shape, structure, and internal design complexity varies a great deal. The characteristic shape is like the letter 'U' in which two somewhat thin and parallel sides are joined to a thicker, rounded end.

U shapes in Northwest Coast art can range in shape from free form to a bilaterally symmetrical unit. They can be a solid colour, simple outline, textured, elongated, squat, split from front to rear or vice versa, or be internally relieved in mass by relieving shapes. The sides of the U shape taper at formline juncture points.

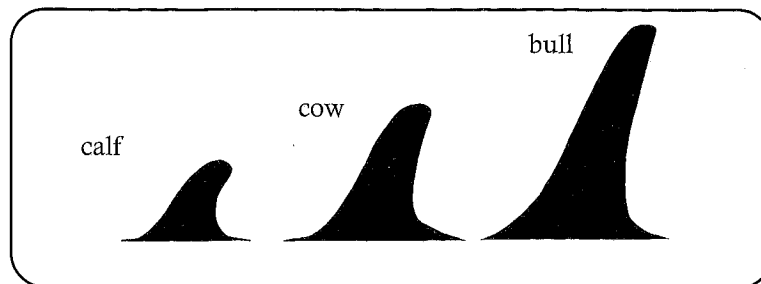
U shapes can represent feathers, scales, cheeks, ears, tongues, teeth, snouts, nostrils, mouths, fingers, fins, flippers, claws, feet, tails, limbs, plumes, horns, flukes, beaks, and rays or simply be design filler units.



*West coast art style U shapes as feathers/  
plumes*



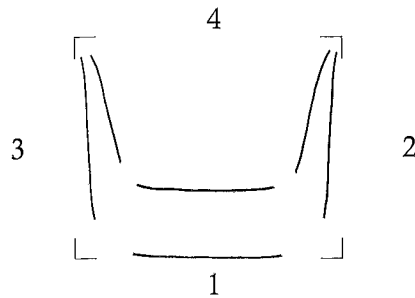
*Mid coast art style U shapes as sun's rays*



*Free form solid U shapes as killer  
whale dorsal fins*

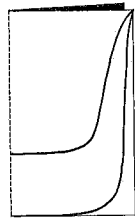
## Approaches to Drawing U shapes

There can be several approaches to drawing U shapes. Each artist develops a favourite after attempting different approaches. A U shape can be sketched freehand, drawn within a rectangular guideline, half-drawn and folded or made into a template.



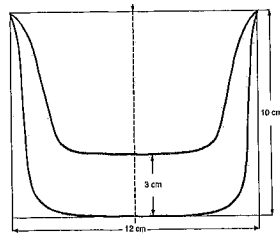
*Using sketch lines to draw a U shape*

This U shape is sketched using a slightly curved line for the bottom, semi-straight lines for the sides. A small curved line joins each rounded corner.



*Making and using a U shape template*

This U shape shows the use of a model or template. Until an artist becomes familiar with the symmetry of some U shapes, a template makes drawing easier. How to make a template will be explained on the following pages.



*Using a reference rectangle to draw a U shape*

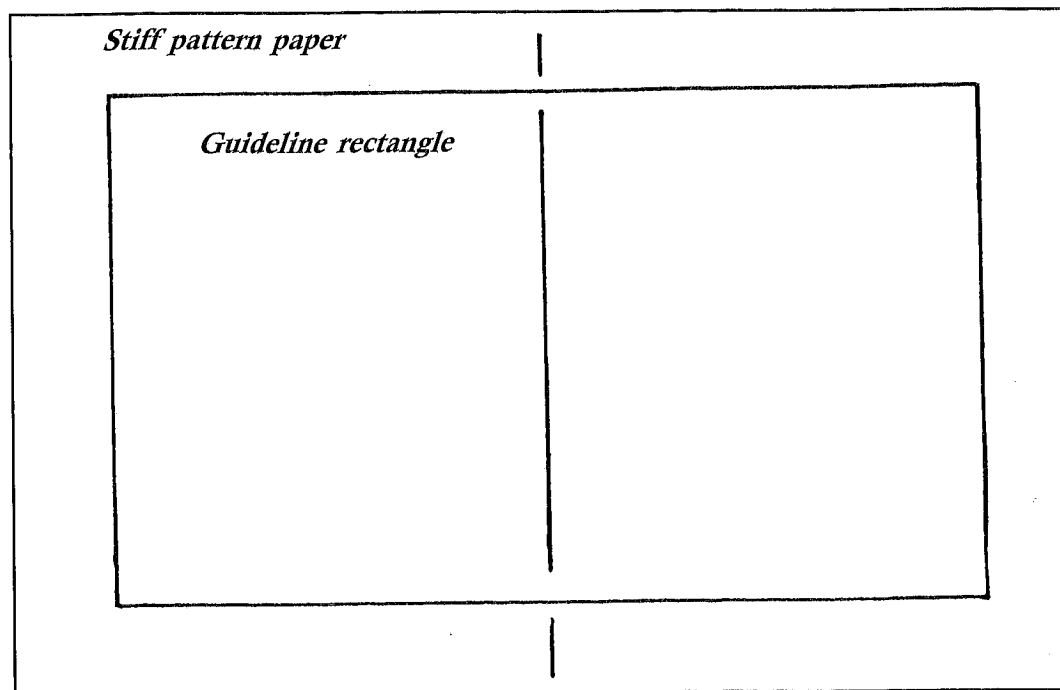
This U shape was drawn using a reference rectangle. Measurements are made at diagonal points from the corners and lines are drawn to join the points. This method is used in the book *Learning by Doing Northwest Coast Native Indian Art* by Karin Clark and Jim Gilbert.

## Making U shape Patterns or Templates

Until an artist becomes familiar with design shapes and can draw them free-hand to his/her satisfaction, it may be helpful to use patterns.

U shapes vary in composition, size, structure, shape and colour. Some U shapes are primary black formlines which help shape outer areas of a given form, while others are internal design elements which fill spaces. Regardless of their colour, filler U shapes are usually joined to the black primary formline at their tapered leg ends; however, in some coastal art styles they can float unattached. As internal design units, U shapes are usually red, green, black or a combination of any of these colours.

U shapes may be paired, joined or stacked within a design's internal spaces. Throughout the four coastal art styles, U shapes range from round ended narrow units with thin side legs and elaborate internal decoration such as dashing, fine lines and crosshatching, to U design elements which are greater in width than in height, are square ended, or arranged in solid colour pairs.



1. Determine length and height of U shape and draw a guideline rectangle.  
Draw a centre line through the rectangle.

## Making U shape Patterns or Templates continued

*Guideline rectangle*

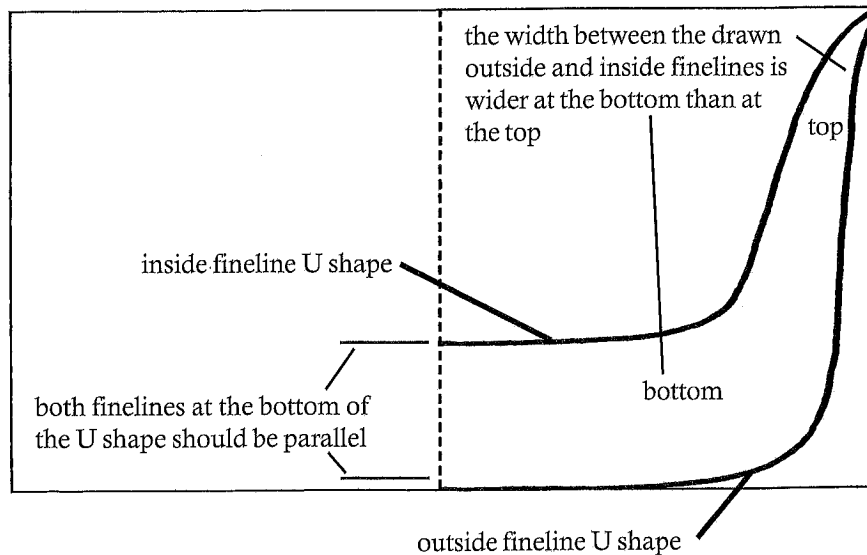
fold line

Note: regardless of size or shape, U shapes are often drawn using similar formula and curved line rules and structure. U shapes often rotate in space.

side/bottom line curves in and around to parallel rectangle guidelines

2. In **one side only** of the rectangle draw the outside fineline of the U shape.

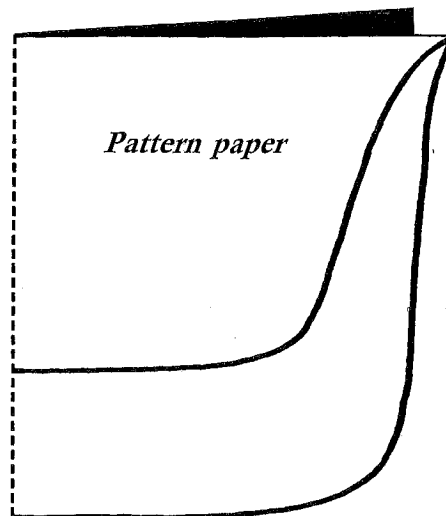
*Guideline rectangle*



3. Draw another U shape inside the first U shape using the same straight and curved line formula as used in the outside fineline.

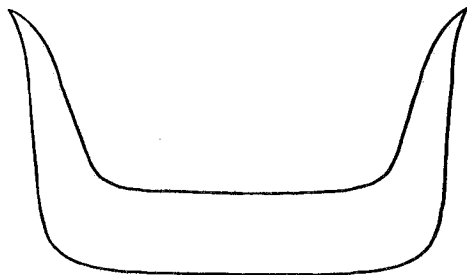


## Making U shape Patterns or Templates continued



4. Carefully fold pattern paper on the U shape centre line. *First*, cut out on the **inside** U shape fineline. *Second*, cut out on the **outside** U shape fineline.

*Drawn fineline north coast art style  
U shape*



5. Open and lay out cut U shape where needed to complete the design. Trace around the outside of the template. This creates a fineline U shape that is bilaterally symmetrical. U shapes are often free form and modified to represent different things.

*Painted formline north coast art style  
U shape*



6. Paint in the area between the inside and outside finelines. This creates a formline U shape. The shape of this U remains the same as it rotates in the design space depending on what it is representing.

## How to Draw U shapes for Design Purposes

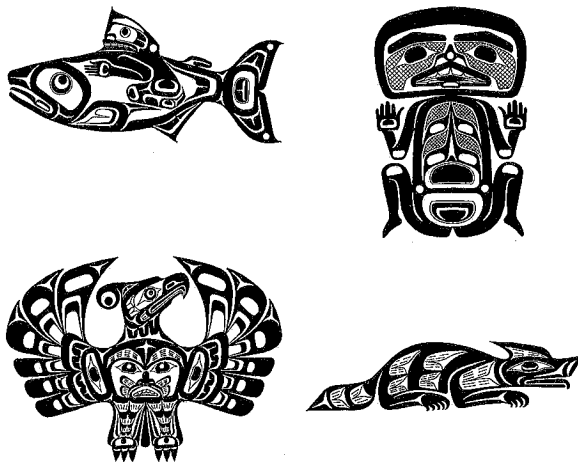
Below are designs in all four coastal art styles with examples of the different uses of primary formline and secondary filler U shapes. Internal U shapes may be positive or negative. Many feathers, tails, fins, ears, beaks, claws and tongues have pointed extensions.



*Feather, scale and relieving U shapes*



*Cheek, ear, tongue, tooth, snout, and mouth U shapes*



*Finger, fin, claw, foot, tail, arm, and leg U shapes*



*Plume, horn, fluke, beak, and ray U shapes*

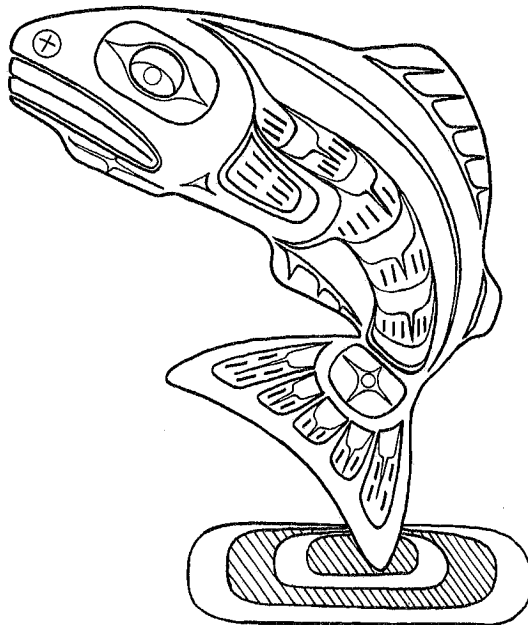
U shapes Used in Designs Across Art Styles



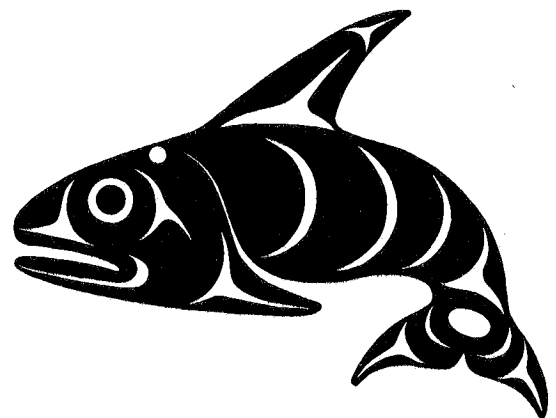
*Painted mid coast art style wolf*



*Drawn north coast art style thunderbird*



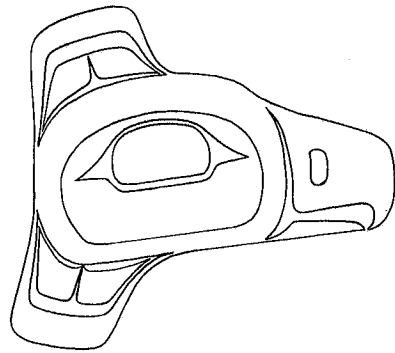
*Drawn west coast art style salmon*



*Painted south coast art style killer whale*

# How to Draw an Eagle Head

The following simple formline design uses ovoids and U shapes to create an eagle head. Initial shapes are drawn, joined, then painted to create the final design. This design is representative of north or mid coast art style.

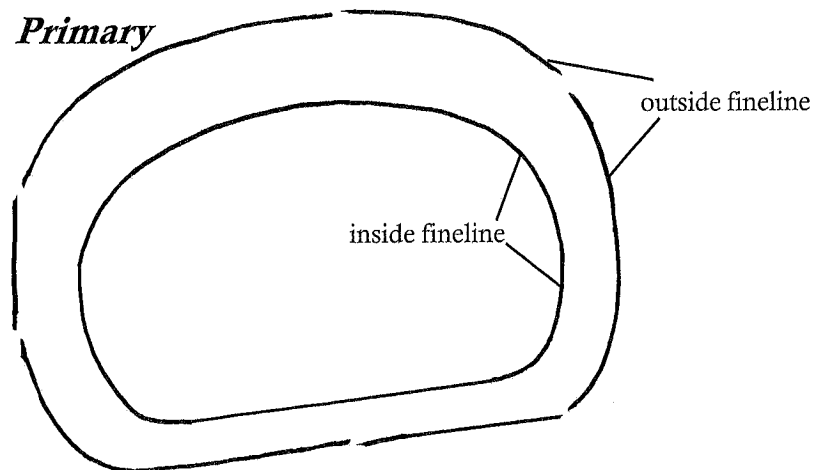


*Drawn eagle head*



*Painted eagle head*

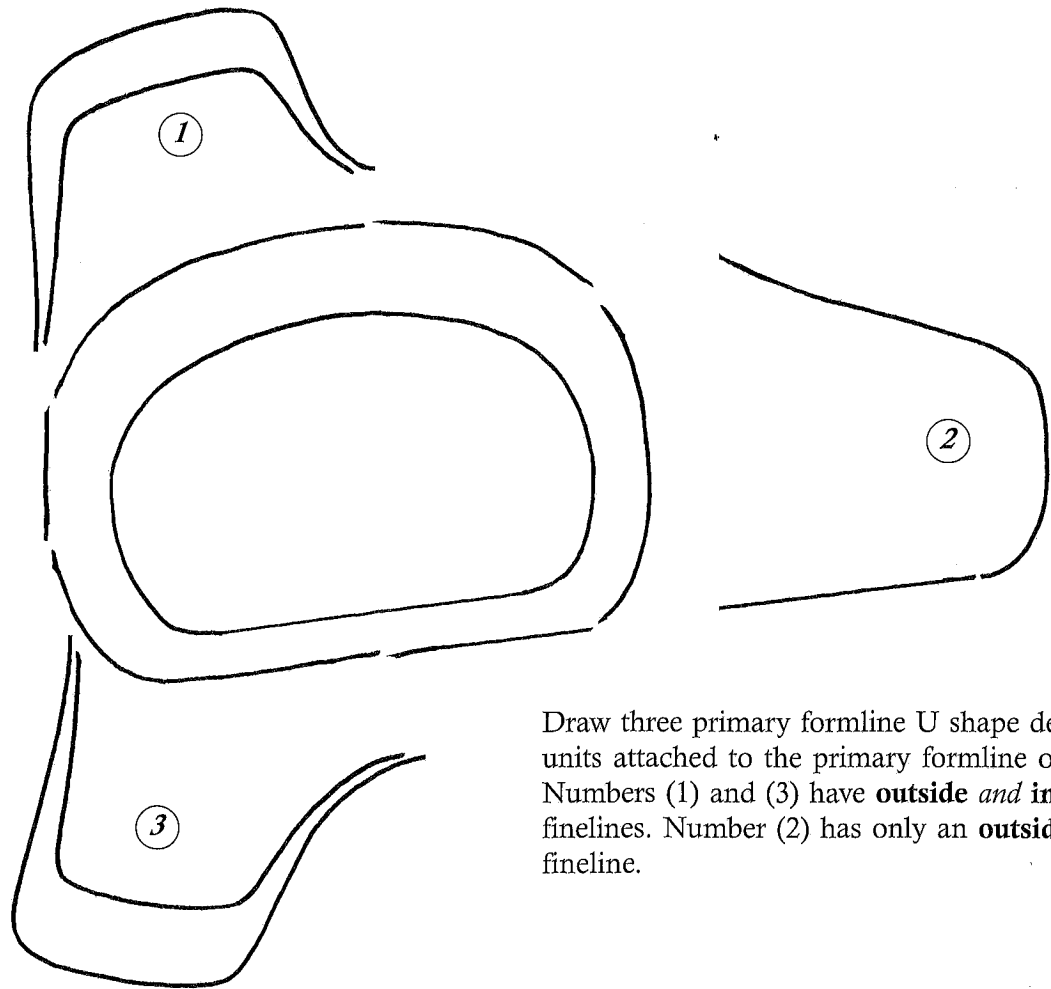
## **Step 1. Primary ovoid**



1. Draw a north coast art style primary formline "chunky" ovoid approximately the same shape as shown.

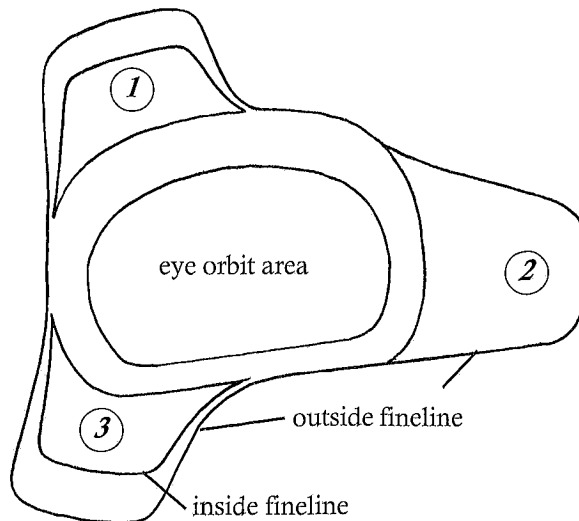
## How to Draw an Eagle Head continued

### Step 2. Primary U shapes



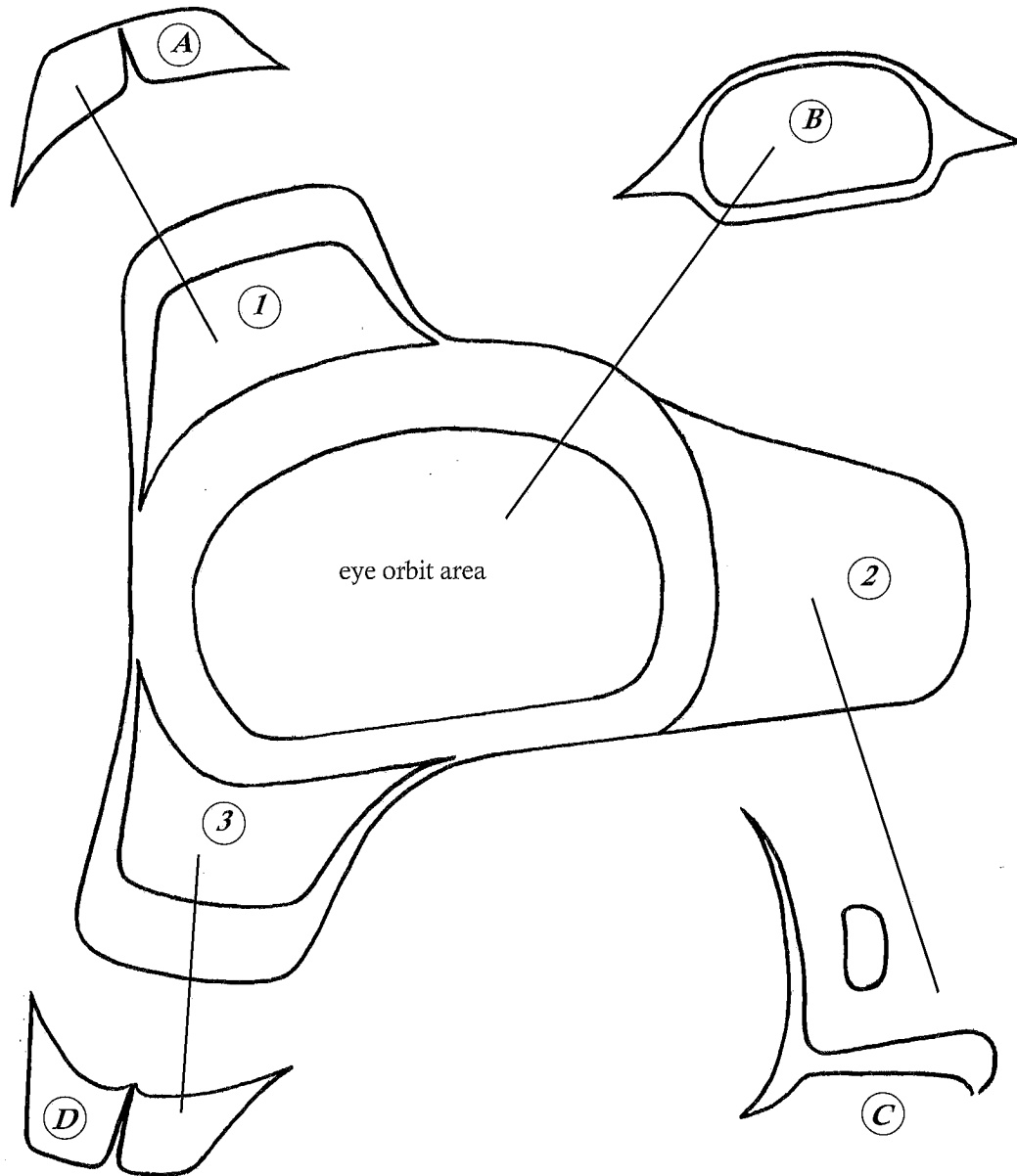
Draw three primary formline U shape design units attached to the primary formline ovoid. Numbers (1) and (3) have **outside and inside** finelines. Number (2) has only an **outside** fineline.

*Ovoid with U shapes attached*



## How to Draw an Eagle Head continued

### Step 3. Secondary filler units

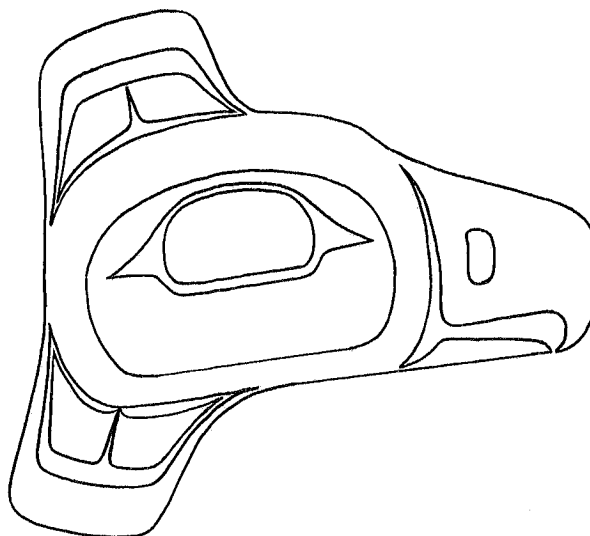


- A. Inner secondary filler design units in ear area (1)
- B. Eyeball with eyelid line in eye orbit area
- C. Beak and nostril detail in area (2)
- D. Reverse split U filler in feather area (3)

## How to Draw an Eagle Head continued

The following completed formline designs use ovoids and U shapes to create an eagle head. Initial shapes are drawn, joined, then painted to create the final design. The primary formline, eyeball and eyelid lines are black. Secondary filler units like U shapes and splits can be either black or red.

*Drawn eagle head  
with fineline formline  
edges and secondary  
filler design units*



*Step 4. Painted formline*

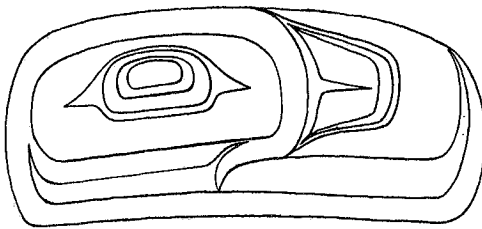
- split U shape filler units can be painted red or black
- split U shape filler units can be joined at the leg ends to the black formline or be unattached and floating
- eyeball and eyelid line are always black



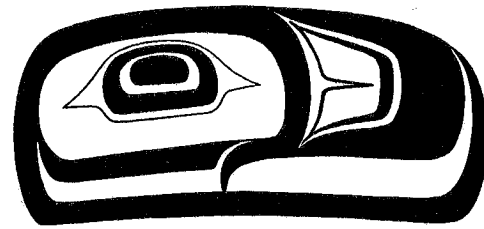
# How to Draw a Salmon Head

The following formline design uses ovoids and U shapes to create a salmon head. Initial shapes are drawn, then painted to create the final design. Use of a reference rectangle or ovoid template is helpful to complete your drawing. Use pencil for the initial drawing, then transfer this drawing to thicker paper or wood for painting.

## *North coast art style salmon head*

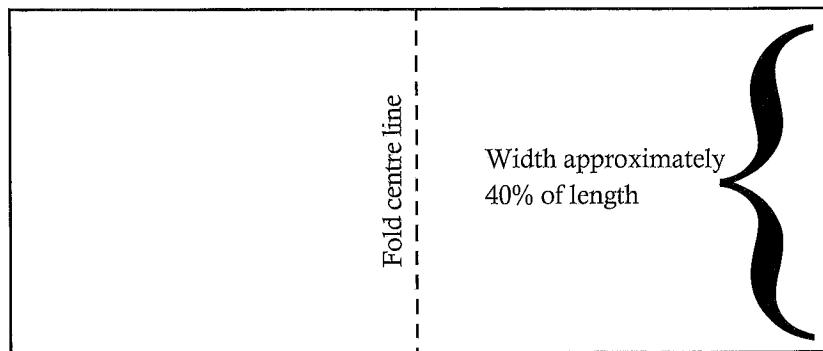


*Drawn salmon head*



*Painted salmon head*

## *Step 1. Reference rectangle*

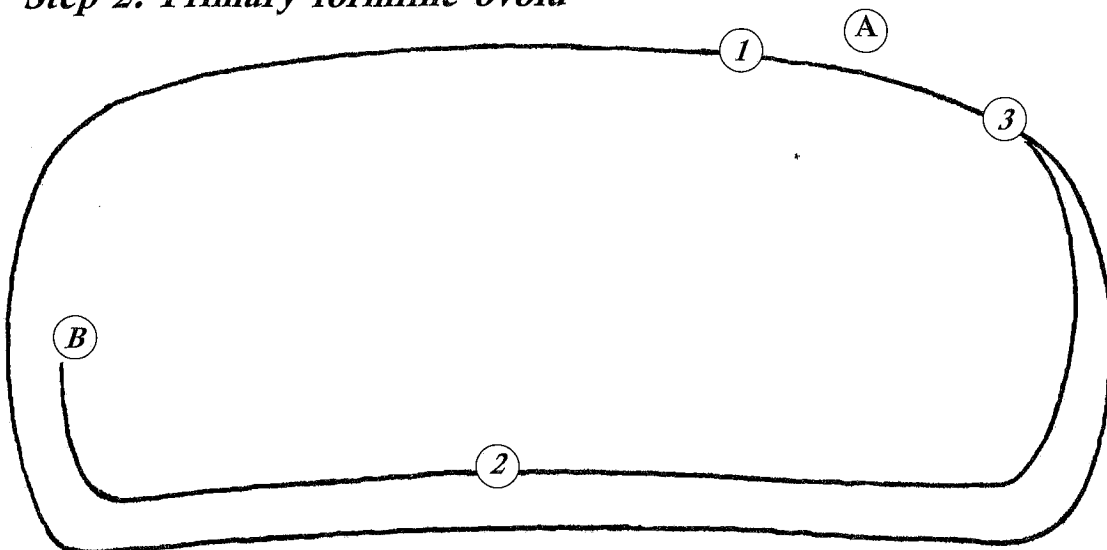


- A. Draw a guideline reference rectangle on your paper the desired head size. Draw the head ovoid in this rectangle.



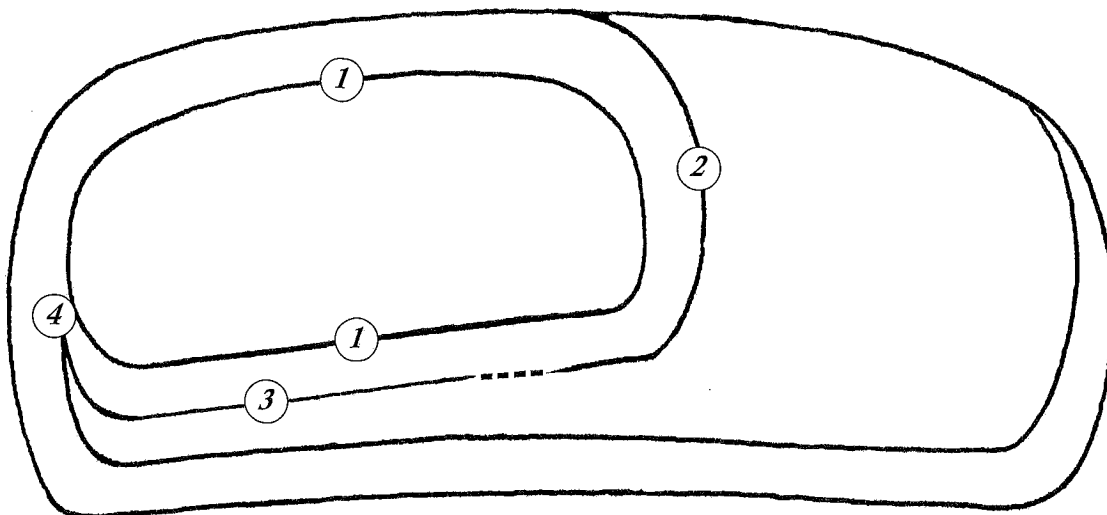
## How to Draw a Salmon Head continued

### Step 2. Primary formline ovoid



- A. Draw an ovoid (1) with an outside fineline.
- B. Draw a partial ovoid (2) with an inside fineline parallel to the outside fineline except on the right top (3) where it touches the outside.

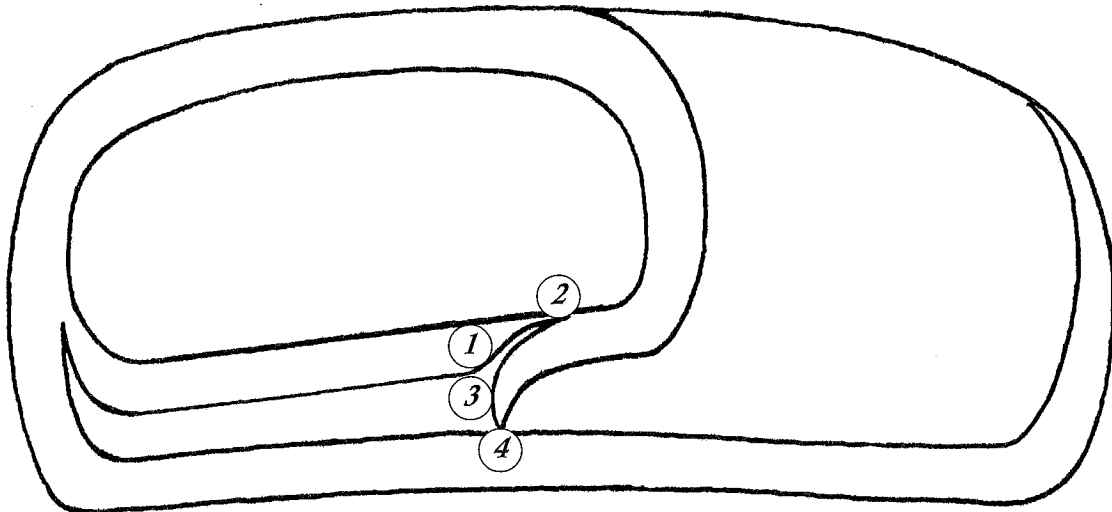
### Step 3. Eye orbit



- A. Draw an inner ovoid (1) in the left side of the primary ovoid extending over the centre line.
- B. Draw a partial ovoid around the inner ovoid by drawing a parallel line at front or right side (2) and along the bottom (3) of the inner ovoid. At inner ovoid left turn the bottom line up and taper to join the primary ovoid at (4).

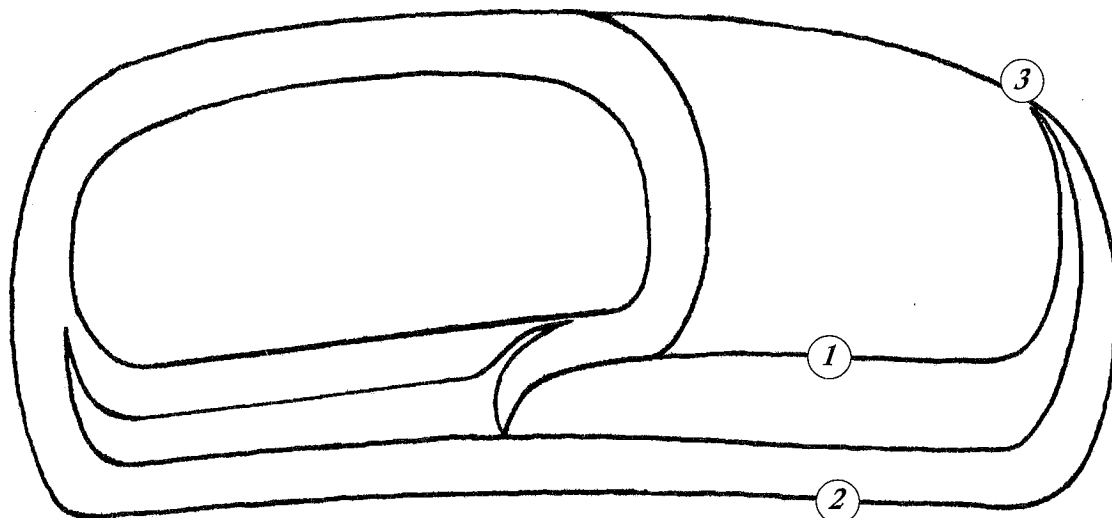
## How to Draw a Salmon Head continued

### Step 4. Cheek/jaw hinge detail



- A. Draw a curved fineline (1) from the outside eye orbit fineline to meet the inside eye orbit fineline at (2), tapering the formlines at juncture points.
- B. Draw a curved fineline (3) from the outside eye orbit fineline to meet the inside primary formline at (4), tapering the formlines at juncture points.

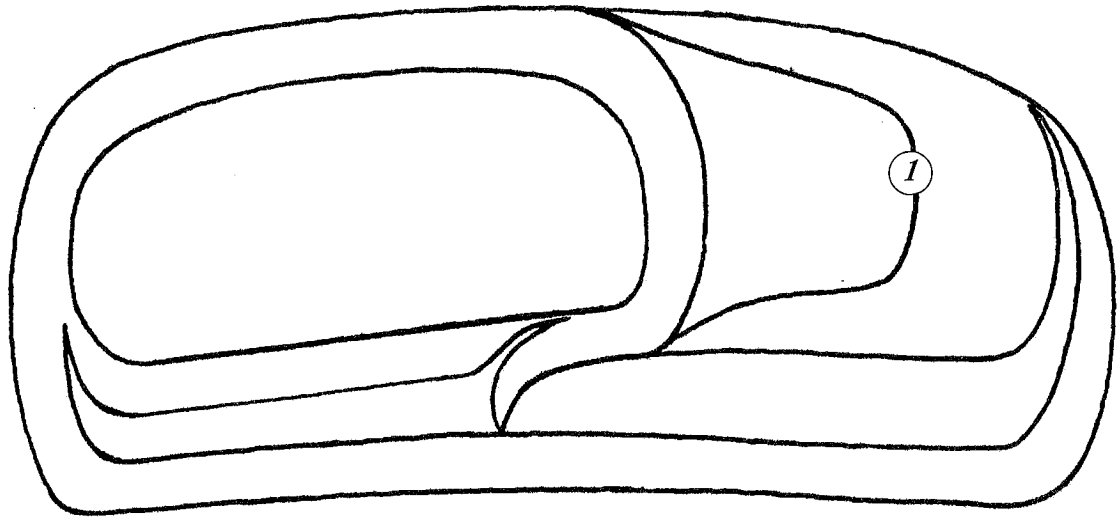
### Step 5. Mouth area



- A. Draw an inner fineline (1) from the outside eye orbit, parallel to the bottom of the primary ovoid (2), and curving to the top of the outside primary ovoid.
- B. Join at (3) on the outside primary ovoid.

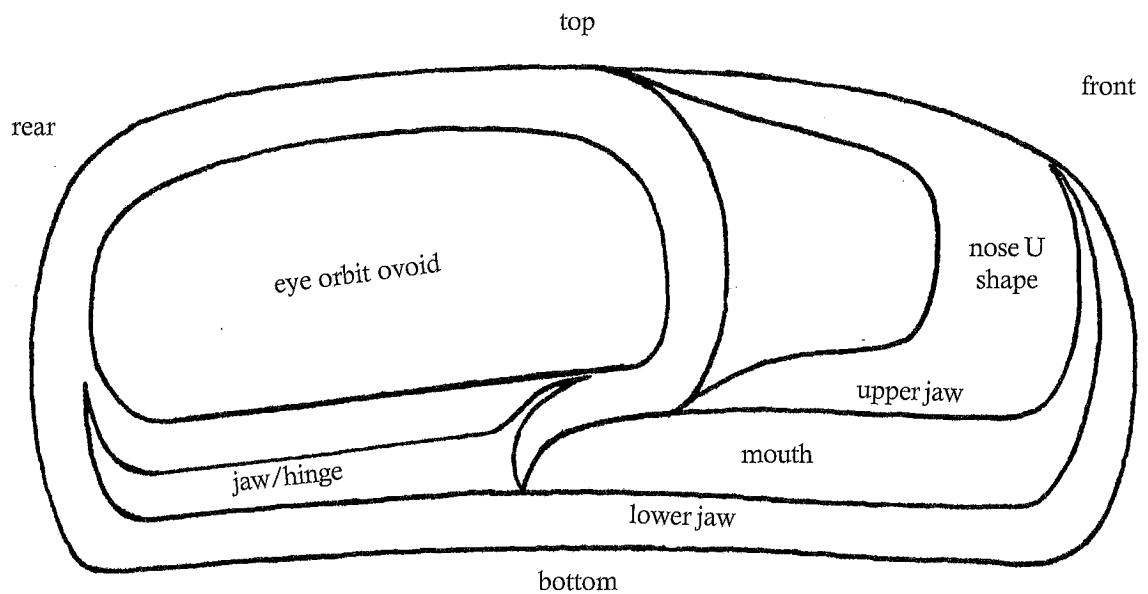
## How to Draw a Salmon Head continued

### Step 6. Nose area



Draw an inner fineline (1) in the nose U shape.

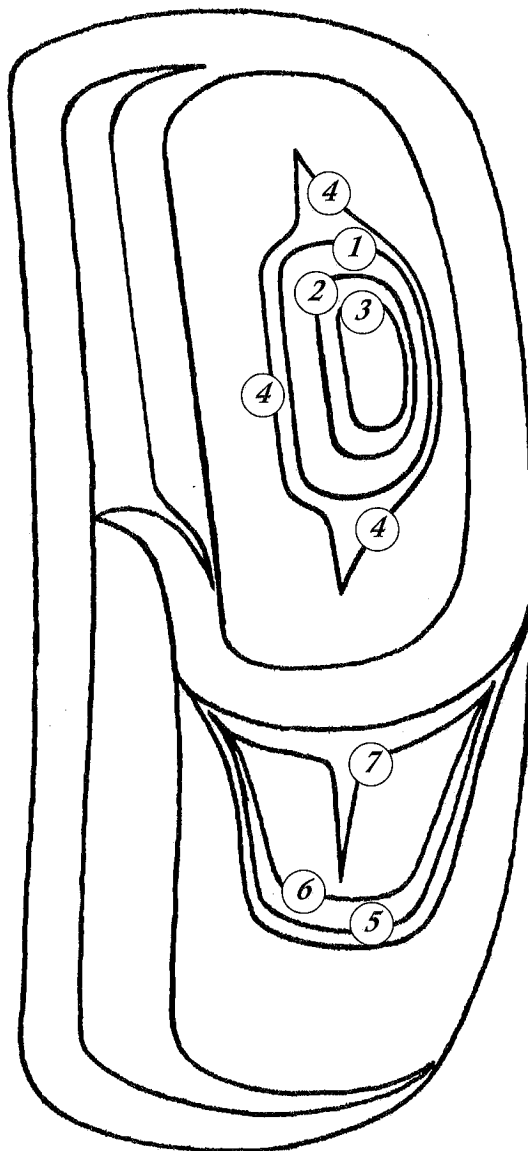
### Step 7. Basic fineline drawing of a salmon head



All finelines are actually the edge lines of the primary formlines making up the design. When the areas between the lines are painted in, the formlines will become clearer.

## How to Draw a Salmon Head continued

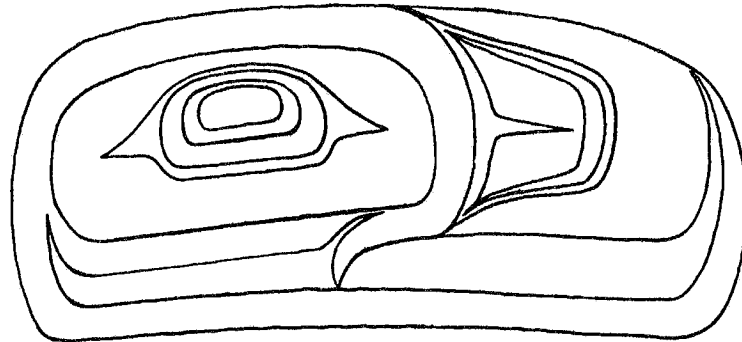
### Step 8. Secondary filler design units



- A. Draw the outside fineline (1) of the eyeball ovoid in the central upper eye orbit area.
- B. Draw two internal fineline ovoids (2) and (3). All ovoid bottom lines are parallel.
- C. Draw a typical north coast eyelid line (4) (bilaterally symmetrical with pointed ends) around the eyeball.
- D. Draw outside (5) and inside (6) finelines inside the U shape.
- E. Draw a fineline split U (7) inside the U shape.

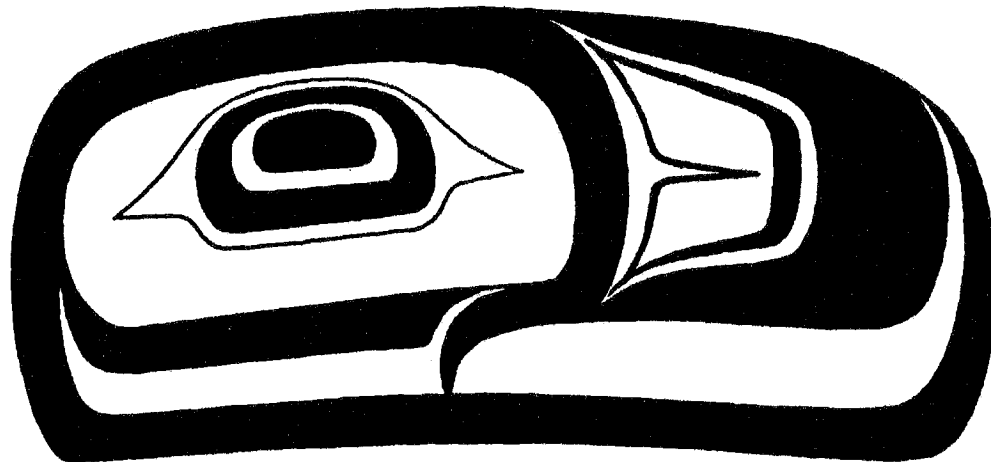
## How to Draw a Salmon Head continued

**Colours:** Primary formline (eyeball ovoids, eyelid) is black  
Secondary formline (nose, mouth, cheek/jaw designs) is black  
Split U in nose could be painted red



### Standard features

1. Ovoid primary formline shape of head
2. Ovoid eye orbit has enclosed secondary design unit of ovoids (eyeball with pupil) with elongated pointed end eyelid lines. Eyeball and eyelid line are in the upper central area of the eye orbit.
3. U shape nose/snout with internal floating split U shape

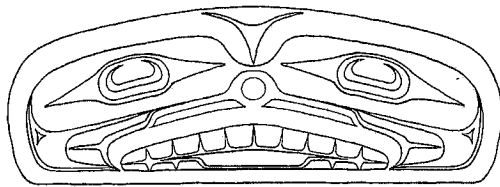


4. Black eyeball with black pupil and eyelid line
5. Inner split U shape in the nose could be painted red
6. Negative space jaw with toothless mouth
7. Eye orbit area inside head ovoid and outside of eyelid line could be painted blue/green

# How to Draw a Human Head

The following north coast art style formline design uses ovoids and U shapes to create a human head. Initial shapes are drawn, then painted to create the final design. Based on repeated use of ovoid paper pattern templates drawn on folded stiff paper, eye orbits, eyes and heads can be drawn many times.

## *North coast art style human head*

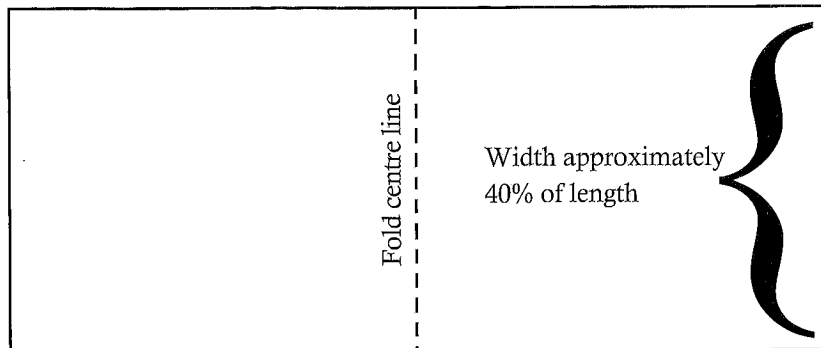


*Drawn human head*



*Painted human head*

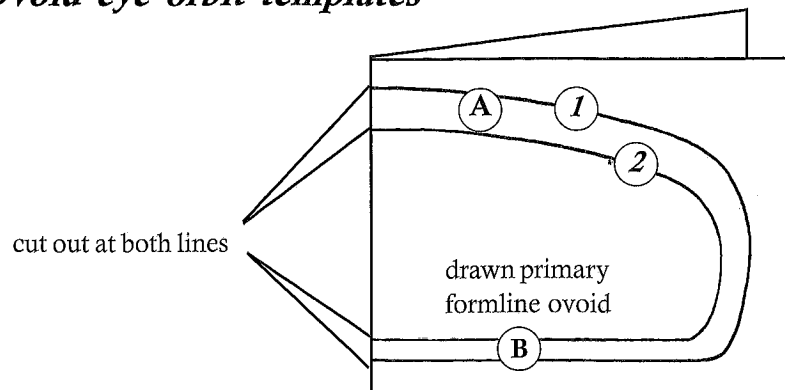
## *Step 1. Reference rectangle for eye orbit template*



- A. Draw a guideline reference rectangle on stiff paper approximately half the size of the desired head size.

## How to Draw a Human Head continued

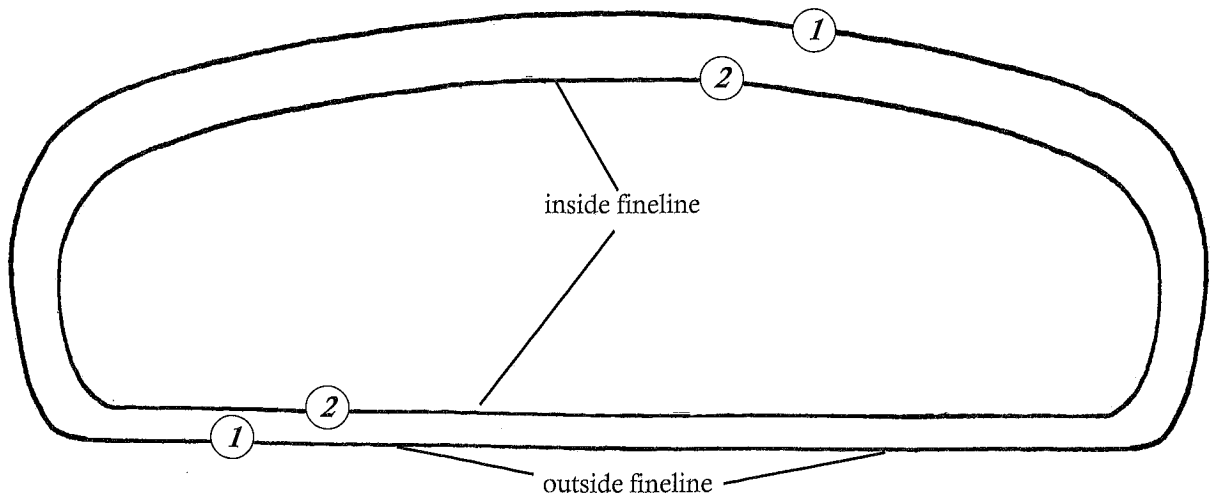
### Step 2. Ovoid eye orbit templates



- A. Draw a formline ovoid (1) with an outside fineline.
- B. Draw a formline ovoid (2) with an inside fineline.
- C. Cut out along both lines, cutting inside line first.
- D. Formline width at top of ovoid at (A) is greater than width of bottom ovoid formline at (B); ovoid formline side width gradually tapers off from top to bottom in north coast art style. This principle does not hold for other Northwest Coast aboriginal art styles.

### Step 3. Eye orbit pattern

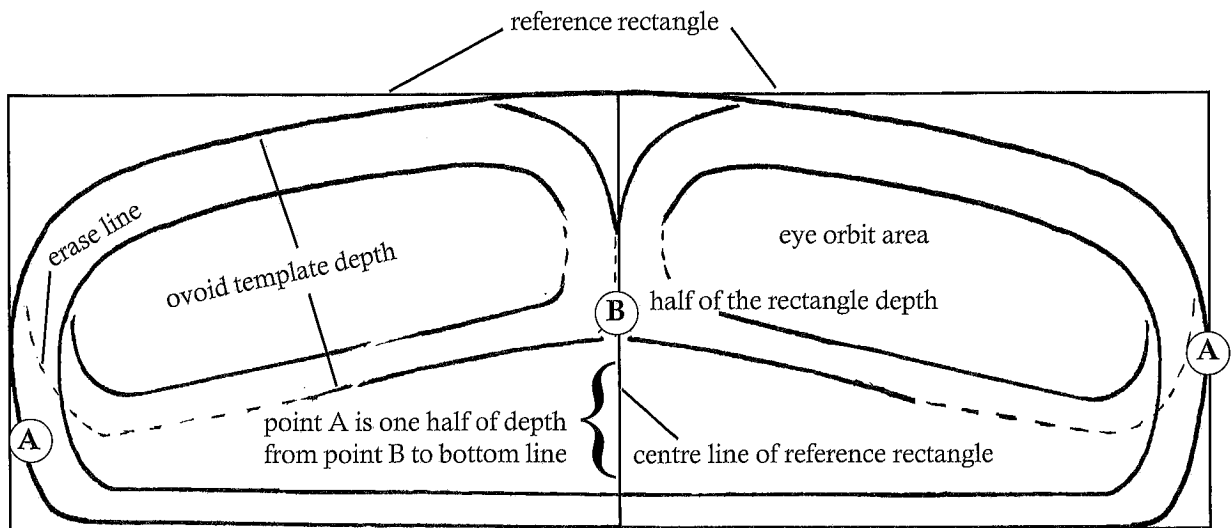
- A. Open primary formline ovoid paper patterns. One ovoid will be hollow, and the other will be solid. The hollow, or hole, represents the eye orbit.



- B. When coloured, the space between the drawn finelines of the formline ovoid shapes of (1) and (2) result in a primary formline ovoid.

## How to Draw a Human Head continued

### Step 4. Ovoid eye orbit templates within a reference rectangle form head ovoid

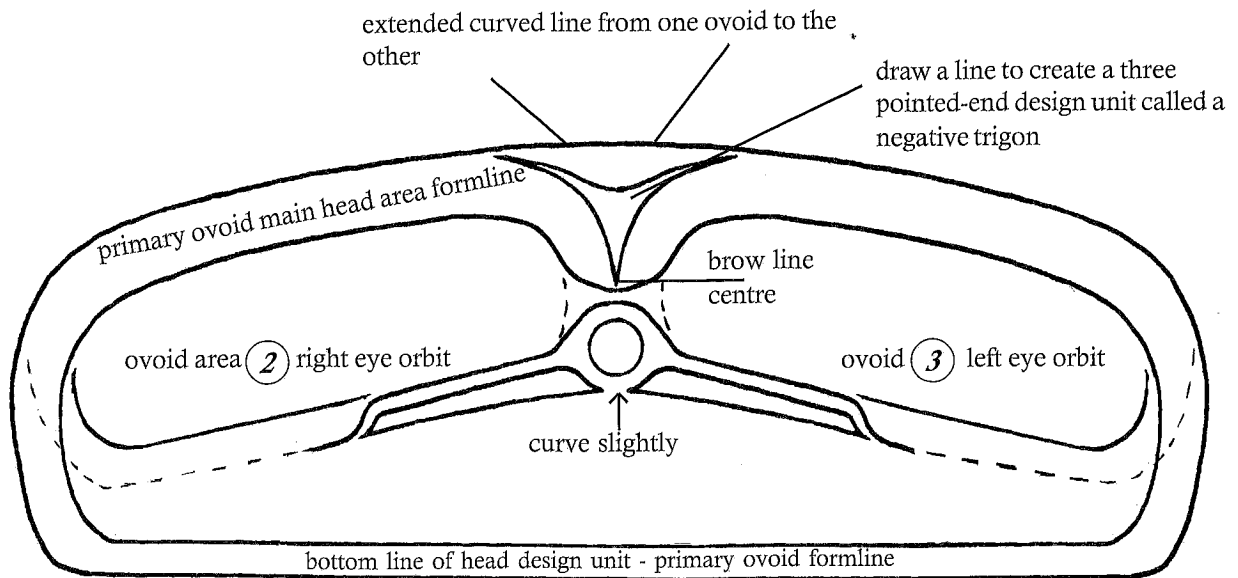


- A. Draw a reference rectangle twice as deep as the ovoid template depth.
- B. Make the length of reference rectangle twice the length of the ovoid template.
- C. Lightly draw the perpendicular centre line of the rectangle.
- D. Mark on the centre line the halfway point of the rectangle depth - (B).
- E. Mark on the rectangle perpendicular end lines point (A) which is one half the depth from point B on the rectangle centre line to the bottom.

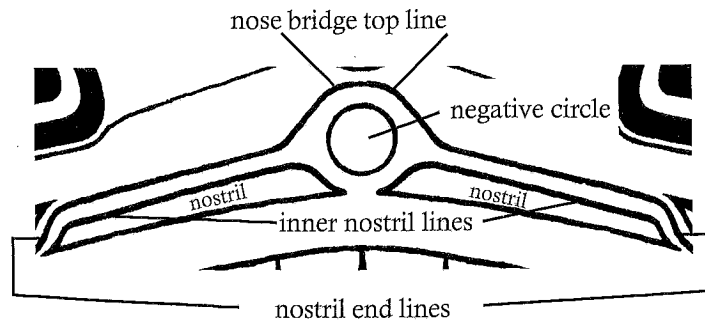


## How to Draw a Human Head continued

### Step 5. Nose, nostrils, and brow line



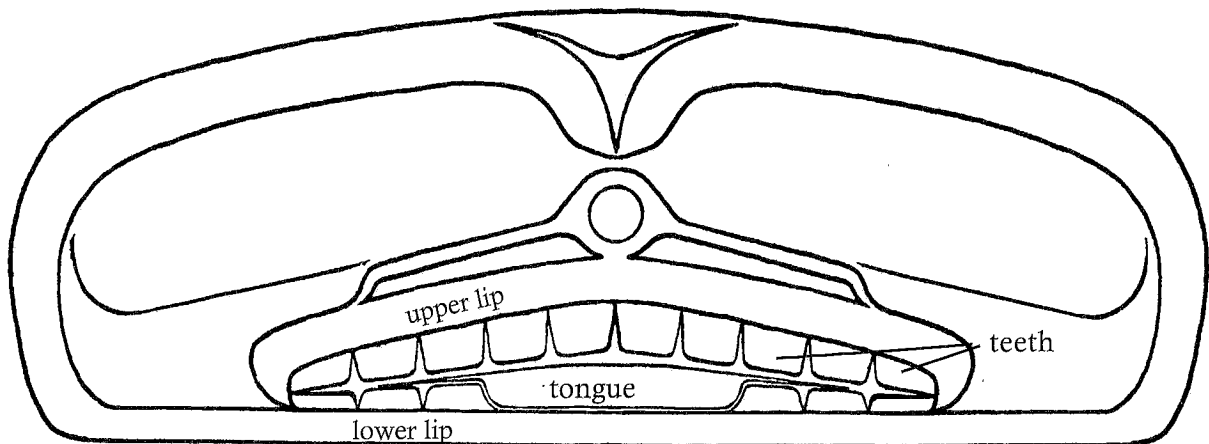
### Nose detail



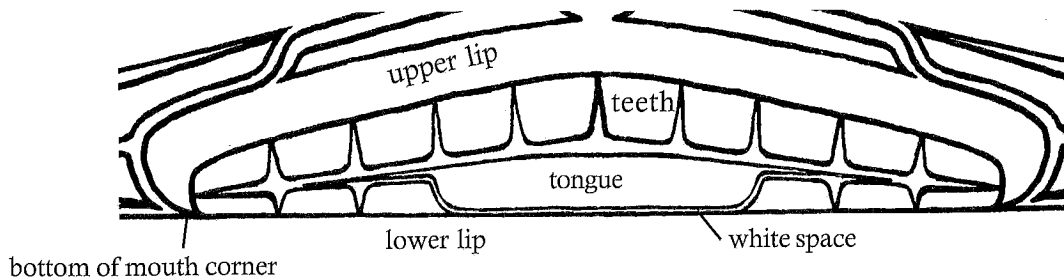
- A. Draw and join brow line.
- B. Draw and join nose bridge top line.
- C. Erase ovoid lines that are no longer needed.
- D. Draw nose weight relieving negative design circle.
- E. Draw two nostril end tapering lines.

## How to Draw a Human Head continued

### Step 6. Mouth, lips, teeth and tongue



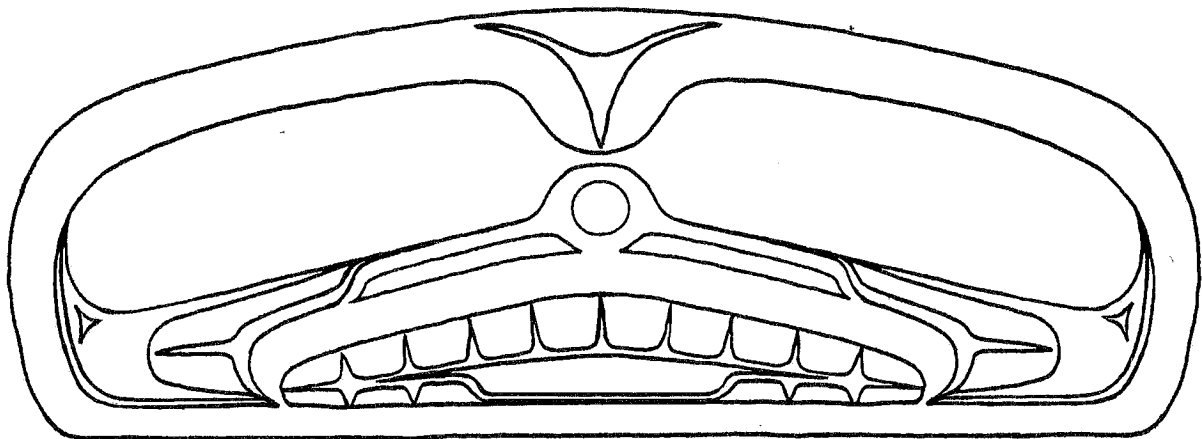
### Mouth detail



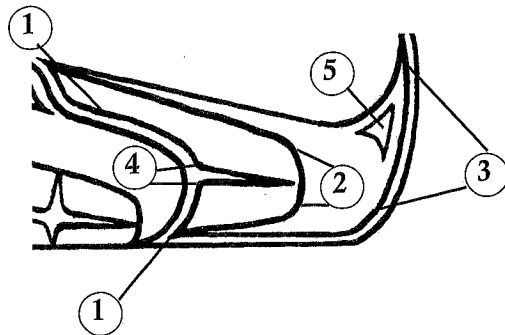
- A. Slightly curve the middle top line of the upper lip to join with the nose.
- B. Draw the upper lip line and curve down at the mouth ends.
- C. Draw the inner line of the top lip.
- D. Taper this line to join the upper lip line at the bottom of the mouth corner, joining to the lower lip.
- E. Draw the teeth as a series of evenly spaced U shapes.
- F. Draw the tongue where the middle bottom set of teeth would have been.

## How to Draw a Human Head continued

### Step 7. Cheek secondary filler design units



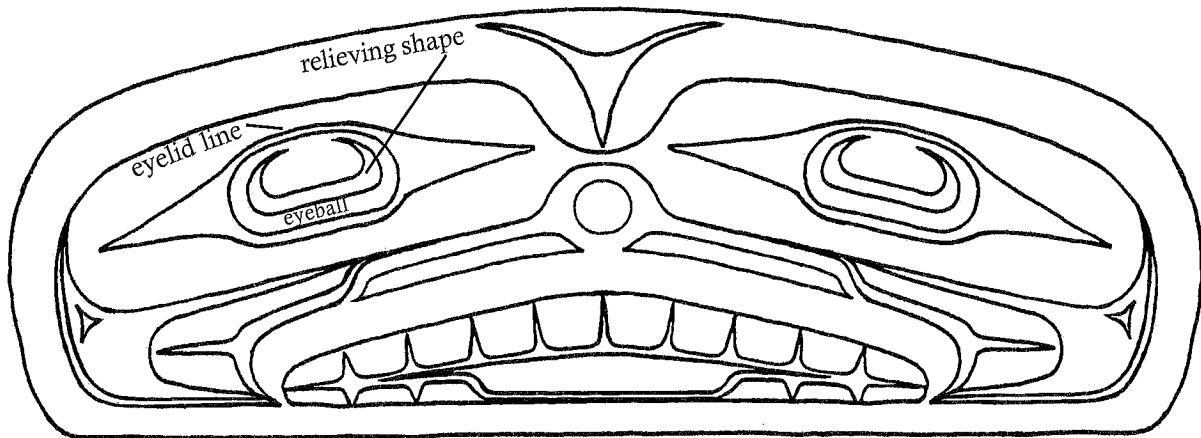
### Cheek detail



- A. Draw a curved line (1) down following mouth curve from joint of nostril and inside lower line of ovoid at the eye orbit to inside line at the bottom of the primary formline head ovoid.
- B. Draw a curved line (2) (modified U shape) down from the joint of the nostril into the cheek area almost touching the bottom corner of the mouth.
- C. Draw a line (3) starting at (A) (lower mouth corner) and follow the primary formline ovoid until it joins the eye orbit.
- D. Draw fineline split design unit (4) in the cheek U shape. The split is sloped parallel to lower line of the eye orbit ovoid
- E. Draw a relieving shape (5) in the corner of the cheek close to the eye orbit. Match the lines of the relieving shape to the space.

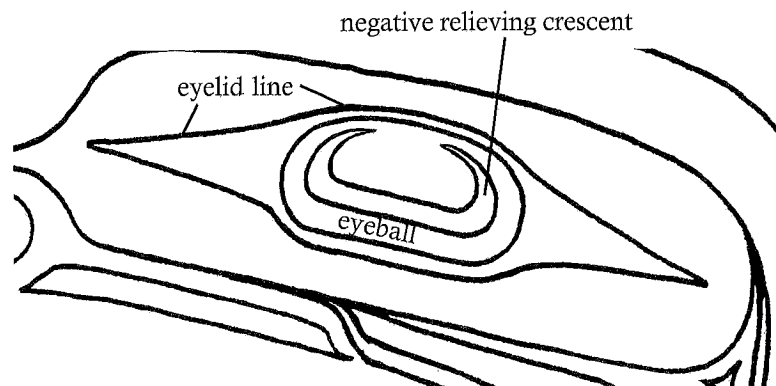
## How to Draw a Human Head continued

### Step 8. Eyes



The eye design unit is situated centrally and in the upper area of each eye orbit.  
The eyeball ovoid is solid black relieved by a negative crescent in the upper area of the eyeball ovoid.

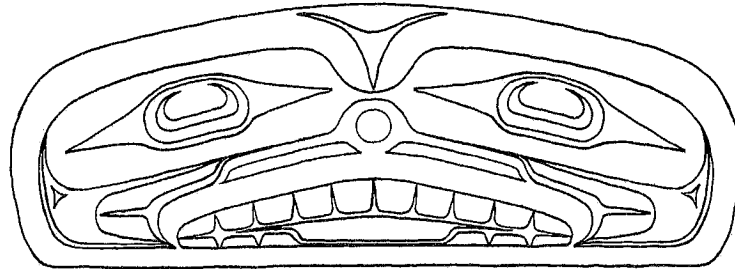
### Eye detail



- A. Draw or make an ovoid template (method used in making ovoid, steps 1 and 2). The eyeball ovoid length is usually less than one half of inside eye orbit width.
- B. Make sure that the bottom line of the eyeball ovoid parallels the bottom line of the eye orbit ovoid.
- C. See eyeball and eyelid line construction techniques in the chapter, *How to Draw a North Coast Art Style Eye and Eyelid*.

## How to Draw a Human Head continued

**Colours:** Primary formline (eyeball ovoids, eyelid, teeth finelines) black  
Secondary formline (nose, lips, cheek designs, tongue) red  
Tertiary ground area (eye orbits) green



### Standard features

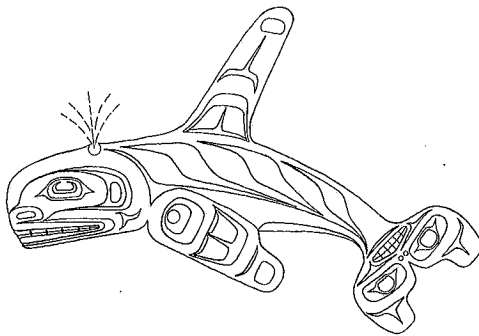
1. Ovoid shaped head
2. Bilateral, symmetrical ovoids resulting in two eye orbits with enclosed secondary design units of ovoids (eyes) with enclosed, elongate pointed end eyelid lines (Ovoid eyeball heaviness is relieved by positioning a negative ovoid crescent unit "laying on its back" in upper area of inner ovoid eyeball)
3. Central nose bridge with line weight relieving circle and lateral flaring nostrils both tapering and joining top lip line



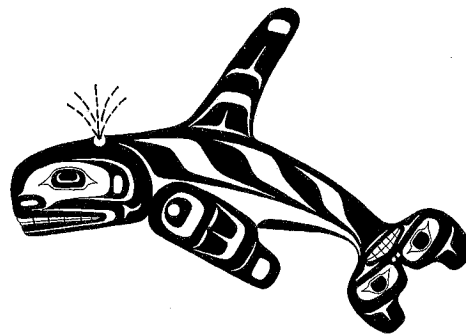
4. Mouth with upper and lower lips (red) - top lip line turns and tapers at ends to touch lower lip (bottom line of primary formline head ovoid)
5. Mouth has fineline, outlined teeth with tongue protruding out and covering lower central teeth
6. Cheek secondary filler design units are red, delineating low or high orbit area and filling space of cheek on either side of the mouth

# How to Draw a Killer Whale

The following mid coast art style killer whale (Orca) design uses ovoids, U shapes and filler design units to create a full body complex design. The following exercise shows how to draw an Orca in the leaping position, body arched. Use 11 inch by 17 inch paper of good quality or wood that is smooth and flat. Draw with a pencil and make all guidelines and superficial design lines light to make erasing easier.




*Drawn mid coast art style Orca*





*Painted mid coast art style Orca*

## ***Step 1. Whale body position***

### **Possible Formats**

straight 

curved 

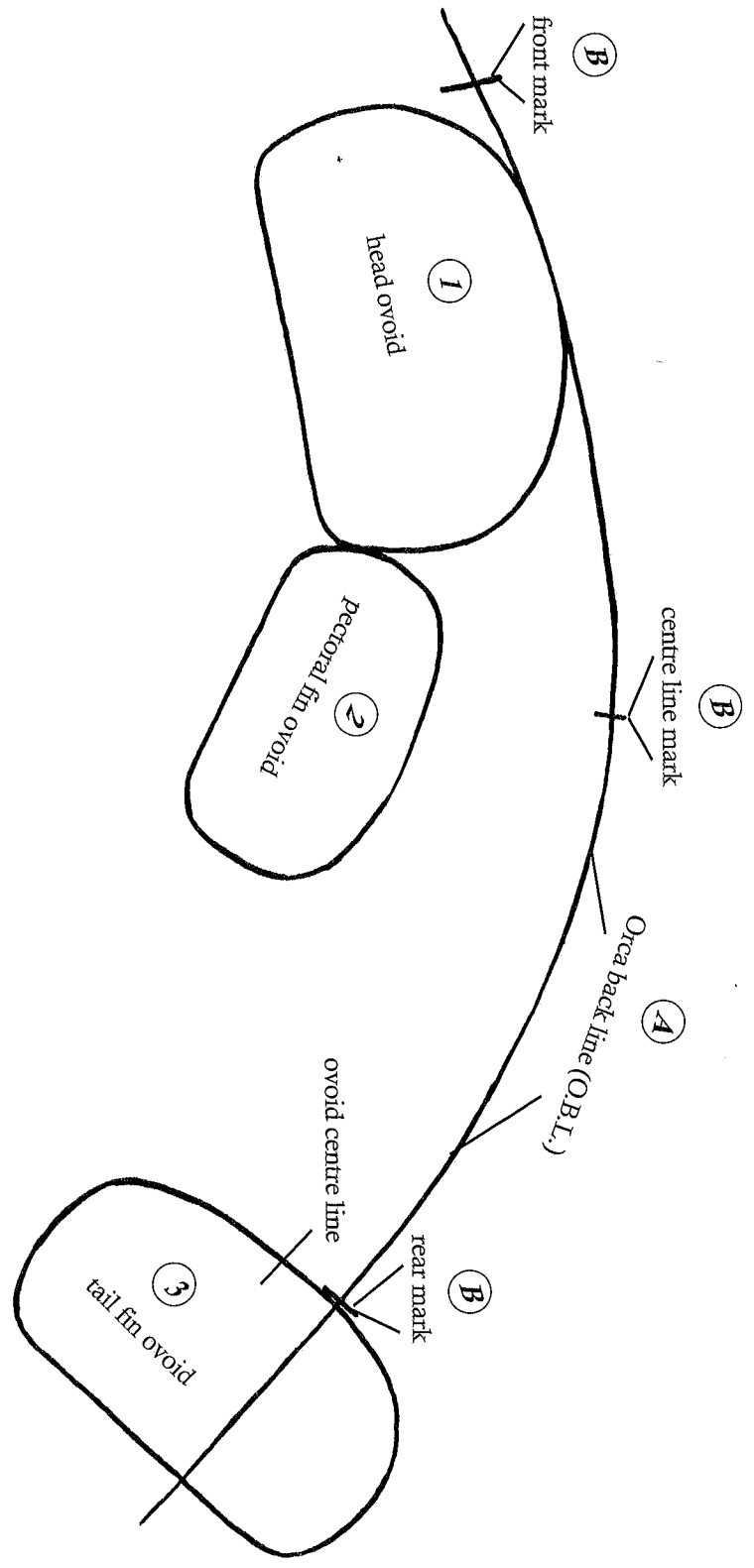
circular 

*All two-dimensional design line is of two basic forms - straight and circular. Any curved line has characteristics of both.*

The following design uses a *curved* guideline to match the arch of the whale's back and head across the paper. The line determines the placement and size of the whale design.

## How to Draw a Killer Whale continued

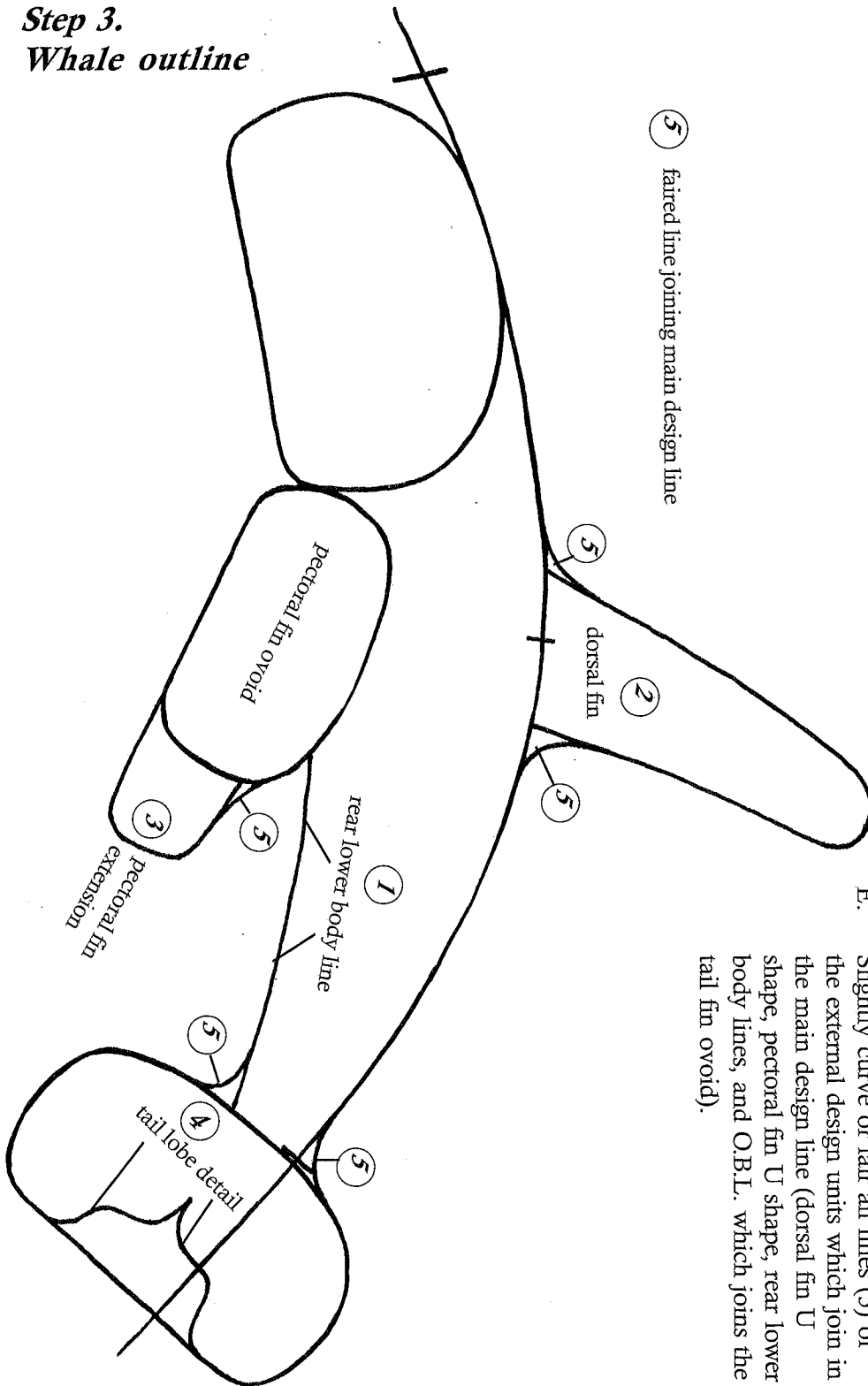
### Step 2. Main design areas



- A. Draw a curved line (Orca back line - O.B.L.) slightly above the center of your paper in horizontal format.
- B. Mark on the curved O.B.L. the front, rear, and center of the line.
- C. Block out the main whale design areas by drawing three guideline ovoids.
  - ① Head ovoid - ovoid top line touches O.B.L. and lies to the rear of front mark
  - ② Pectoral fin ovoid - ovoid front line adjoins rear of head ovoid - ovoid's bottom line is angled down slightly
  - ③ Tail fin ovoid - ovoid centre line is below O.B.L. and its top line lies to the rear of mark on O.B.L.

How to Draw a Killer Whale continued

Step 3.  
Whale outline



- A. Draw rear lower body line (1) from pectoral fin ovoid (rear top area) to the tail fin ovoid.
- B. Draw elongate, rear slanting U shaped dorsal fin (2). The elongate U shape base will straddle the O.B.L. centre line mark.

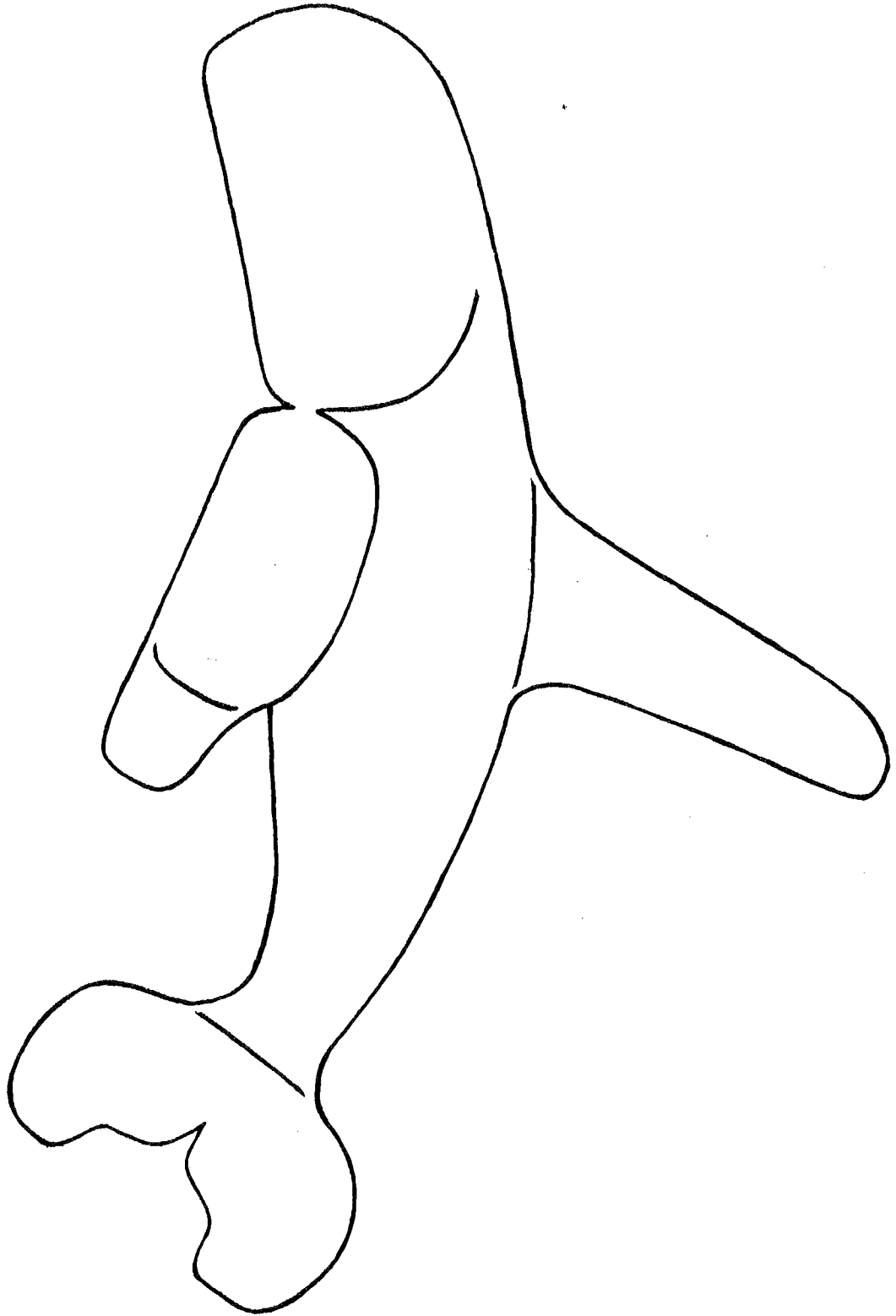
- C. Draw a fineline U shape (3) at the bottom/rear of pectoral fin ovoid.
- D. Draw tail lobe detail (4) inside tail ovoid guidelines so that the tail shape is symmetrically forked or divided into two parts to form flukes.
- E. Slightly curve or fair all lines (5) of the external design units which join in the main design line (dorsal fin U shape, pectoral fin U shape, rear lower body lines, and O.B.L. which joins the tail fin ovoid).



## How to Draw a Killer Whale continued

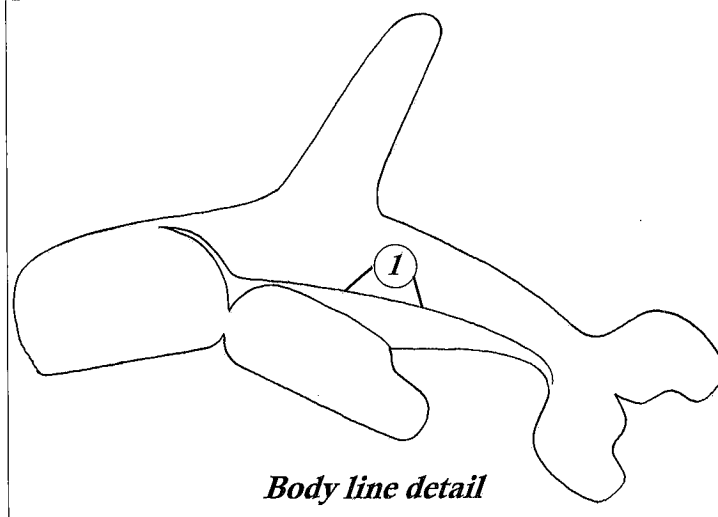
### ***Step 4. Outside shape***

The outside fineline shape of the Orca is now complete. Erase all guidelines and marks. The next step is to draw internal lines to establish primary and secondary form lines, design filler units and details.

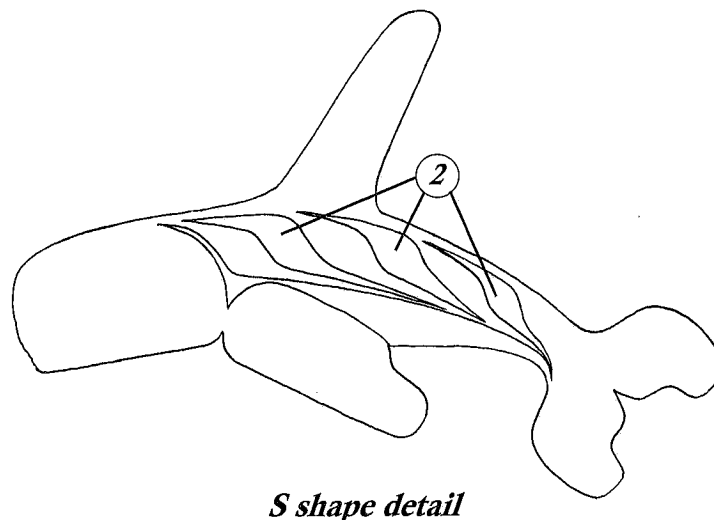


## How to Draw a Killer Whale continued

### Step 5. Internal units



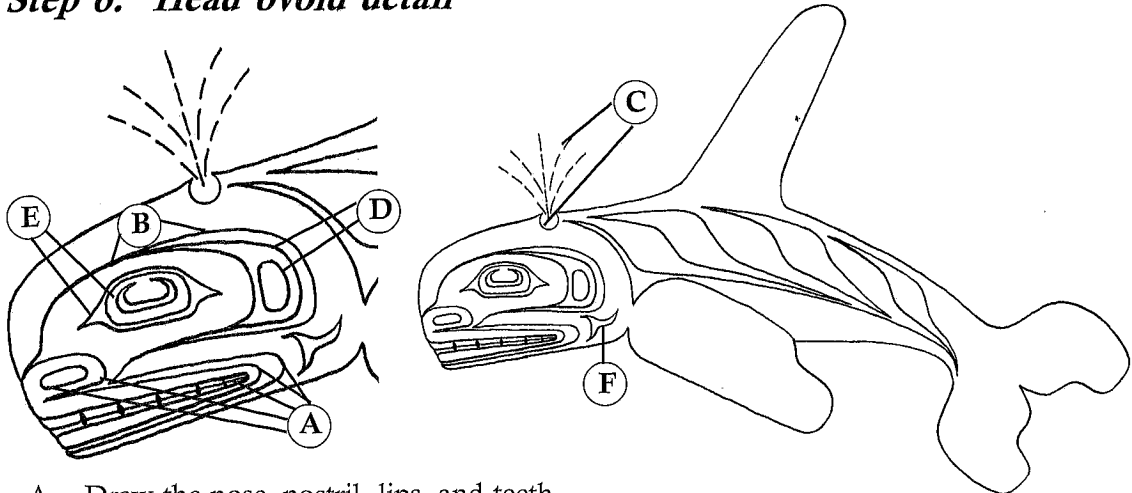
- A. Draw a curved fineline (1) from the rear/top of the head ovoid to the lower area of the tail ovoid.



- B. Draw three reverse S shaped negative design units (2) in the Orca back area.

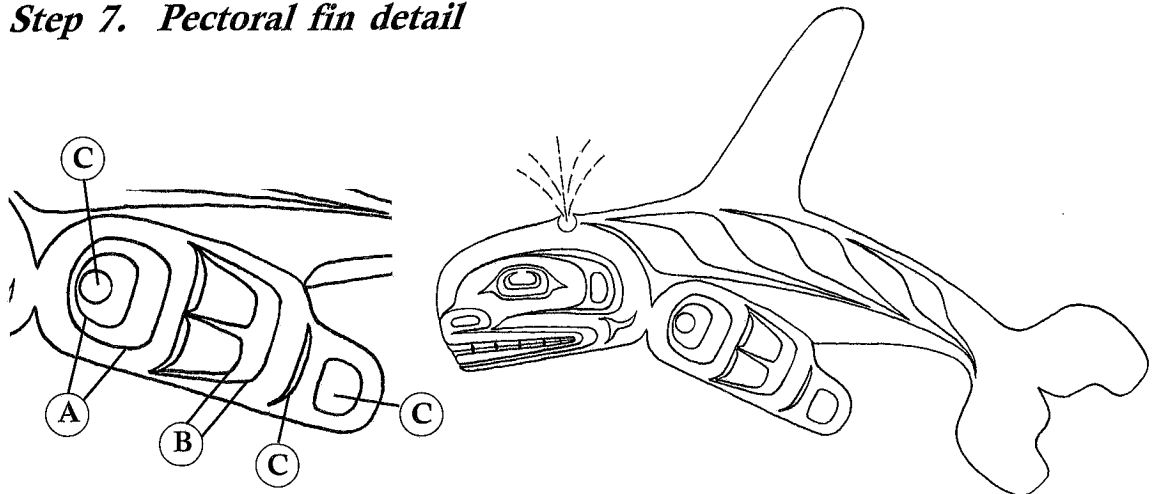
## How to Draw a Killer Whale continued

### Step 6. Head ovoid detail



- A. Draw the nose, nostril, lips, and teeth.
- B. Draw the inside line of the primary formline of the head ovoid.
- C. Using a plastic circle template, draw the blow hole and blow spout dashing.
- D. Draw the secondary formline filler units in the rear of the eye orbits.
- E. Draw the eyeball with relieving crescent and eyelid.
- F. Draw the negative design trigon in the rear jaw area.

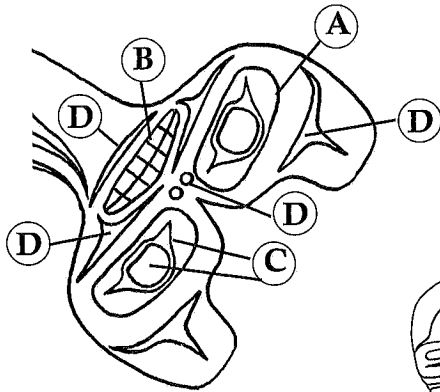
### Step 7. Pectoral fin detail



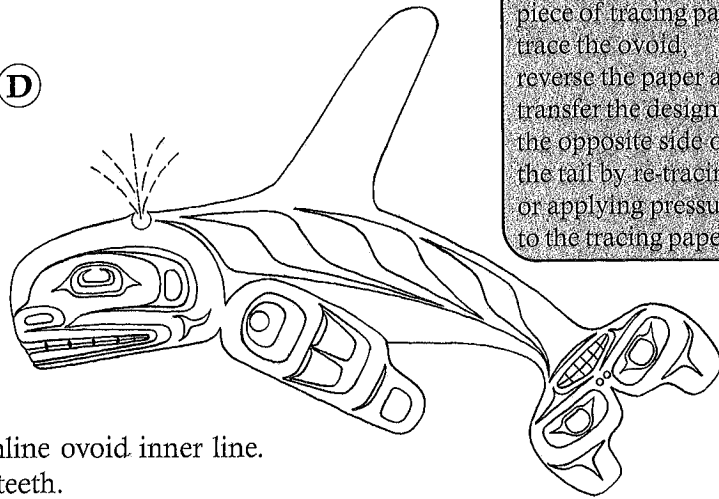
- A. Draw the inside of the primary formline ovoid and the inner ovoid.
- B. Draw a U shape line with double inner U shapes.
- C. Draw the negative design units of the crescent, ovoid, and the circle in the inner ovoid.

## How to Draw a Killer Whale continued

### Step 8. Tail flukes detail

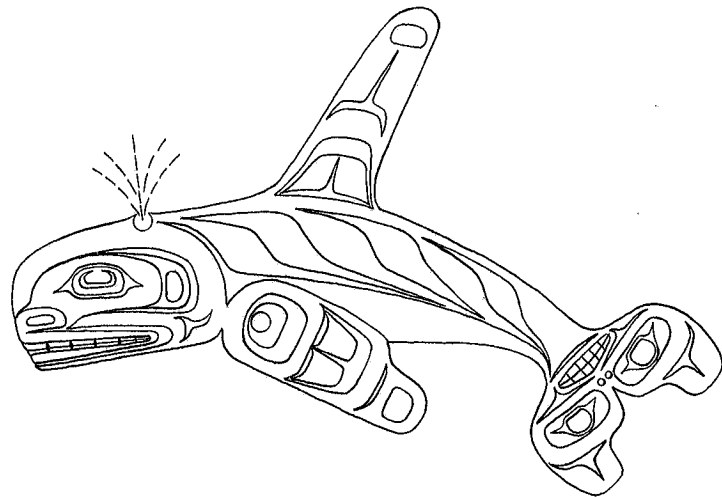
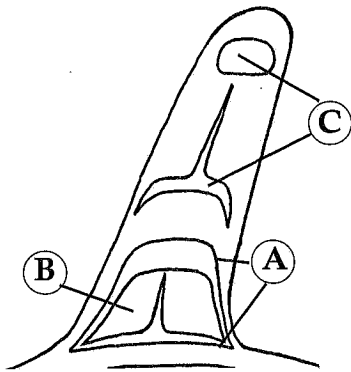


Tip: Draw one half of the tail/head detail design, overlay a piece of tracing paper, trace the ovoid, reverse the paper and transfer the design to the opposite side of the tail by re-tracing or applying pressure to the tracing paper.



- A. Draw the primary formline ovoid inner line.
- B. Draw the mouth with teeth.
- C. Draw the eyeball and eyelid line.
- D. Draw the negative design units of trigons in upper U shape and cheek area, the nostrils, and the crescent in the chin area.

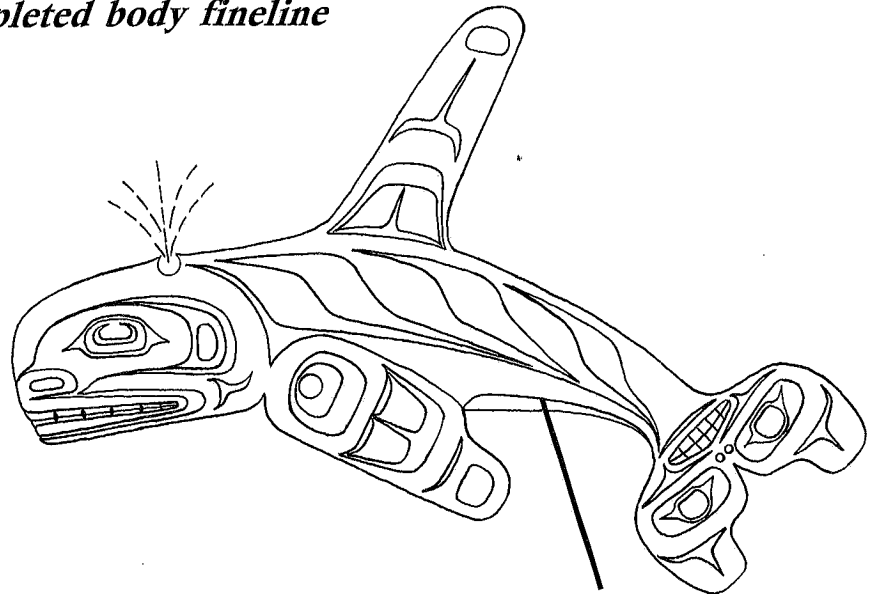
### Step 9. Dorsal fin detail



- A. Draw the primary formline inside line as a U shape at the fin base.
- B. Draw the secondary inner split U shape.
- C. Draw the negative design units of the trigon and ovoid.

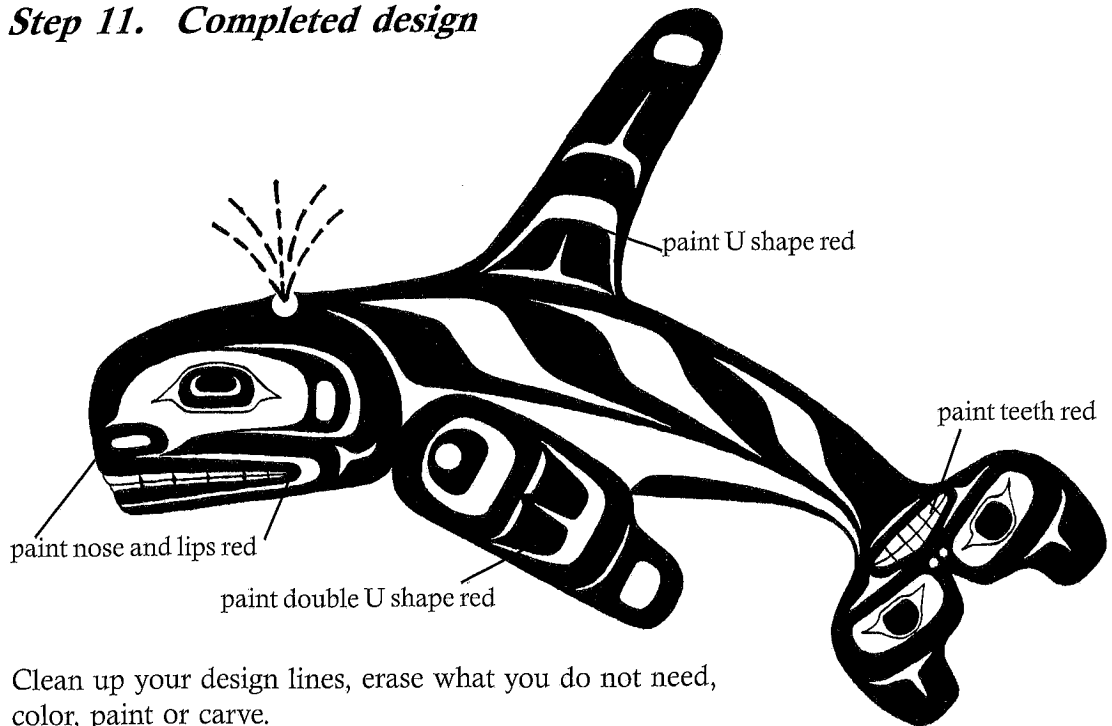
## How to Draw a Killer Whale continued

### Step 10. Completed body fineline



Draw the rear lower body inside fineline to complete the rear/lower body primary formline.

### Step 11. Completed design



Clean up your design lines, erase what you do not need, color, paint or carve.

# How to Draw a Wolf Head

The following north coast art style design starts with a realistic drawing of a wolf head, then uses the outline of the same drawing as the basis for drawing and colouring a single colour wolf head using north coast art style design formline principles and rules. This technique will work for many other creatures and art styles, as well.



*Drawn realistic wolf head*



*Painted north coast art style  
wolf head*

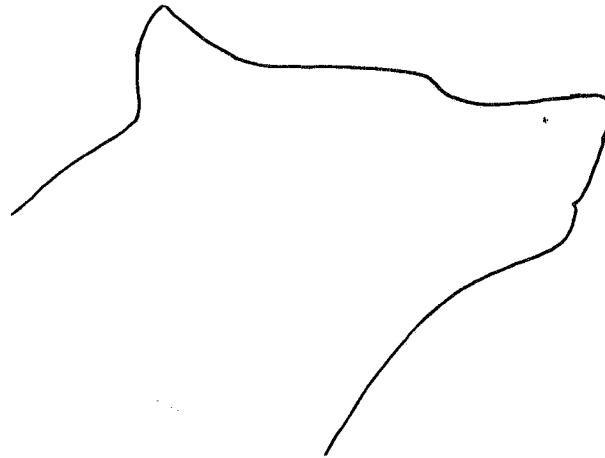
## *Step 1. Realistic wolf head reference*



Draw a realistic wolf head or wolf head outline the size of your proposed finished design.

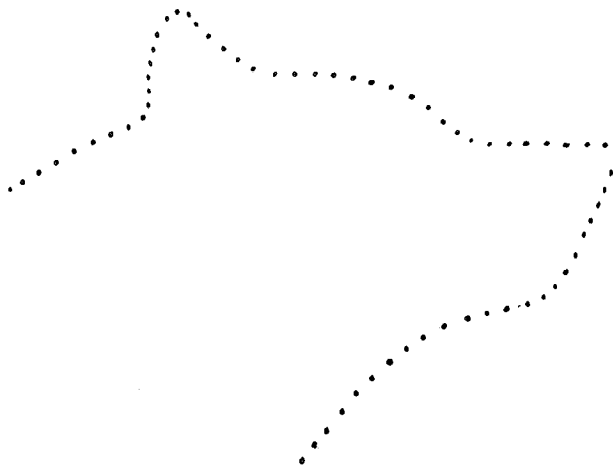
## How to Draw a Wolf Head continued

### ***Step 2. Realistic wolf head outline***



- A. Darken the outline of your original drawing with ink or dark pencil.
- B. Put a new piece of paper over your drawing and secure with tape or paper clip.
- C. Trace over your outline on your new paper.
- D. Remove and file the original drawing.

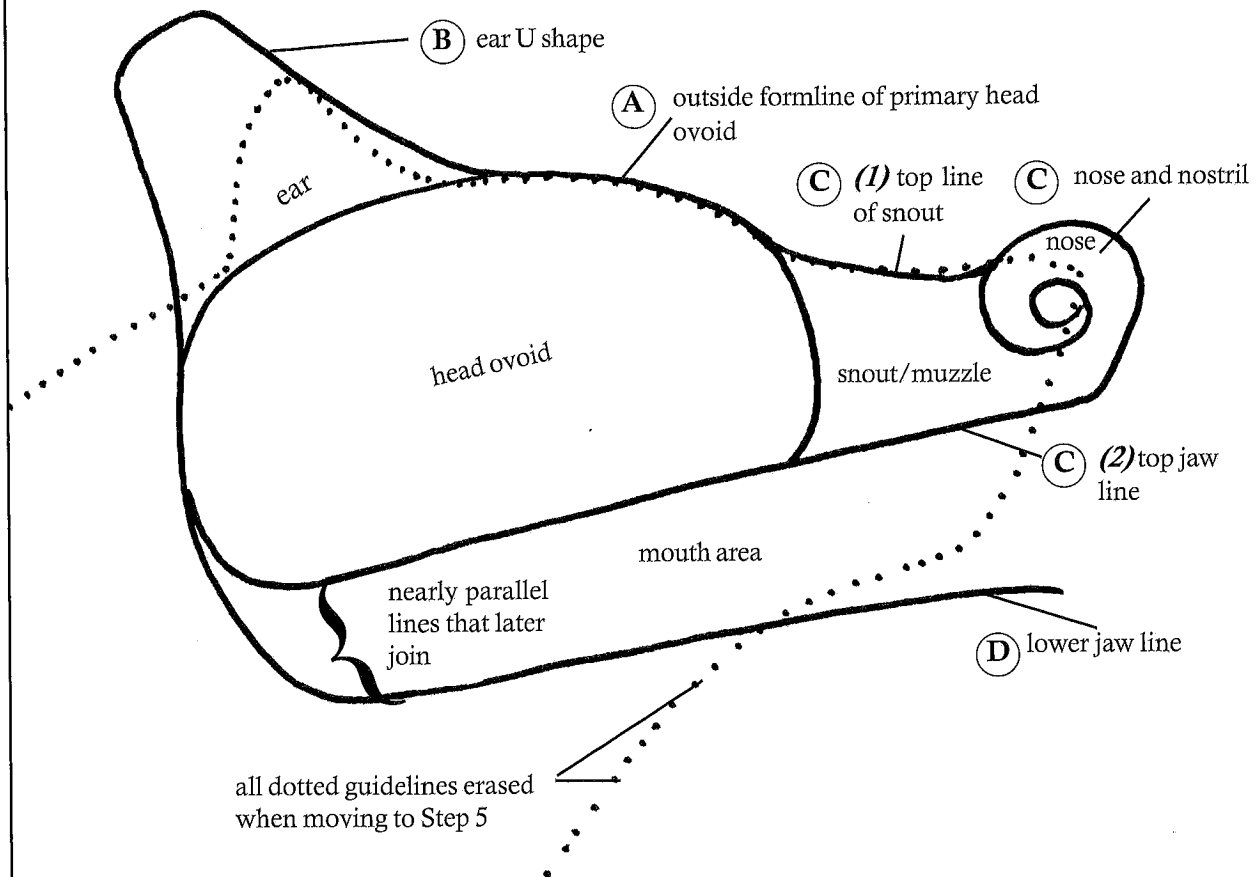
### ***Step 3. Dotted outline***



You may choose to do this step without doing Step 2. Either erase some parts of your outline or make a dotted outline instead of the solid outline in Step 2.

## How to Draw a Wolf Head continued

### Step 4. Fineline outline using dotted realistic guideline

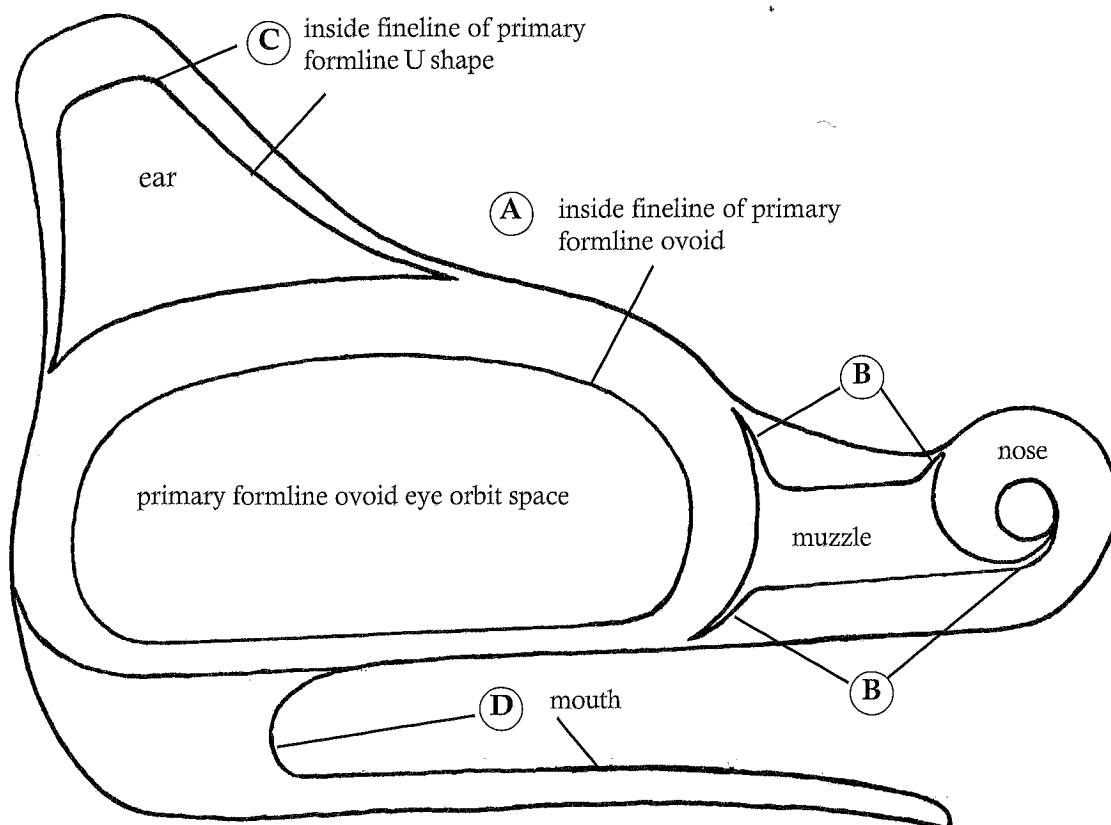


- A. Draw the main formline ovoid of the head.
- B. Extend the ear length to a somewhat narrow and tapered round-ended U shape which is sloped to the rear of the head.
- C. Extend the muzzle/snout length forward from the realistic outline and add the nose with its spiral nostril design.
  - (1) Draw a joining line from the forehead area of the formline head ovoid.
  - (2) Draw a joining line from the top jaw area of the head ovoid to the lower muzzle/snout area and then curve and taper the line back and around to form a spiral nose with a circular nostril.
- D. Draw the lower jaw line from the head formline ovoid rear bottom (jaw hinge area) forward to the jaw tip. Slope this line slightly to accommodate teeth.



## How to Draw a Wolf Head continued

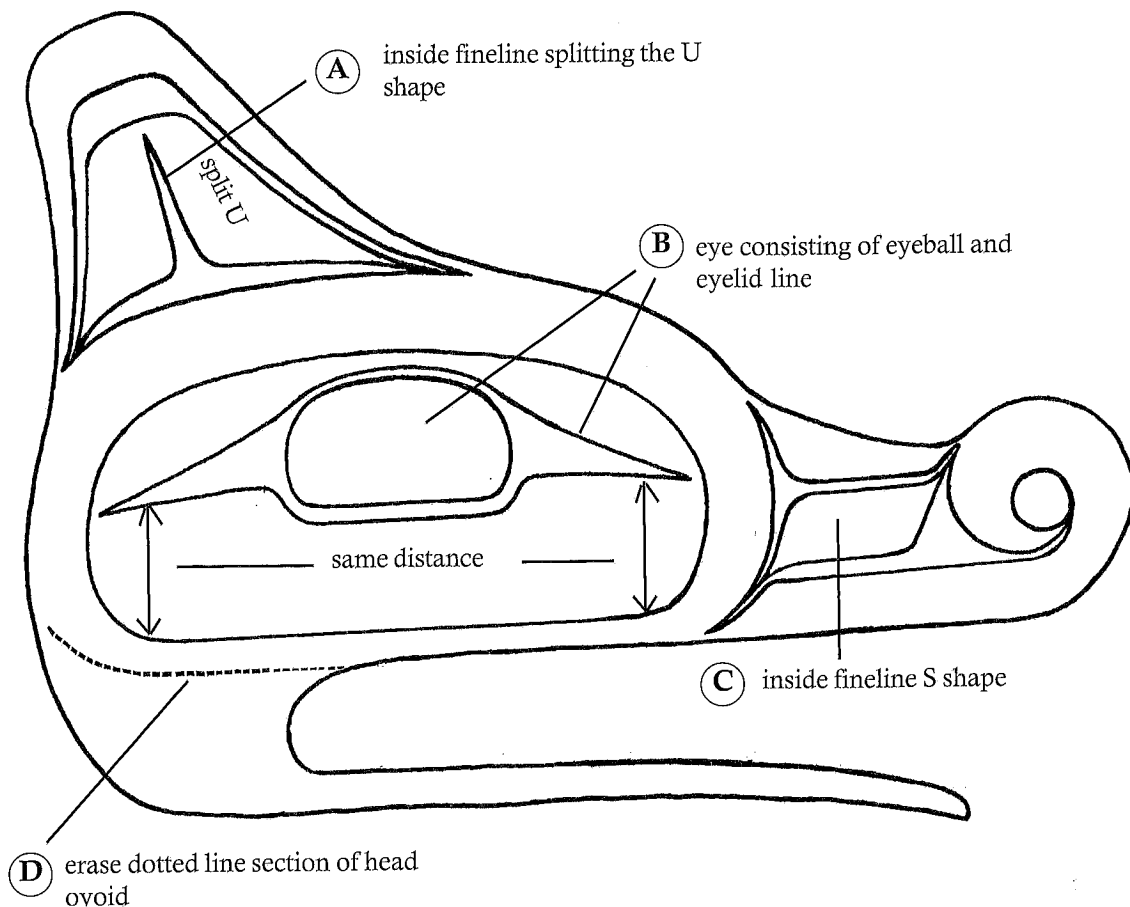
### Step 5. Ear, eye orbit, inside muzzle and inside mouth



- A. Draw the inside fineline of the primary head ovoid. This forms the eye orbit. In north coast art style art, the resulting formline width at the top of the ovoid is wider than at the bottom of the ovoid.
- B. Draw the inside fineline of the muzzle formline by curving the line up at both ends to result in a tapered juncture. Make a similar taper at the rear of the top jaw/muzzle line and the coiled end of the spiralled nose line.
- C. Draw the inside fineline of the ear U shape.
- D. Draw the inside fineline of the mouth area parallel to the existing lower jaw line. Start to curve the inside fineline up to join the primary head ovoid about 1/3 of the way in from the left side of the primary ovoid.

## How to Draw a Wolf Head continued

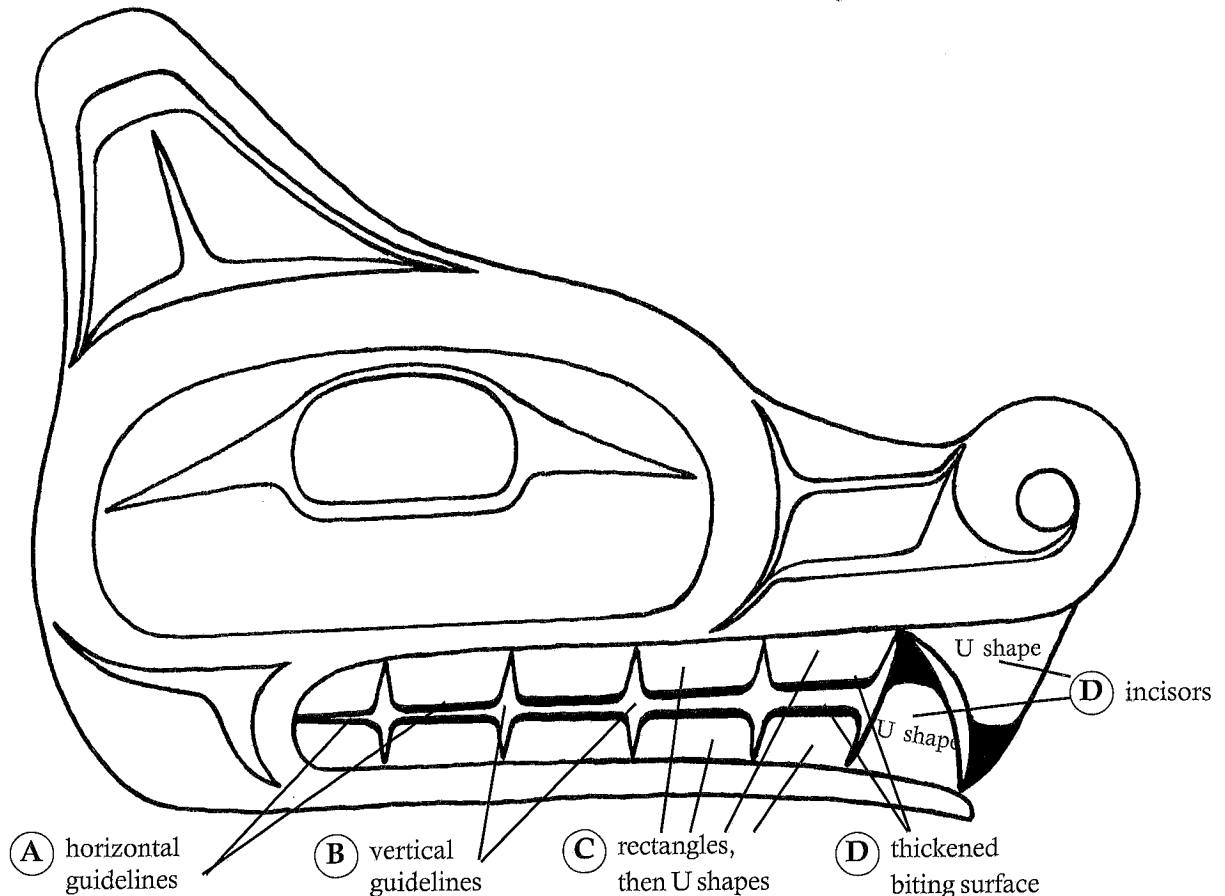
### Step 6. Ear split U shape, snout S shape, and the eye



- A. Draw the split in the U shape. Since this is a one-colour (black) design, join the tapered bottom lines to the ovoid formline.
- B. Draw the eyeball ovoid first. Centre the ovoid from left to right and raise it above the horizontal centre line of the eye orbit. The bottom of the eye ovoid is parallel to the bottom line of the head ovoid. Draw the eyelid line around the eyeball ovoid. This eyelid line is typical of the north coast art style. See the chapter, *Examples of Head Components - Eyes*.
- C. Draw the S shape filler in the snout. The top and bottom of the S shape are parallel to the primary formline. Join the tapered, pointed ends to the formline at the top/rear nose area and to the bottom right of the head ovoid.
- D. Erase the dotted line section of the head ovoid.

## How to Draw a Wolf Head continued

### Step 7. Teeth

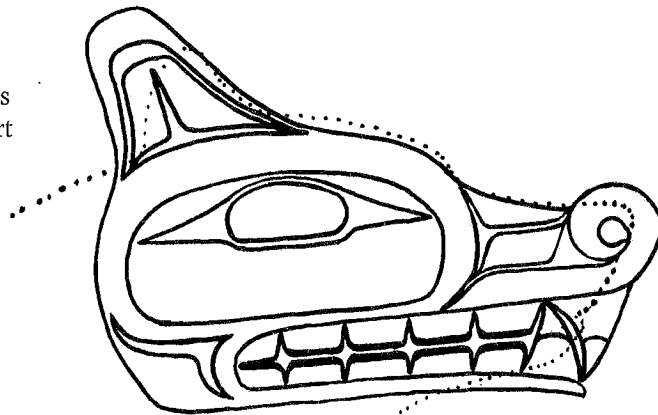


- A. Draw two light guidelines that join at the back of the mouth and run parallel to the top and bottom lips. This will represent the biting surface of the teeth. Stop the line where you want the incisor teeth to start.
- B. Draw light vertical lines through the horizontal guidelines at equal intervals from the back of the mouth to the incisor teeth. This will separate the individual teeth.
- C. You should have a series of five rectangles on the top and five on the bottom. Round off the corners of these rectangles to shape the teeth into U shapes.
- D. Draw the two incisor teeth about the same width at each base. They are U shapes with pointed, curved, solid colour extensions.
- E. Slightly thicken the biting surface line of the teeth, remembering to fair these lines into the side lines of the teeth.

## How to Draw a Wolf Head continued

### ***Design overlay***

showing similarities and differences between realistic and north coast art style drawings of a wolf head



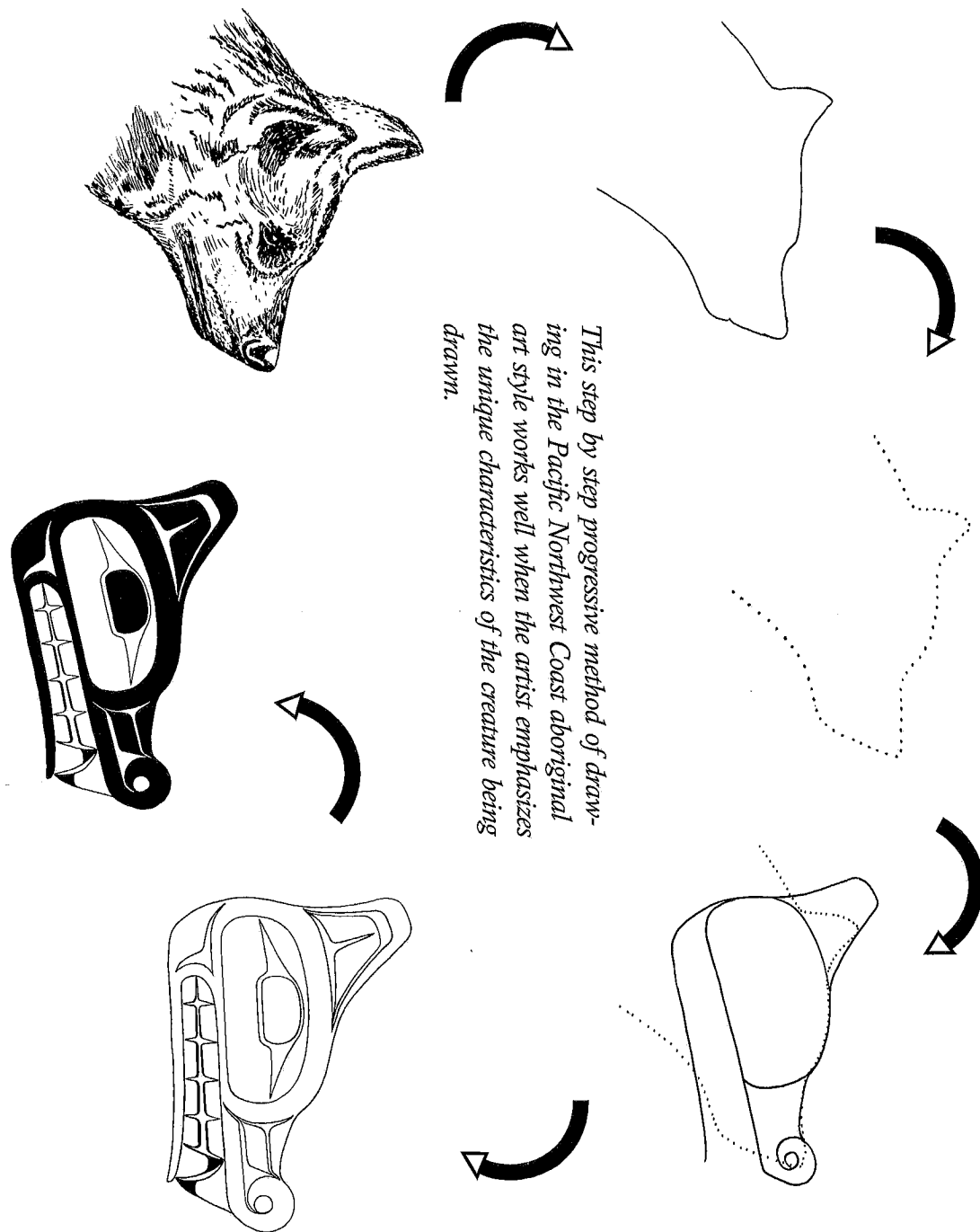
### ***Step 8. Completed design***



- A. Paint or colour in the formline with black.
- B. If this design were a multi-coloured design, the split in the ear U shape and the S shape in the snout could be red, the eye orbit outside of the eyelid lines could be blue/green.

## How to Draw a Wolf Head Summary

The following diagram is a summary of major steps in using a realistic drawing as the basis for an aboriginal drawing. The heads in northwest coast art are often proportionately large compared to the overall size of the creature.



## Glossary

### General Terms

#### Aboriginal people

a term defined in the Canadian *Constitution Act* of 1982 that refers to all indigenous people in Canada, including Indians (status and non-status), Métis, and Inuit people.

#### Aboriginal rights

the freedom to use and occupy traditional lands and resources to maintain a traditional Aboriginal life style. Aboriginal rights are protected in the *Constitution Act* of 1982.

#### Adipose

soft single rear back fin on salmon, trout and oolichan

#### Alevin

a newly hatched salmon living in the stream bed gravel

#### Amphibian

animals such as a frog or salamander that live both on land and in water

#### Anal

single, rear bottom fin of fish

#### Anthropologist

scientist who studies societies, customs, and cultures of human beings

#### Appendage

an attachment or projection to a main part

#### Argillite

carbonaceous, black, medium soft, shale stone from Slate Chuck Creek area of Haida Gwaii.

#### Baleen

elongated bristles in the mouth of a whale, used to strain ocean water to filter out food

#### Band

the legal definition given to distinct groups of Aboriginal clans and families by the *Indian Act*.

#### Bentwood box/ chest

a wooden container whose four sides are formed from a single piece of wood

#### Bifurcate

divided into two branches

#### Bighouse

large, ceremonial, community building used by Pacific Northwest Coast aboriginal groups

#### Bookwus (Bukwus, Bukwis)

Kwakwaka'wakw mythological creature- wild man of the woods

#### Ceremonial house screen

wooden, woven mat or fabric screens painted with crests, family or cultural designs

#### Chief

leader of aboriginal peoples who may be either hereditary or elected

#### Chilkat

a Tlingit First Nations group from northern Alaska

#### Chinook (spring, Tyee - salmon)

largest of the Pacific salmon

#### Chum (salmon)

most abundant and widespread spawning salmon in the Pacific (usually preserved by smoking)

#### Clan

a tribe bearing the same surname, united under a chief, a set of persons having common ancestors

#### Clasper

a rear appendage on a male dogfish (shark or other fish) used during breeding

#### Coho (salmon)

Pacific salmon with red flesh

#### Contemporary

living or happening at the same time; present-day

#### Copper

a valuable, large shield-like sheet of heavy copper plate, often painted, usually associated with wealth and potlatches



*Kwakwaka'wakw house front design showing Thunderbird helping to build the first big-house at Nimpkish River by lifting and placing the large roof beams.*