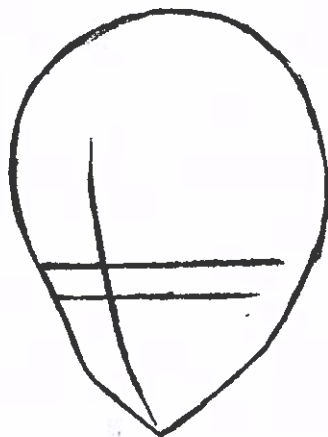
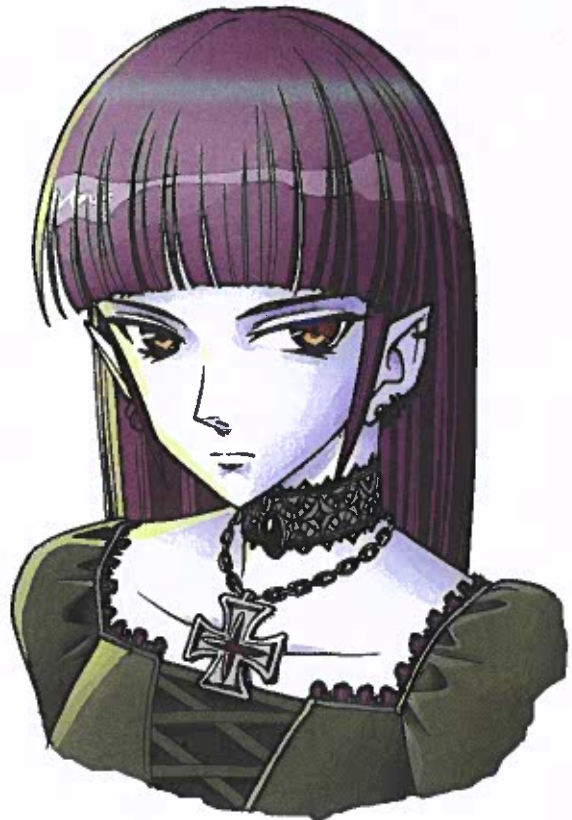


# Dark Fantasy

The Japanese are masters of making things cute, but when they want to, they can go to the dark side as well. This time we'll learn some methods for drawing a decidedly different character: a goth-ish girl whose favorite color is jet black and who wouldn't be caught dead with flowers in her hair. Yes, our sense of her personality is partly derived from her clothing and her cold-as-ice facial expression. But just as important are the principles of design that stand behind the drawing: the sharp angles and the rigid lines.



**1 Mark the Head Guidelines**  
Begin with the basic shape of the head. It's taller than it is wide and comes to a sharp point at the chin. The lines for the eyes are close together, and they fall well short of being halfway between the chin and the top of the head. Since she's facing to the left, the vertical nose-and-mouth line is also on the left.



**2 Draw the Basic Features**  
Add basic lines for the eyes, eyebrows, nose, mouth and ears. Note how I've made every angle sharp and pointy rather than gently rounded. I even made the ears pointed! The goal is to convey harshness in the facial features and thereby make her personality seem harsh as well.



**3 Add Details to the Features**  
Now it's time for more details in the eyes and ears. I chose to give each eye a single little sliver of highlight and to contract the pupils down into tiny dots to give her a distant, spooky stare. And any proper goth girl would want her fair share of earrings, so I certainly didn't hold back in that department.



**4 Draw the Hair**  
As always, feel free to be creative with the hair. I opted for super-straight lines without the slightest hint of waviness and bangs cut absolutely clean across. Finally I placed two fanglike strands of hair at the ears, framing her face and adding a couple more sharp angles to the general prickliness.



**5 Draw the Neck and Shoulders**  
Now turn to the neck and shoulders and put in some basic lines for her clothes. Note the width of the neck; always an important part of conveying femininity. Clothing always says a lot about a character's personality. A choker at the neck is a great way of making a character seem disciplined and thoroughly under control.

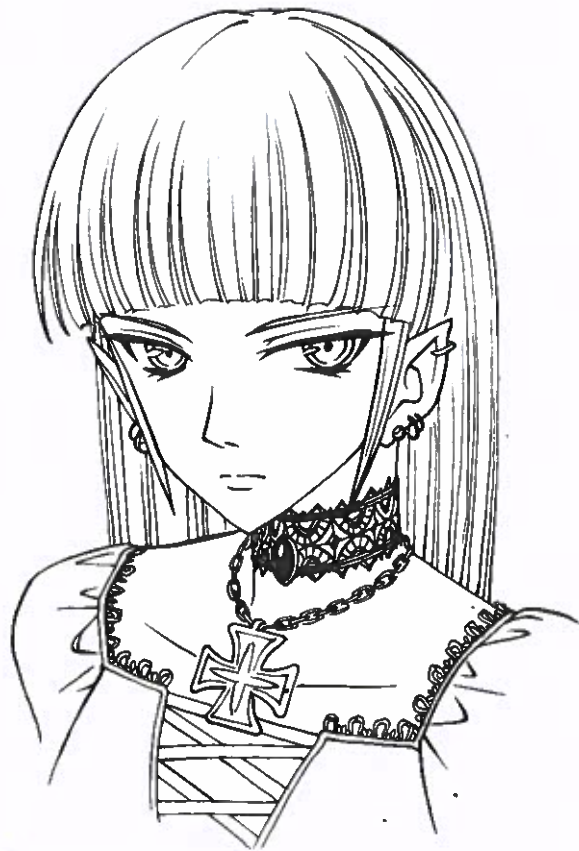


**6 Add Details to the Hair and Clothes**

With the main contours in place, begin adding details. The lines of the hair gradually curve to the left and right, revealing the shape of the head beneath. I decided to add an ornate necklace as well as trim and wrinkles along the edges of the dress, but feel free to do things differently; it's your character, and you're in charge.



**7 Continue Adding Details**  
You're nearly done now. All that's needed is a bit more detail for the hair and the clothing. As a challenge for myself, I went for a detailed pattern on the choker. With line work like this, you can consult photos of actual clothing or just invent new patterns of your own.



**8 Ink the Drawing**  
Switch from pencil to pen, and ink all the lines. Do your best to ink each line of the hair with a single stroke. Allow plenty of time for the ink to dry, then erase all the pencil lines. Nicely done: Only three lessons in, and you've already taken on three vastly different styles.