



## Junk-Funk Instrument-Making

### INTRODUCTION:

During lockdown, when sessions were online, o360 decided to encourage participants to make instruments at home using items from the kitchen, craft materials or anything that they had to hand! The idea was that the instruments could then be used in one of the online sessions. This was something fun to do and it was great to see the instruments that everyone had made during the online session.

### VISUAL IDEAS:

#### CHINESE GONG

(from [WikiHow - Make Instruments with Recycled Materials](#) and [KinderArt - Easy Make Musical Instruments](#) )



Template for Chinese dragon: [How To Draw - Chinese Dragon Step by Step](#) (rather than drawing this from scratch, you can print 'Step 7' of this and then colour in the template, before cutting it out and sticking it on to the foil tin).

For the beater, if you don't have a wooden dowel (as per the instructions), you could use a metal pole with something soft attached (such as a tennis ball, as shown).

## MARACAS

(from [WikiHow - Make Musical Instruments with Recycled Materials](#))



Tip: If you have a large bottle (greater than 250ml capacity), it's best not to add too much filling (rice, pasta etc), otherwise the handle won't be strong enough. The bottle shown had a 1 litre capacity and was only about one eighth full.

Tip: Make sure that you add some extra tape over the top of the handle, otherwise the filling might come out!

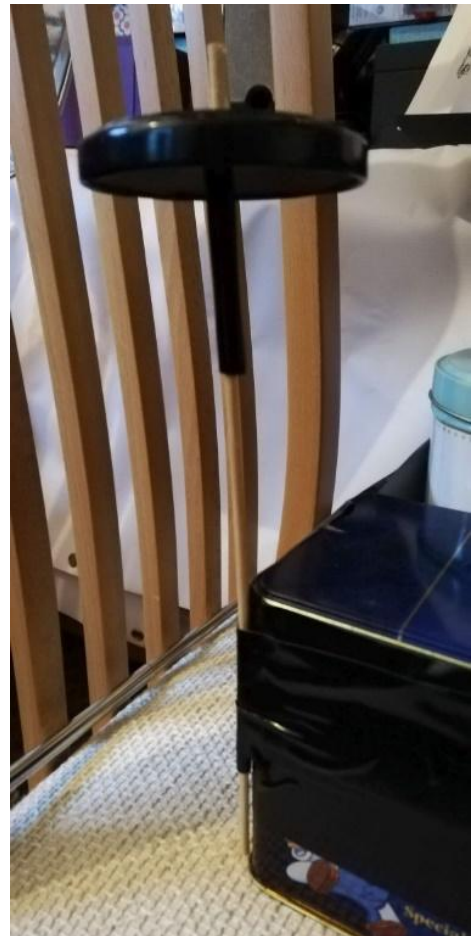
## MINI-DRUM KIT

(a combination of ideas from different websites)



This is really easy! All you need is some different sized tins and some strong tape. You'll find that if you use a couple of metal hand-held objects (eg. forks, spoons etc) or wooden objects (lollipop sticks or chopsticks), you can tap the top of each tin to get different sounds.

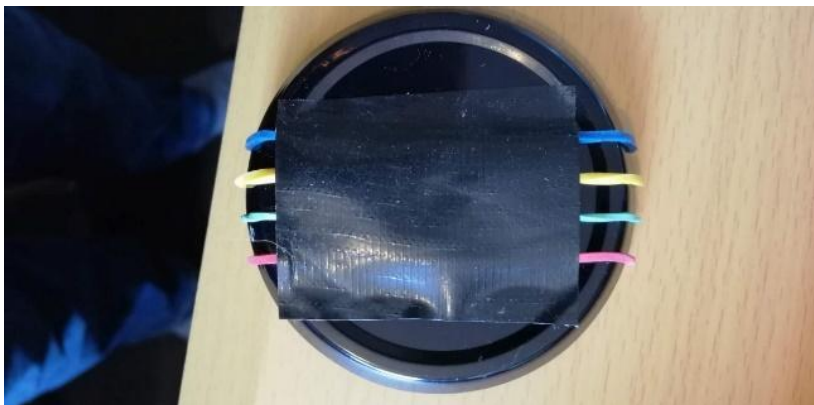
For a 'high-hat' cymbal effect, make a hole in a jam-jar lid (adults only!) and thread a thin wooden-object through it. Tip: You'll need to add some extra tape under the jam-jar lid, otherwise the lid will fall down!



## LID BANJOS

(from [Crafts Beautiful - DIY instruments that really work](#) )

These are very easy to make as well, but they don't really make much sound unfortunately!



## BANGING WALL / AREA

If you have the space to have chairs back-to-back, this is really fun to create. You just to have an object to hang things from e.g. strong cardboard, a plastic pole or broom, along with some string or garden twine. Then you can just add items from your home which make a noise when they are hit, scraped. The kitchen is a great place for finding items, such as saucepans and lids, whisks, graters etc. You can then use metal or wooden items to hit or bang the objects, e.g. metal cutlery, chopsticks, lollipop sticks. A plastic storage lid also works really well for scraping sounds and if you break apart some cardboard, the rippled part makes a good sound as well!



If you prefer not to use chairs (and the weather is nice!), you could also create a banging wall, like this one!



## **SAFETY TIPS:**

A lot of the ideas for instrument-making involve using used tins, which can often have jagged edges. Although it's possible to cover over the edges with strong tape, the tape can sometimes come apart, which could be dangerous. Also, making holes in the top of cans can be quite difficult. So, you might want to avoid trying the 'chimes' on the Wikihow website, for this reason (and other similar ideas).

## **....and finally**

These are just a few ideas for junk-funk instrument-making, but there are many other instruments that you can make at home as well - see 'Useful websites' below. Hope you have fun making your instruments!

## **USEFUL WEBSITES:**

<https://www.wikihow.com/Make-Musical-Instruments-with-Recycled-Materials>

<https://www.pinterest.ca/pin/116319602851144970/>

<https://artsycraftsymom.com/diy-musical-instruments-for-kids-to-make-and-play/>

<https://kinderart.com/art-lessons/music/easy-make-musical-instruments/>

<https://redtri.com/homemade-instruments/>

<https://www.crafts-beautiful.com/blog/9-d.i.y-instruments-that-really-work>

<https://feltmagnet.com/crafts/Music-Instruments-for-Kids-to-Make>

[https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/555702041507193817/?nic\\_v2=1b6AQL03D](https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/555702041507193817/?nic_v2=1b6AQL03D)