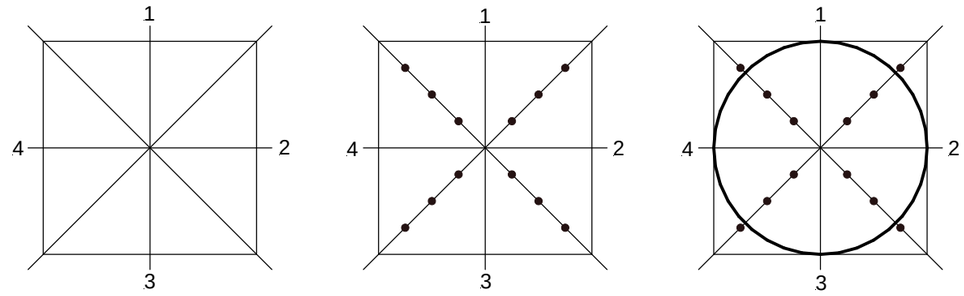
Information Sheet 3 - Sketching Circles in Perspective

Revision: Sketching Circles

The steps required to sketch circles in good proportion are shown on the right. Start by drawing a square and dividing it up using diagonal, horizontal and vertical lines as shown (step 1). The lines should all pass through the centre of the circle. Then divide each half of the diagonal lines into four equal lengths (step 2). Now lightly sketch in the circle by using the four tangent points, numbered 1 – 4 and with the circle coming to just inside the outermost point on each diagonal (step 3). Once you are happy with the shape of the circle firm it in clearly.
This method can also be applied to sketching circles in any of the three isometric planes.



Step1 Step2 Step3

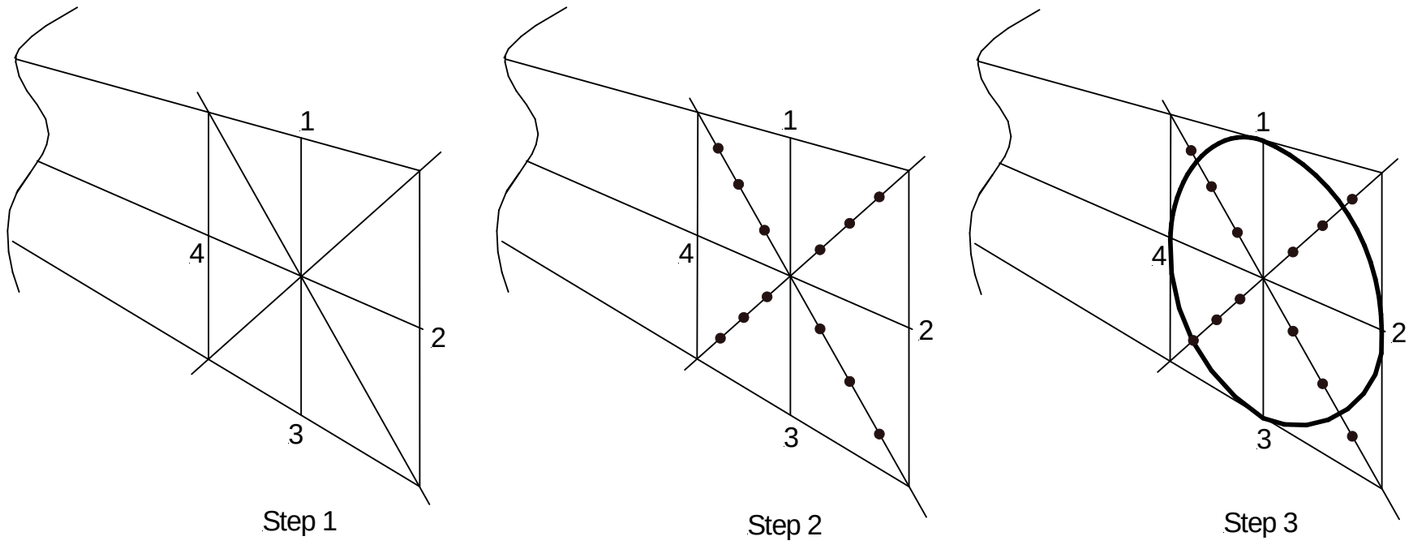
Perspective Circles

The same basic method of construction is used when sketching circles in perspective. The main difference is that instead of having a square to work with you need a perspective view of a square as the basis for construction. This method can be applied to sketching circles in any perspective plane required.

Remember objects will appear to diminish in size as they move along the construction lines to the vanishing points.
The recommended method is shown below and this construction method should be used whenever you are sketching perspective circles. When sketching objects with circular features, it is a good idea to draw the top or the front of the circular feature first. You can then project down the way to find the bottom of the part, or back to the vanishing point to find the back of the part. Doing it this way means there will be less points to projected so it will be quicker and easier.

Now get some A3 paper and practice both sketching techniques until you can successfully and repeatedly produce visually correct circles when required.

Lines projecting back to the vanishing point



Step 1 Step 2 Step 3