

12. **Homemade Percussion Stick** ~ Find a thin twig to make your percussion stick. Using beads, sequins and other craft materials, make an instrument that sounds mystical!

Cymbals



Loop a strip of fabric through the hole of an old CD and tie it off at a point where the fabric strap will slide snugly around three or four fingers of your child's hand.

While your CDs don't make the resounding crash that real cymbals do, they certainly produce a fun and satisfying "clack."

From: http://www.cbc.ca/parents/play/view/activity_musical_instruments

Easy Kazoos

4+

TEACHES FUN WITH MUSIC

The kazoo is one of the simplest instruments that plays a melody. The music is produced by humming a melody into the kazoo, which causes the vibrating membrane to produce a musical sound. It is a perfect instrument for a young child.

Materials

Toilet roll tubes
Markers
Colored cellophane or
wax paper cut into 4"
(10 cm) squares
Rubber bands

Directions

- Decorate the tubes.
- Attach a cellophane square to one end of the tube with a rubber band.
- Hum your favorite tune into the other end of the tube.
- Beware! This will tickle your upper lip.

A comb kazoo —Wrap a piece of wax paper around a comb and secure it with two-sided tape. Put your kazoo next to your lips and hum your favorite song. Be prepared! It, too, will tickle your mouth.



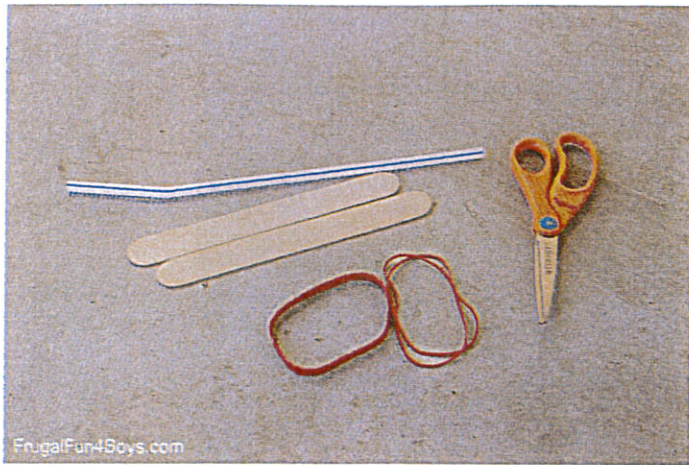
SOUND SCIENCE FOR KIDS: MAKE A CRAFT STICK HARMONICA

This craft stick harmonica is fun to play, and you can adjust the pitch by moving the straws! It's a neat project, and a good one to make with a group because the materials are very inexpensive. You can fit in a little science learning too – see the bottom of the post for ways to turn this into a true science experiment.

I saw this project idea on [Filth Wizardry](#), and I knew the boys would love it. They did – it has been a huge hit! Gresham made more of them today so that everyone has their own.

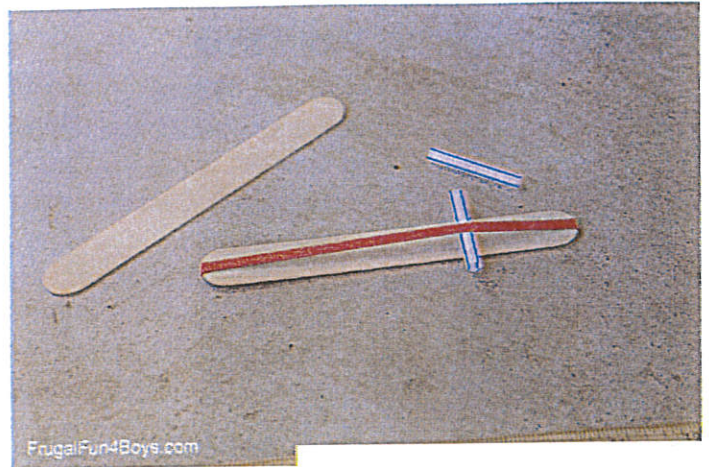
To make one, you will need:

- Jumbo craft sticks (2)
- A wide rubber band
- Two smaller rubber bands
- A straw
- Scissors



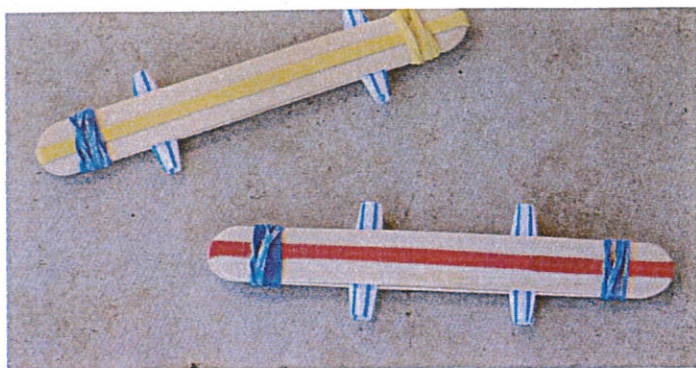
Cut two pieces of straw that are 1 – 1.5 inches long.

Stretch the thick rubber band around one of the craft sticks. Place one of the straws under the rubber band.



Put the other craft stick on top and attach same end as the straw.

Stick the other piece of straw at the other end of the harmonica, but this time place it on top of the wide rubber band. Secure the end with the second small rubber band.



You can print an [instruction and information sheet](#) from The Exploratorium. Very useful, especially if you are making these with a group!

Waffle Harps or Kazoos

4+

TEACHES ABOUT VIBRATION

Materials

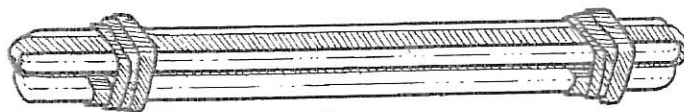
- 2 tongue depressors
- 3 wide, large rubber bands

Directions

- Wrap one rubber band around a tongue depressor the long way.
- Put second tongue depressor on top of the first one.
- Take the second rubber band and twist it once around one depressor. Continue twisting the second rubber band around both depressors.
- Take the third rubber band and repeat the above step, remembering to twist around one depressor one time and then around both.
- There will be a small opening at each end of the depressors. Blow or hum gently into the middle of the depressors.
- Make up your own tune or play along to a familiar tune.



① wrap a rubber band the long way



④ repeat 2 + 3

blow here

② twist once around one

③ continue twisting around both

The I Can't Sing Book

MARACAS



You will need: plastic eggs, plastic spoons, washi or duck tape, beans, rice, gravel, something to place in your eggs

These are great because they don't require a trip to the store. Use what you have and they will be perfect! You will need 2 spoons for every 1 plastic egg.

Begin by putting some of your filler inside your egg. I used beans because I had them already and they are super inexpensive. I didn't fill them very full, you want the beans to be able to move around. So i filled one half of an egg about half way. Feel free to experiment and see if different fillings change the sound of the maraca!

Make sure your egg is shut all the way. You want to be sure you are using an egg that will close all the way, sometimes these eggs like to come apart on their own, don't use one of those.

Once you have filled it and shut it, place it between two plastic spoons and wrap a few times in your washi tape.

Plate Maracas and Ocean Drum

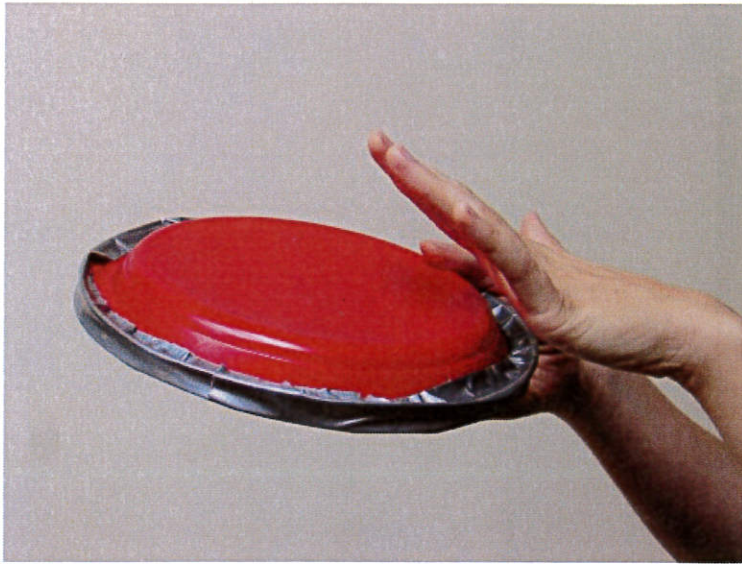


Plate Maraca / Ocean Drum

Materials: Two plastic or hard paper plates, Filling (rice or beans), and Tape

This also makes a great art project. Decorate plates with paint, fabric, and more!

1. Pour 1 Tbsp (Ocean Drum) or 3 Tbsp (Maraca) of filling into one plate.
2. Staple the second plate to the first (edges together).
3. Tape around the edge.

See the [Drums & Percussion video guide](#) for more on maracas!

<http://playsinglaugh.com/archives/1066>



Paper Plate Tambourine by *She Knows* – A classic activity with some weaving too – a great way to practice fine motor skills while creating homemade instruments! A paper plate, some jingle bells and yarn or string are all you need.

If using a 12 inch balloon, cut the neck off, leaving approximately 2 inches. Then stretch it across the can, and lock it on with a rubberband. (cut some holes in the balloon for an added look!

Add rice or lentils before fastening balloon for added noise.

Two brand new pencils work well as drumsticks!

<https://tipjunkie.com/12-homemade-musical-instruments-for-kids/> and

<https://www.howweelearn.com/spectacular-homemade-musical-instruments>

Straw Windpipe Music Craft for Kids

Today we're making music with a straw windpipe craft that kids can make themselves. This fun little instrument takes very few supplies and can be put together in just a few minutes. Pair it with our **diy rainstick** for even more noisy fun! Creating music whether with a straw, **shaker**, kazoo or diy drum is a great way to get kids learning music counts, listening to different pitch sounds, and just having fun with sound!

Supplies



- Tape
- At least 8 plastic straws
- Scissors

Directions



1. Lay out a piece of tape
2. Stick the straws in line on the tape
3. Wrap the tape around the width of the straws to secure
4. Cut the bottom of the straws at diagonal angle
5. Blow into the wind pipe to make music

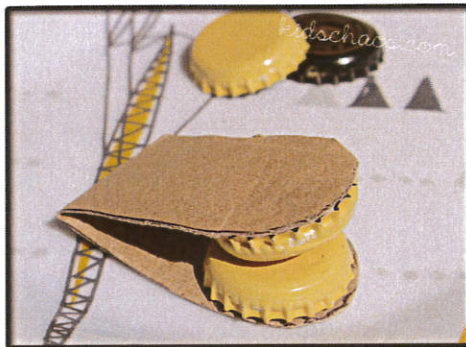
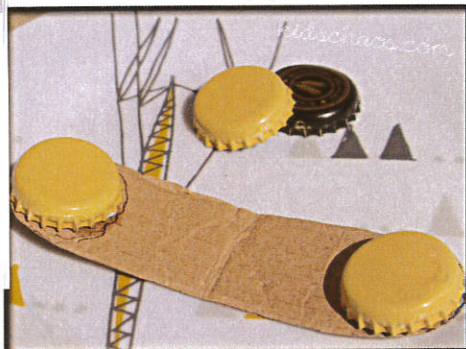
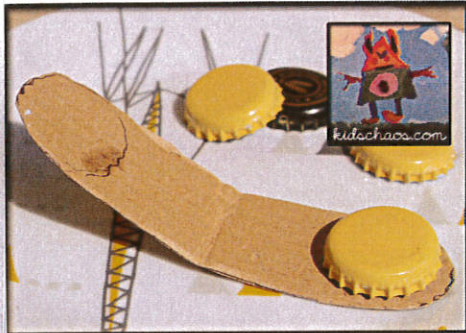
Start a band with this windpipe craft and out other musical instrument crafts! Kids love making music with their diy windpipe!

<https://www.greenkidcrafts.com/straw-windpipe/>



8. **Balloon Bongo and Rice Shaker** ~ This noisy activity is fun, fun, fun and super quick and easy to make. Grab some empty cans and rice or lentels and assemble a balloon bongo!

Beer bottle lids - Castanets



KIDSCHAOS.COM (HTTP://KIDSCHAOS.COM)

You will need:

Beer bottle lids (Liz asked where these Spitfire bottle caps came from, they are much covered Shepherd Neame caps!)

Cardboard

Glue

(<http://kidschaos.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/MusicwithKidsChaos.jpg>) Draw around your beer bottle tops, on a piece of card. Cut out the 'skate-board-shape' (as 8yo refers to it!)

Fold the card in half, and glue the beer bottle lids to each end so they touch, and 'clack' like a castanet.

We tried a simple design, using blue-tack, and they yellow lids (shown) however, they blue-tack 'dulled' the sound. So we switched on the glue gun!

Before we completed the second castanet, we glued on some decoupage paper we'd picked up from HobbyCraft, and added some googly-eyes. The beer bottle lids which were glued on with the hot glue gun, make a MUCH better sound – you can hear them on the [google+ hangout \(http://youtu.be/f6Co9wSE7Xc\)](http://youtu.be/f6Co9wSE7Xc) below, kindly hosted by Maggy Woodley from Red Ted Art.