



Activity 11 – Make an orchestra from junk!

This worksheet will help you create a whole orchestra from junk materials you should be able to find around your home.

You will need:

For the comb harmonica:

- Old comb
- Greaseproof or tissue paper
- Sticky tape

For the box guitar:

- An old tissue or shoe box
- Some elastic bands
- Corrugated card
- Glue
- Paint
- A long tube

For the jam jar maracas:

- An old clean and dry jam jar
- Some dried beans, rice or similar

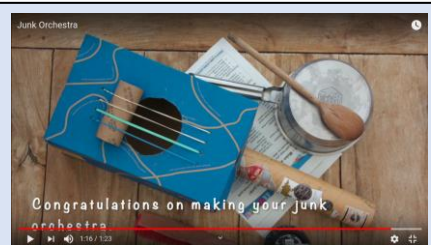
For the drums:

- A variety of old tins, tubes, saucepans and boxes
- A drumstick (no, not chicken!) or brush



Time required: 2 hrs

Suitable for 4-11
year olds



Safety Tips:

- Take care with scissors and when making holes in card.

Instructions:

Comb harmonica:

1. Cut a square of the greaseproof paper so it is the same length as the comb and double the width.
2. Fold the greaseproof paper over the teeth of the comb and attach to with a small piece of tape.
3. Hold the comb to your mouth and hum through the comb. Well done! You have created a comb harmonica!

Shoobox guitar:

1. Cut a large circular hole in the lid of the shoebox (note: tissue boxes usually already have a hole).
2. On a short side of the box make 4-6 holes in a straight line about 2 cm from the sound hole.
3. Make 4-6 holes in a straight line in the strips of 10cm by card. Snip the elastic bands so they form a stretchy string.

***Watch a video of this activity on our Zone website.
Go to <http://zone.recycledevon.org>***

4. Thread the elastic bands through the holes in one of the cardboard strips and secure with a knot. Position the cardboard strip on the inside of the box and feed the strings through the holes in the box.
5. Stretch the strings across the sound hole and thread through the holes on the other side. Place the other strip under the holes and again thread and secure the strings with a knot.
6. Decorate a tube and attach to the box through a hole for the neck of the guitar.
7. Play your new guitar.

Jam jar maracas - Fill the dry jar with the beans or rice and shake!

Drums – bang with sticks or brush for a swishy sound.

Useful Tip:

You can change the tuning of the shoebox guitar by loosening or tightening the strings.

DID YOU KNOW?

There's a whole orchestra from Paraguay made from recycled materials – see their amazing story online:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLHby835r5GWXGpqyDtbeqcOuuF6>

Other ideas for music making:-

If you have a piano you could try to find out which note each note is playing, while an electronic guitar tuner will tell you what note each string is playing.

Try getting your family together to make some junk band music. If you get really good you could form a band and go on tour!

See a video of a recycled material junk band here:

<https://youtu.be/n8vvNCAK2NE>

Some people also make instruments out of fruit and vegetables! See the Vienna Vegetable Orchestra performing remotely together during lockdown here: <https://youtu.be/Wf9mpBMnHrc>

Share your pictures with us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram by tagging @RecycleDevon #recycledevon

Home Schooling

Music making is an important part of human culture and is covered at all ages throughout the National Curriculum up to KS3. Try helping children use pulse and rhythm in their music-making. Listen to music together and see if you can find the beat and tap out the rhythm. Children will benefit from listening to a wide range of music from different genres and cultures.

