

Part One: Kid Quality Rain Stick

Ages: 7 and older.

Time Needed: Approximately one hour for basic work. More time to decorate.

Materials:

1. Cardboard Tubes. **a.** Simplest - paper towel rolls. **b.** Best sounding - 24" Postal Tubes with a diameter of 2"-2 1/2". (they usually come with end caps and can be ordered 50 at a time).
2. Nails one quarter inch shorter than the diameter of your tube.
3. Hammer.
4. Tape - Masking, duct, clear packing, or contact paper.

How To Make It:

- Draw a spiral along the length of your tube.
- Hammer nails along the spiral approximately one finger width apart.
- Fill with popcorn, rice, beans etc.
- Cap ends
- Cover nail heads with tape or contact paper.
- Decorate. One innovative teacher uses brown shoe polish over strips of torn (rather than cut with a scissor) masking tape. The result looks kind of like wood)

VI. Ocean

Drum: A very simple instrument.

Materials:

- **Aluminum take out container** (or a plastic one) with a clear plastic lid (preferably with no food in it!).
- **Small Round objects:** Dried Peas (medium to soft sound), Beads (medium sound), BB's (extremely LOUD)

How to Make It: Put the round objects of your choice in the bottom of the container (I like dried peas because they are cheap and easy to get). Put the lid on. Make sure lid is secure by pressing down all the edges of the aluminum part to hold the plastic part. Shazaam! you have an Ocean Drum!

Time Needed: About 5 minutes.

How to Play It: When used properly, (that is, moved in a gentle, horizontal circle) it sounds like the ocean. When used improperly, (that is, shaken up and down), it quickly drives most adults within a 300 yard radius insane. A lot of these drums get recycled quickly!

Make a Rain Stick

This is a great activity for kids of all ages. You can help your little ones, and older kids can make the instrument on their own. Your kids will flex their creativity as they decorate the stick, and fine-tune their listening skills as they hear all the separate items in the tube mix together to make one rain-like noise.

What you'll need:

- A mailing tube;
- Packing tape;
- An assortment of nails, un-popped corn, sand, gravel, and beads;
- Lots of stuff to decorate the tube -- wrapping paper, markers, stickers, glue, etc.

What to do:

1. Put above items in the tube. Fill it to about 1/4 inch from the top.
2. Seal the tube tightly -- use packing tape if necessary.
3. Have your child decorate the outside of the tube.
4. Show your child how to move the tube slowly from side to side.
5. Ask your child to listen to the noise it makes. What does it sound like? Rain, of course!
6. Have your child experiment with the rain stick -- moving it slowly and then more quickly.

You and your child may find that "playing" the rain stick can be very relaxing!

Are your kids begging for more music fun? Here are some [award-winning toys](#) and [parent-approved activities](#) to further encourage their musical talents.



Musical Bottle

Materials Needed:

- Empty (and dry) Small Water or Pop Bottle
- [Colored Noodles and Rice](#)
- Glitter or Sequins
- Tape or Glue
- Ribbon

Instructions:

Fill a clean, dry water or pop bottle 1/4 - 1/2 full with colored noodles, rice, and glitter. Tape (or glue) the lid on and then tie a ribbon around the neck of the bottle. Turn on the music, dance, and make lots of wonderful noise!

Finger Cymbals

Instructions for making finger cymbals out of jar lids.

Materials Needed:

- 2 Baby Food Jar Lids (or any 2 lids of the same size)
- 1/4 - 1/2 inch wide elastic
- Hammer
- Nail



Instructions:

Cut two 4 inch pieces of elastic. With an adult's help, use the hammer and nail to punch a hole in the center of each baby food jar lid. Push both ends of a piece of elastic through each hole. Tie the ends of the elastic into a knot. Now you can slip your finger cymbals onto your thumb and pointer finger and make music!

Paper Plate Tamborine

Instructions for making paper plate tamborines to play music.

Materials Needed:

- 2 Paper Plates
- Crayons
- Dried Beans
- Stapler or Glue



Instructions:

Decorate the paper plates however you want. Put one paper plate on the table, with the right side up. Place the other paper plate on top of the first one, right side down. This will make a gap in the middle. Start stapling the edges together. Leave an opening at the top to slide a handful of dried beans in. Finish stapling it shut. You are now ready to play some music

It's fun and easy to make your own musical instruments. Here are directions for making a kazoo and a rainstick.

To make a kazoo you need:

- An empty toilet tissue roll or a paper towel roll cut in half.
- A piece of wax paper that is 4 inches square.
- A rubber band.
- Markers or stickers for decorating.
- A hole puncher or a pencil with a sharp point.

Here's what to do:

1. First decorate the tissue roll with markers or stickers.
2. Place the wax paper over one end of the roll and secure with the rubber band. Make sure the paper fits snugly.
3. Using the hole puncher, punch a hole near the open end of the tissue roll.
4. That's all there is to it! Now just hum your favorite song into the open end.

Make a bunch and share with your friends!



You can make rhythm instruments by filling empty containers with dry beans, beads or small rocks.

Here's an easy way to make a rainstick:

What you'll need:

- An empty gift wrapping paper tube.
- A large bag of curly egg noodles.
- Uncooked rice or unpopped popcorn or mix both
- Markers or stickers for decorating the rainstick.
- Masking tape.
- Scissors.

Here's what to do:

1. Make 4 one and a half inch cuts in both ends of the tube.
2. Fold the flaps down on one end of the tube to close the opening.
3. Use masking tape to secure the flaps.
4. Fill the tube with the egg noodles.
5. Add the rice or popcorn.
6. Close the open end of the tube following steps 2 and 3.
7. Decorate your rainstick.

You're all done now! Turn the tube slowly from one end to the other. As the rice falls between the noodles it sound like a light summer rain. Close your eyes and it sounds even more realistic!

Easy Musical Instruments to Make

The ideas on this page have been collected from suggestions by other Guiders and their friends. We hope they will offer some useful ideas for the [Musician Staged Badge](#) as well as being fun ideas for members of all ages. If you have any ideas you'd like us to include, then drop [us](#) a line. Pictures of your instruments or drawings to help in the construction are always welcome. If you think something we've included is not credited correctly, please tell [us](#).

Twizzler

You need

- One chopstick (*These can be bought cheaply at Chinese supermarkets if you have one locally.*)
- Some wool
- Some beads (*These are used to make the noise, so larger beads will probably make more noise than smaller ones, but you can experiment. The contributor suggested old wooden beads from one of those beaded car seats that were popular a while ago.*)
- Some sticky tape

Instructions

1. Cut the wool into four lengths and tie all four to the top of chopstick.
2. Thread 6 - 10 beads on each piece (*The number depends on the size of beads - you would probably need about 6 car seat beads for each piece.*)
3. Tie other ends of the pieces of wool to the chopstick about halfway down and secure with sticky tape.

4. To play your twizzler: twizzle round backwards & forwards.

Thanks to Janice Cooper for this suggestion.

African Style Hand Drums

The "proper" versions of these come from countries like Zambia and are usually made of hide. They make a really cool noise!

You need

- One cheese box (*The flat round cardboard type that cheese triangles come in.*)
- One pencil
- Some wool or cord
- Needle that you can thread the wool on, or knitting needle to make holes in the box
- Two (or more, if you like) beads

Instructions

1. Push a pencil up into the rim of the box. (*You may find it easier to make a starter hole using scissors. **Younger members might like to get an adult to help them.***)
2. Thread wool or cord through the box from one side to the other - sideways, leaving about 75 cm/3 inches on either side of the box. (*You will probably find this easier if you have your wool or cord threaded onto a suitable needle, or alternatively, use a knitting needle to make the holes. **Younger members should get an adult to help them.***)
3. Tie a bead onto the end of the wool or cord that you have just threaded through the box.
4. It should end up looking a bit like a giant lollipop!

5. If you like you can decorate your drum with suitable African or Japanese patterns, or colour brightly with your own patterns.
6. To play your drum: roll the pencil to and fro in your hands to make the beads whiz round and hit the cheese box.



Castanadas (spelling .. those things the flamingo dancers use). Take four buttons .. the kind with holes all the way thru. Take some string elastic, and string it thru each button so that it can go over a finger/thumb. Put one on each pointy finger and one on each thumb and click away.

Take a #10 tin can (coffee can) and punch a hole in the bottom in the center. Knot some string so it doesn't come thru the hole and put a pencil on the other end. Put your foot on the can, using the pencil pull the string tight and strum away. The girls had a great time seeing how many different sounds their instrument can make by keeping the can on the ground or having one side up a little.

The other instruments they made were a kazoo with the toilet paper tube and a shaker with two paper bowls.

***** sent by Theresa Heple



You could make maracas. You need one light bulb per maraca. Apply 4-5 layers of paper mache to each light bulb. Let dry. Hit on a hard surface to break the light bulb inside of the paper mache. Paint or decorate as desired.

*****sent by Pat Troutt



Great Guitar

shoe box
four large rubber bands
paper-towel tube
tape
scissors
construction paper
glue
markers and crayons

What to Do

Ask your child if he or she knows what a guitar is. Then discuss the parts of a guitar and how it's used. Put out the shoe box, rubber bands, and paper-towel tube and let your child experiment with them. Together, talk about how you might make a guitar using these materials. Help your child tape the cover onto the shoe box. Then cut a five-inch hole in the center of the top and a two-inch hole on one end of the box. Ask your child to push the tube through the two-inch hole to make the guitar neck (to use as a handle). Then help her to carefully stretch the rubber bands around the box, from one end to the other (two on each side of the tube). Make sure they are stretched directly over the hole in the top. Put out construction paper, glue, markers, and crayons, and invite your child to decorate her guitar. Now she's ready to strum away!

More Ways to Make Music Together

Strike up the band. Help your child make other instruments that she can play along with her guitar. Use household items such as cans, small screws, and juice cartons to make a shaker and a drum. Or use your imaginations to make up your own instruments! Your child can decorate them to create a colorful band.

*****Sent by Jeanette West



BOTTLED MUSIC

Who hasn't blown across the lip of a half-empty pop bottle and marveled at the richness of the tone? As for what tone it was, however, that was anybody's guess. Well, no longer. We've calculated just how much water you need in eight 20-ounce pop bottles to create a major scale. Affix numbers to each bottle, 1 through 8 (or use different-colored stickers for younger kids), and jam away. Your first song? How about "Row, Row, Row Your Boat"?

TIP: You can sharpen your chops by employing a piece of flexible plastic tubing. Rather than try to move your mouth from bottle to bottle, hold one end of the tube in your mouth and move the other end from bottle to bottle.



Flute... take a hollow reed, cut or drill holes in it, sounds nice and mellow

Drums.... take a hollow log, cut slots in side around bottom half, use sticks as drum sticks on top half, Stretch thin leather or rubberized material over a coffee can, use pencils (eraser ends) as drum sticks.

bass fiddle..... take a metal pail, add a mop handle and string a cord from the top of handle to the opposite edge of bottom. (You've seen this kind on TV like the Beverly Hillbillies) To prevent the "neck" from sliding around on the pail you might want to drill a small hole where the handle is supposed to be and put a screw into the bottom of the mop handle. NOTE, you pluck the string and change notes by tightening the cord by moving the mop handle (neck) to tighten or loosen the cord..... I hope this makes sense, not as hard as it seems.

Don't forget Kazoos and "comb horns" !

cigar-guitar.... Glue a "neck" on a cigar box, cut a hole in it and string with monofilament fish line..... Strum away.....

Pipe-a-phone..... (like a xylophone) made with different lengths of steel pipe resting on boards covered with felt.... use dowels with wooden balls glued on to hit. (Large wooden beads work well)

That's all I can think of off the top of my head..... [-]

*****Mike Baird, SwampFoX, Leader of Junior 21 and Brownie 941



I love making instruments with girls. I usually just get a whole bunch of things together and let them go wild in making stuff. A few ideas are: different sizes of tin cans paper bags margarine tubs (drums, shakers, or guitars) shoe boxes egg cartons film containers straws paper towel tubes wax paper elastics balloons tape beads/seeds string sticks (for mallets, or for percussion instruments) etc.

A good little high pitched hand drum is the inside of packing or duct tape roll. You know, the cardboard circle. Stretch a balloon over one side, secure with an elastic and strike away.

With some big straws (McDonalds here in Canada have a great size) you can cut one end into a V shape, put between your two lips and buzz. You can put small holds along one side and make different pitches. Or you can put a slightly smaller straw inside to lengthen the tube.

A comb with wax paper wrapped around makes a cool buzzing harmonica.

Any sort of box, or open container can have various sizes of elastics wrapped around for a guitar.



More Musical ideas



1. plastic Easter eggs filled (ok a TBSP, not filled) with any variety of things. try diff stuff ! have everyone bring a sandwich bag filled with something different, like potluck!

2. paper towel tubes...stick with straight pins all over (hundreds of them) and fill with a little uncooked rice....close both ends...a rain stick ! you will need to cover the tube later to keep the pins in !

3. punch holes with a hammer and big nail into metal bottle tops and string on a wire coat hanger...loop it into a circle and shake.

4. try figuring out how to play a saw, or something with a violin bow 5. sand paper on blocks...do diff grits make a diff sound?

that's all I can think of...but

6. gather lots of leftover stuff and see what the girls come up with ! or do the potluck thing...and let them share...

*****sent by Cathy Purdy



Take a Y-shaped stick and string a wire (a tight string might work too) between the 2 ends of the fork. Have a bunch of metal washers on the wire, this makes a neat shaker with a different sound.

Use clay pots of different sizes - you can paint them to look prettier first, if you'd like. String them upside down on a cord going through the hole in the center of each pot, using a knot or a bead to hold each pot in place on the cord. Have the smallest pot at the bottom, then the next biggest, and so on (use 3 or 4 nesting sizes) and make a loop of cord at the top to serve as a holder. When you hold the top loop, the pots should hang down below each other like a tier of bells, so they can each be struck by your striker. To make the striker, push a wooden bead onto a dowel or pencil (use a small rubber band on the pencil inside the bead to help hold it in place). Hold the pots by the loop of cord and play by striking different pots with the striker. If you have made this with the smallest pot at the bottom it nests up nicely for storage.

Brownie books show how to make a kazoo from a short cardboard tube (all those leftover wrapping paper rolls can be cut into short lengths for this) a rubber band or tape, and a piece of waxed paper) It's described and illustrated under one of the music Try-its (Sounds of Music?), but basically all you do is punch a hole in the tube near one end (use a paper punch if you have one). Cover the other end with a square of smooth (it's important that it's unwrinkled) waxed paper and secure with the rubber band or tape. Play the kazoo by singing "dah dah dah" into it - it's very cool the way you can feel the vibration of the paper as you play.

A set of glasses filled with different heights of water and "tuned" to a scale makes a neat instrument. Play by tapping each glass with a spoon.

Of course there's also just blowing across the top of a bottle - gets that jug band sound.

My sister says that years ago at camp they used to make neat drums from coffee cans and pieces of inner tube. Remove the ends from the can and stretch a rubber inner tube piece over each end. Lace back & forth between the end covers all around to hold the covers in place. She didn't recall what they used for lacing, but I imagine that plastic lace would be great). Make a beater similar to the one for the clay pot chimes.

A while back somebody posted how to make pan pipes using McDonalds straws. I haven't tried that one yet, but it sounded very intriguing, so I saved it somewhere. I can dig up the instructions if you're interested.

Now for the folk songs from 5 countries, 3 continents; here are some ideas I pulled from some GS songbooks I have: Kookaburra or Waltzing Matilda (Australia), A Ram Sam Sam (Morocco), Zum Gali Gali (Israel), Ash Grove (Wales), Suitors (Brazil), Kum Ba Ya (Africa - I don't know what country though), Song Without Words (Germany), and Allouette (Canada)

GS always tried to have songs from around the world in its songbooks. I have the music for them if you need it. (and I have a scanner that we just got for Christmas!)

Good luck with the badge!

*****Sent by Sallie Zeil from VA Beach, VA



You can make really cheap inexpensive tambourines with tin pie plates, paper clips, some ribbon scraps, and just a few jingle bells for each girl. Punch Holes around the rim, wiggle in the paper clips, at a bell or two and Viola! We also took felt and sewed a few bells on a strip big enough to fit around the girls ankles, sewed on 2 strips of scrap ribbon and made ankle bells, as the girls danced the bells kept tune. Take an old tissue box and put a few rubber bands around it and you have a simple guitar to play, the wider or narrower the band, you get different sounds when plucked. We had a family come in that plays the dulcimer, banjo, and old time instrument and they let the girls play and sing along with them at one of our meetings, after the girls had constructed their instruments of course, we had a blast

*****sent by Alex from Midland Michigan



Our troop taught music at Twilight Camp this summer. We had the Jrs make a pan pipe made out of PVC piping, wood slats, twine, and modeling clay.

The PVC is cut in varying lengths. You don't have to worry about accuracy at this stage because you tune them later. We used 4 lengths per pipe, but you can make them larger. Sand the rough edges of at least one end of each pipe.

Line the pipes, small to large, between two slats, approx dimensions, 1/4"x1"xlength need to hold pipes. Lash tightly in place. The smooth ends should be even at the top.

Put a lump of modeling clay in the bottom of each pipe. (Bottom should be completely closed.)

The pipe is played by blowing across the top, like a flute. Each length in the pipe is tuned by pushing the clay up (raises tone) or pulling it out (lowers tone).

*****sent by Jamie Barnaby



Here is a musical instrument they didn't mention that is very cheap (free) and easy. Go to the grocery store and ask for the Brown paper bags. Fan fold the bag then hold one end and either strum it or hit your hand with it or strum it on different items in the area. We did this at Macy in a songleaders course and some of the ladies got very good with it. You should have heard the rendition of Suitors and La Bamba that we did.