

How to draw a kookaburra.

Step 1.

So, this is what the finished drawing will look like (either that or these are possibly the worst instructions ever created). Alright... Begin with a new piece of paper – recycled paper if you can. Your kookaburra will be roughly portrait, so orientate your paper this way.



Kookaburras love to laugh.

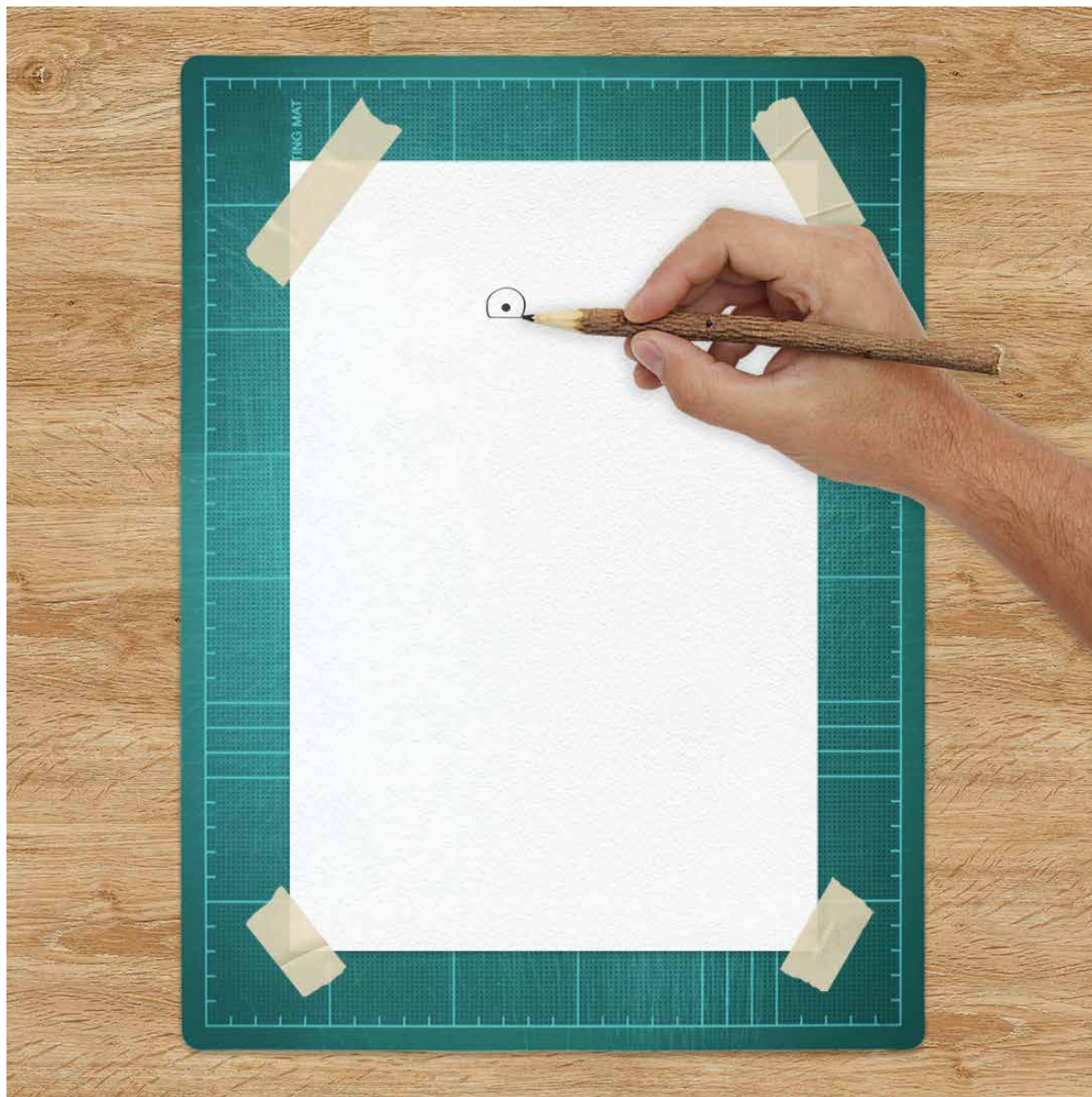
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Step 2.

I always begin with the eye(s). This will be a happy kookaburra, so begin by drawing a capital D on its back, about a fifth of the way down your page. Add in a black dot for the pupil, right in the middle of the drunken D.



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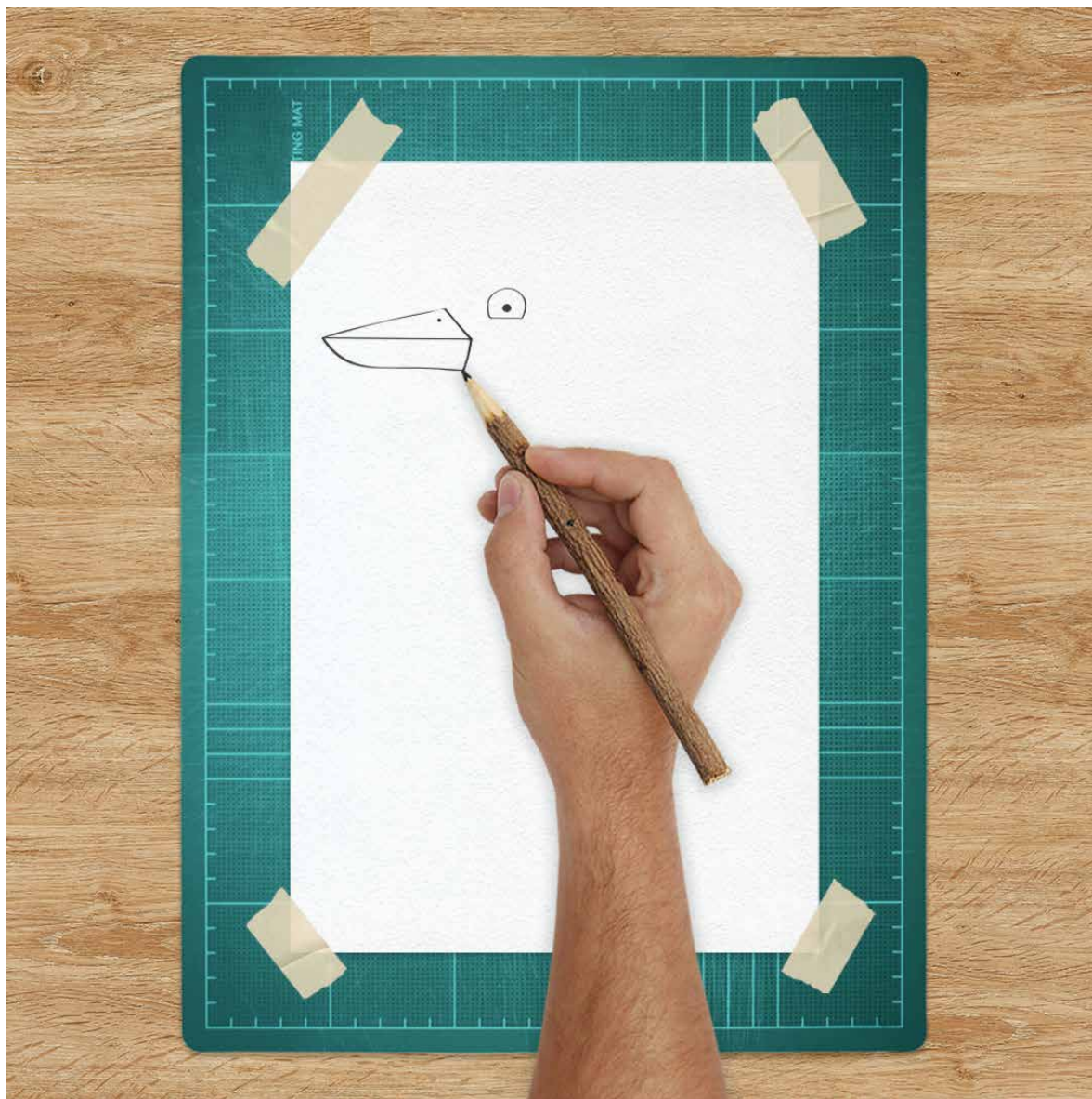
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Step 3.

Next, I draw in the beak. Kookas tend to have a larger lower half of the beak (a bit like a wannabe pelican). The top half of the beak can be a triangle made up of three straight lines. The lower half curves at the front. And remember to add in a nostril, close to the top of the upper half of the beak.



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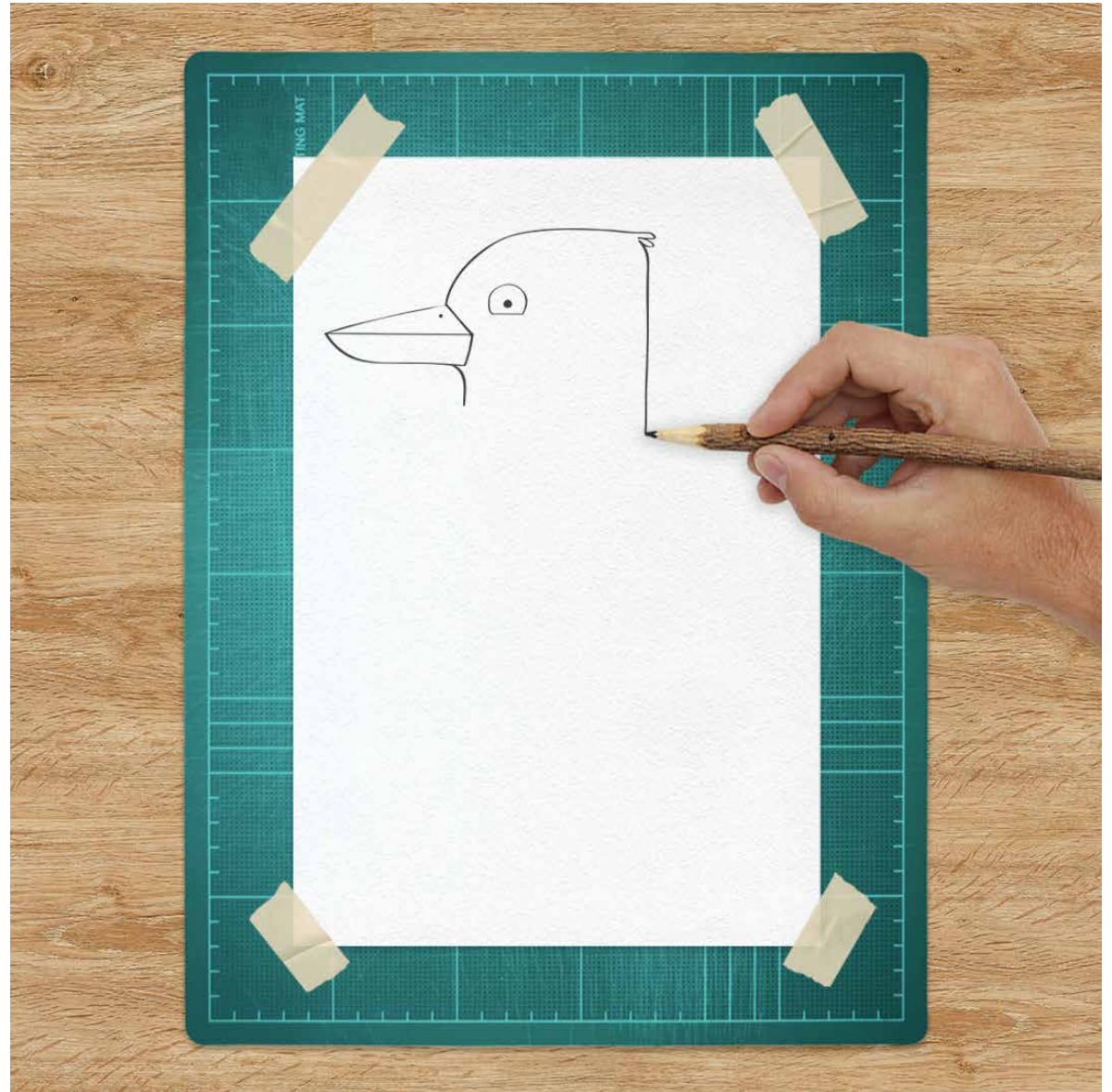
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Step 4.

Draw the kooka's head with a line that starts from the top of the beak, then curves back gently. Continue the line to give her a flat top, and then go straight down at 90°, to the point shown here. You can add in a couple of little feathers at the back of her head if you're feeling cocky.



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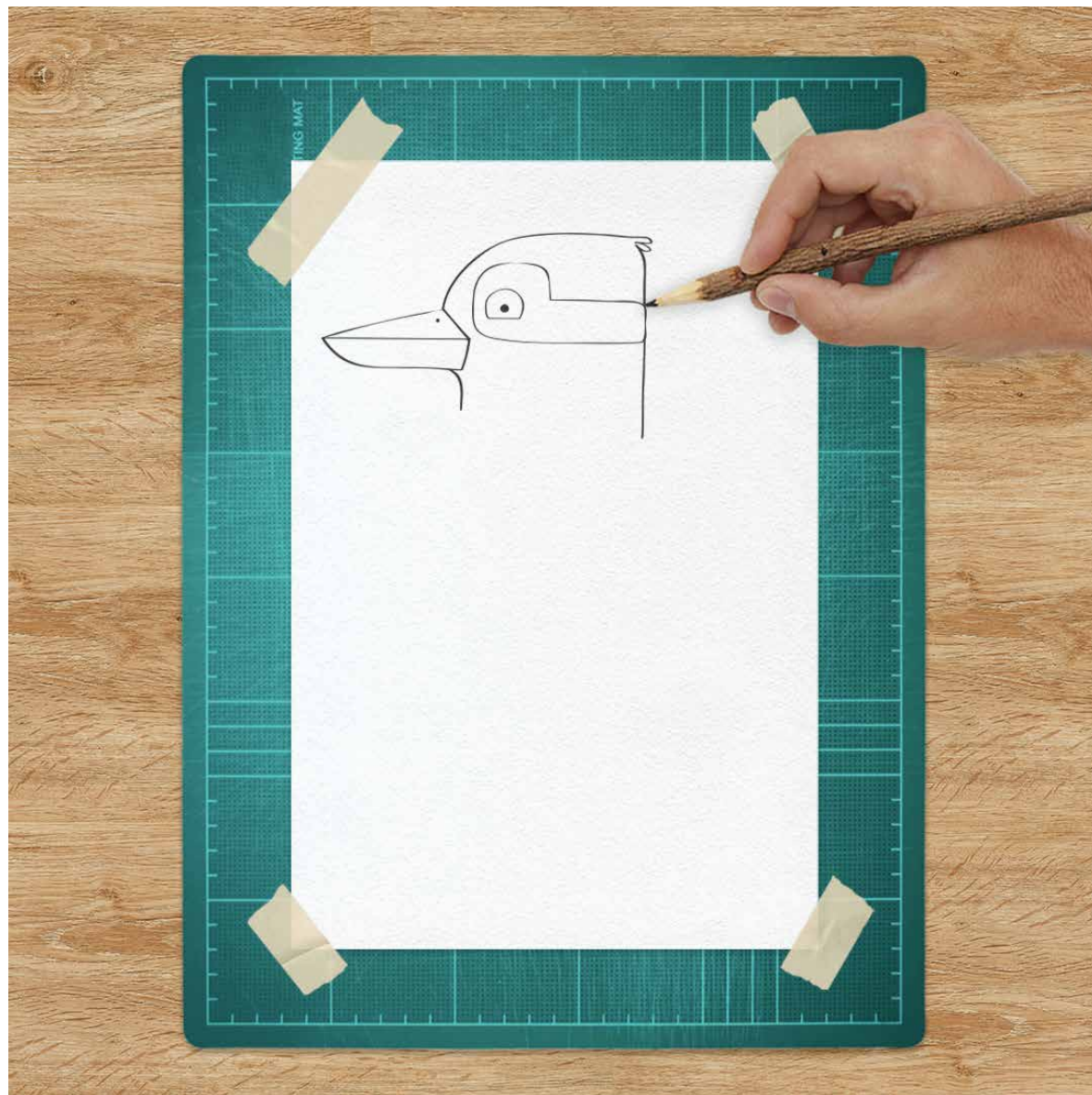
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Step 5.

Add a little bandit mask around the eye, which continues all the way to the back of her head. It's a bit like a capital 'P' on its side.



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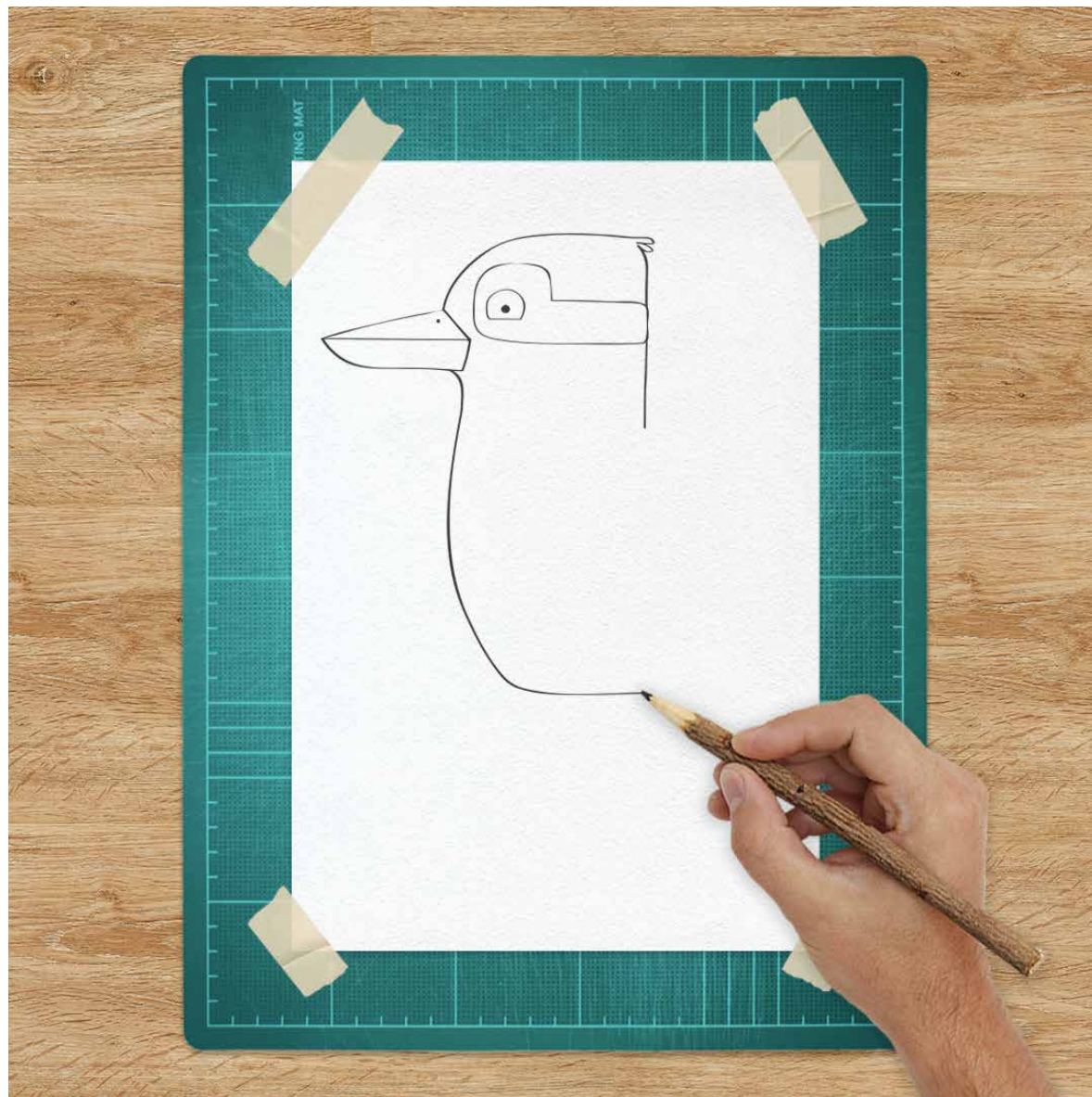
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Step 6.

Starting at the bottom of her beak, draw a gently curving line for her chest and belly, as shown here, with a horizontal line at the bottom. Finish in line with the back of the kooka's head.



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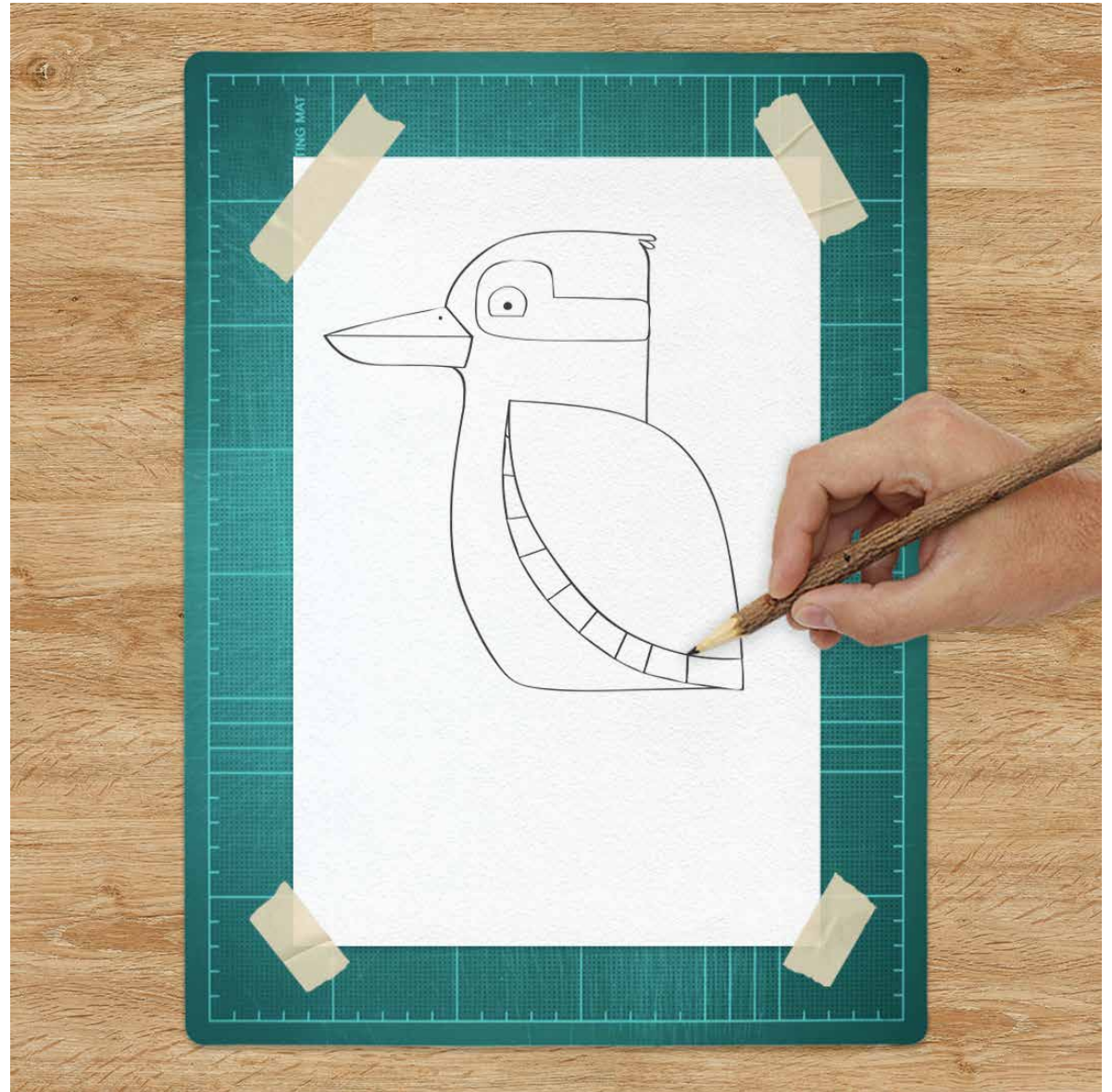
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Step 7.

Give your kooka a wing! No, not on the phone... The wing should be roughly the shape of a human eye, or an almond with two pointy ends. The wing should begin in line with the kookaburra's pupil, and extend down to finish in line with the bottom of her belly. Once you have drawn the outline of her wing, add in a second curved line as shown, then add some straight lines to break the underwing* up into little segments.

*(I'm no ornithologist)



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Step 8.

Now it's time to draw her tail. I like to draw in three tail feathers, but you can add in more if you like. Add in some lines to segment each feather into little sections.



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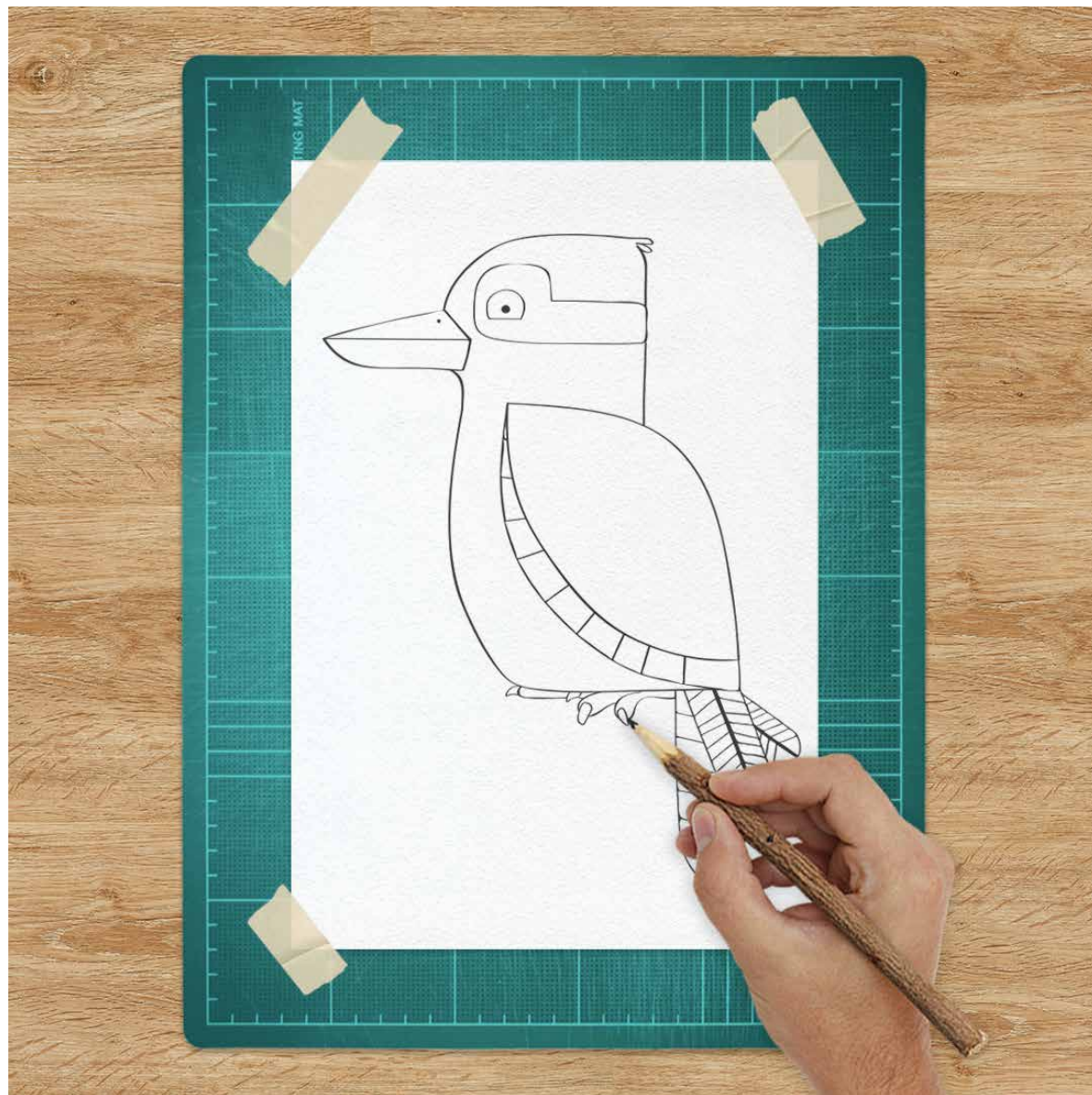
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Step 9.

Add in some feet! Here, I have added three toes from the foot in the foreground, and one toe from the foot in the background.



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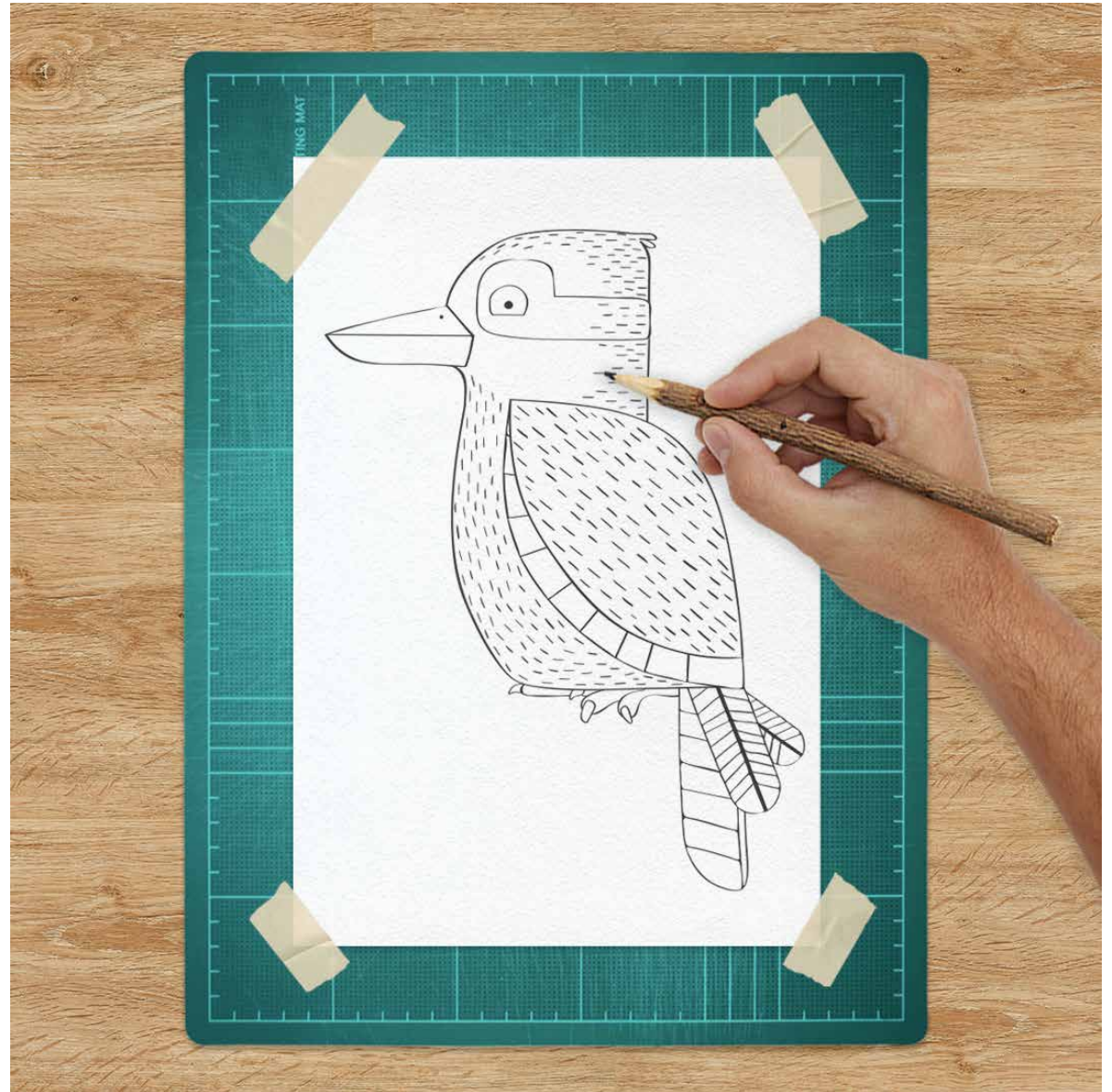
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Step 10.

And finally ... add some texture to your kooka with short, evenly spaced dashes. Your dashes will look best if they follow the shape of the kookaburra's body. And that's it! Thanks so much for reading and drawing along with me. Philip.



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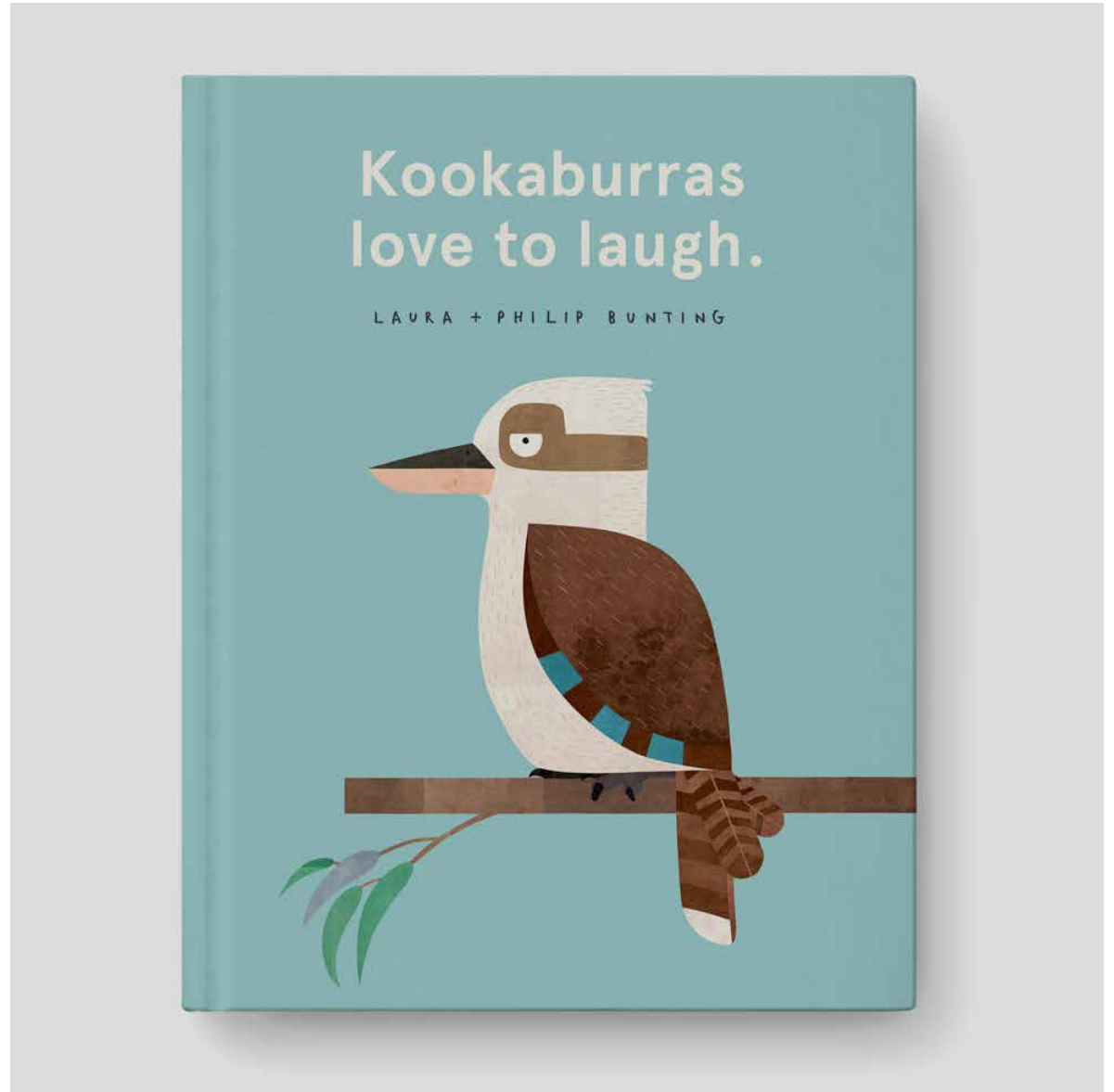
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Colour

And just in case you'd like to colour in your kooka, here's the cover from Kookaburras Love to Laugh.



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