

ILLUSTRATE YOUR OWN FASHIONS

Supplies:

- Sketch pad
- Sharp pencil
- Micron pen
- Ruler
- Gum eraser

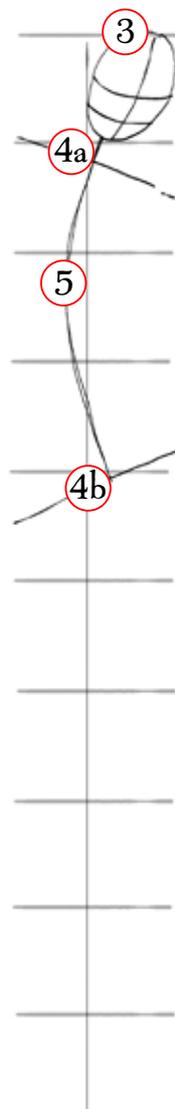


Most designers use a Croquis (pronounced *crow-key*) – a template fashion figure to draw your designs over. Being able to draw your own croquis is essential to illustrating your own fashions.



1. While the average human body is composed of seven heads, the fashion model is elongated to at least nine or ten heads. Mark out your paper with nine equal heads vertically down the page with your pencil.

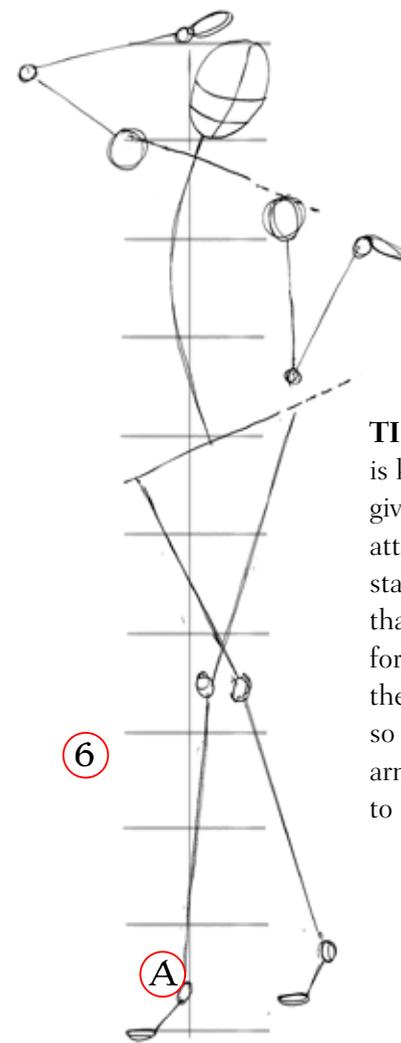
2. Draw a vertical line down the page. This is called the *balance line*. When you are walking, standing, or striking a pose, your weight moves from the tip of your head to the ground closest to your weight bearing leg. If your figure is not in balance, it might look like it is about to fall over – not a good look for any fashion model.



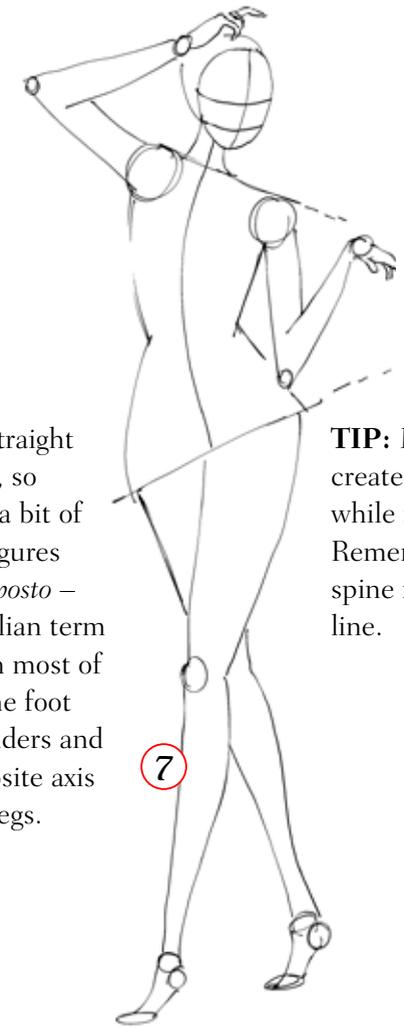
3. Using your guidelines, draw a head in the first quadrant. Divide the head in half to mark the eyes and down the middle to mark out the nose.

4. Draw the shoulder lines (4a) and hip lines. (4b) These lines should be moving in opposite direction unless the figure is standing straight with weight perfectly balanced on both legs.

5. Draw a curve connecting the middle of the shoulder line and the hip line.



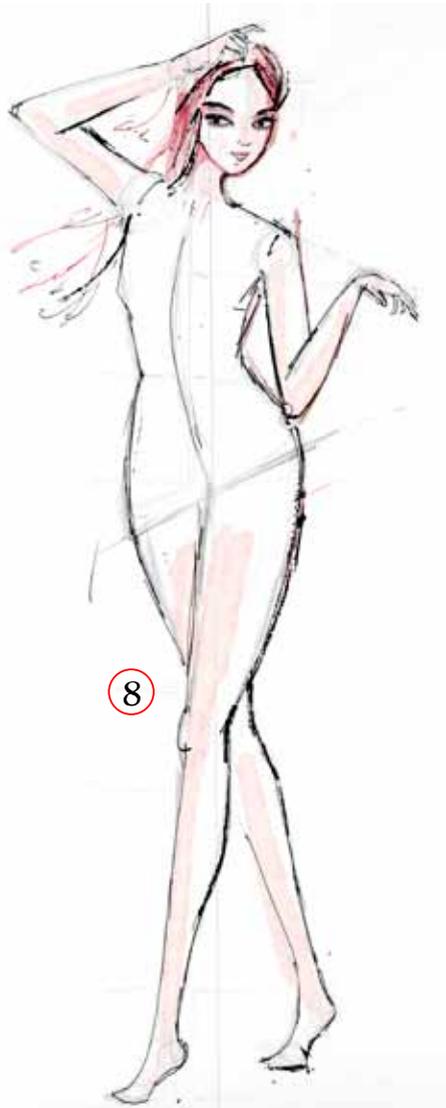
6. Mark out the arms and legs using directional lines to get the general shape. The leg attached to the higher side of the hip will bare most of the weight so it needs to be straighter. This leg should always be either touching the balance line or closer to it than the bent leg.(A)



TIP: Standing straight is kind of boring, so give your model a bit of attitude. Most figures stand in *contrapposto* – that's a fancy Italian term for standing with most of the weight on one foot so that the shoulders and arms are in opposite axis to the hips and legs.

TIP: Most figures create an S or C curve while in movement. Remember that the spine is not a straight line.

7. Start to flesh out the torso, arms, legs, hands, and feet. Think of the torso as a cylinder. For the hands and feet, use simple triangles, rectangles and circles. Remember that it does not have to be perfect, but should just give you a rough outline to add clothing. Erase the guidelines from Step 1.



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8. Flesh out the rest of the figure, but don't get fussy! The purpose of the croquis is to provide a visual mannequin for the clothing, not a portrait of a person.



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9. Now for the fun part – add some clothing, accessories, or fabulous shoes. The clothing should move in the direction of the body. Use your shoulder and hip lines as a guide.

TIP: Too intimidated to draw your own Croquis? Try tracing a figure out of a fashion magazine instead.

How to Design your Own Fashion Collection



Now that you know how to draw a Croquis, how do you come up with unique designs? The following are a few ways Fashion Designers get inspiration:



Everyday objects. To get the best ideas, just look around. Maybe the wings of a butterfly remind you of a great top for a dress. Or a tulip's petals remind you of rows of fabric on a layered skirt.

Know your history. Artist Pablo Picasso said; "Good artist copy. Great artists steal." To come up with original ideas, you need to know what has already been done....and then make it ten times better. For example, shoes with red heels and bottoms are all the rage now, but that trend began with Louis XIV in the seventeenth century. He passed an edict that only nobility could wear red heels. The result – all the cool kids wanted them.

Create a mood. Most Fashion Designers begin with a theme and then design their collection around that theme. For example, in 2013, Valentino designed a collection using the theme "Wunderkammer" - the cabinet of curiosities or exotic specimen that aristocrats used to collect in the seventeenth and eighteenth century. His dresses were ornately embroidered to look like bizarre sea creatures.

Organize your inspriation. Keep a Pinterest board (www.pinterest.com) of all your favorite art inspiration. It can be anything from your favorite shoes and dresses to your favorite paintings and vintage lace and button collection.

