



Project Idea: Make an Instrument

Recommended for Step 3: Figure out function, Choice 1: Make something to play with

Setup: All over the world, people make music. They might sing, use their bodies, or play instruments. Makers can build instruments that make all kinds of sounds. Drums add a beat. They're often played with hands, sticks, or mallets. String instruments such as banjos, guitars, sitars, and violins are often played with hands, picks, or bows. Wind instruments such as flutes, horns, and clarinets use air to make sounds. They are played with hands and mouth.

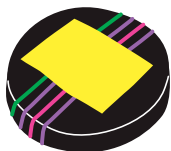
Make a Banjo

Materials needed:

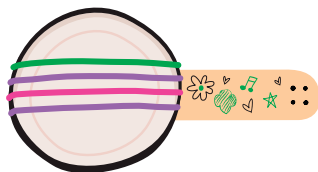
- Metal or plastic jar lid
- Large craft stick or paint stirrer
- 4 small rubber bands
- Markers
- Duct tape

Activity:

1. Put four rubber bands over the jar lid. Tape them in place with a piece of duct tape on the flat (top) side of the lid. This is your banjo's body. The taped side is the back of the banjo.



2. Decorate the craft stick. Draw four dots, two on each side, on one end of the craft stick. These represent the banjo's tuning pegs.
3. Tape the stick end without pegs to the back of the banjo, in the same direction as the rubber bands. Make sure the pegs are facing up. This is the banjo's neck.



4. Turn the banjo right side up and start strumming!

► **For more fun:** Test different materials, such as thick versus thin rubber bands or plastic versus metal lids, to see how using different materials for each part can change the banjo's sound.

Make a Tin Drum

Materials needed:

- Empty can (no sharp edges!)
- Balloon*—regular, globe-shaped
- 1 rubber band
- Construction paper
- Tape
- Safety scissors
- Ruler
- Markers

***Note to Volunteers:** Please be aware of any latex allergies your Girl Scouts may have.

Activity:

1. Cut the long, skinny end off the balloon and stretch the remaining part over the top of the can. If the surface isn't smooth (like a bump in the balloon), cut a little more off the bottom of the balloon and try stretching it again. Place a rubber band around the edge of the balloon to hold it in place.
2. Measure the construction paper to fit around the can, decorate it, and tape it to the outside of the can.

