



# Recycled Instruments

## Introduction

Try making your own instrument out of found materials!

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## Supplies

- Common objects that could be found in recycling bins or around home (make sure to only choose objects that would be safe for kids to handle) such as jars, bottles, boxes, cans, old pens, lids, foil pans, paper-towel rolls, buckets, trash can lids, spoons, etc. A variety of materials, such as plastic, wood, metal, and paper, can be fun.
  - Materials for construction such as string, rubber bands, packing tape, and glue
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## Let's get started!

### Step 1

Take a look at the materials you collected that could be recycled. Brainstorm how they might be used to make sounds. Remember that an instrument doesn't have to be complicated. Experiment with how using the objects in different ways will make different sounds.

For example, let's say you have collected:

- two foil pie pans
- a pen
- a shoelace
- a large rubber band
- a cardboard box



### Could these objects make different sounds by:

- tapping two foil pans together?
- tapping a foil pan against a box?
- strapping a foil pan to a box with tape and then tapping it with a pen?
- using the shoelace to hang up a foil pan and then tapping it with a pen in midair?
- tapping the box with the pen?
- attaching the cut rubber band to the box with tape and then snapping it against the box?
- attaching the cut rubber band to a foil pan with tape and then snapping it against the pan?
- making a shaker by filling one foil pie pan with pebbles or rice and taping another foil pie pan over it to seal it up?

### Step 2

Once kids have had a chance to make an instrument out of one or more objects, encourage them to demonstrate what sound(s) their instrument makes.

### Step 3

Create a “found sound orchestra” with a group of kids.