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Sound Discovery Percussion Pack

Meet the Instruments

Resource one of two



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PP775

Rainbomaker

Engaging and colourful, the rainbomaker is based on the design of a traditional rainstick. Rainsticks are believed to have originated with Indigenous cultures in modern-day Chile and Argentina, where they were traditionally crafted from dried cactus tubes filled with seeds or pebbles. In some cultures, rainsticks were used in ceremonies intended to call for rain and bring about a bountiful harvest.

How to play

Slowly turn the rainbomaker from one end to the other.

What does it sound like?

A gentle sound like falling rain.

Musical role

Often used to create atmosphere and texture.



Try this

Turn it slowly to make the sound last longer.





Try this
Tap the edge of the drum and notice how the sound changes.

Tambour

The tambour (French for “drum”) is a type of frame drum, one of the oldest families of musical instruments. Frame drums have been used for over 5,000 years in cultures across the Middle East, North Africa, and Europe, and were used in ancient religious ceremonies and celebrations.

How to play

Tap the centre of the drum with your hand.

What does it sound like?

A clear drum beat.

Musical role

Excellent for keeping a steady pulse or adding strong beats to music.



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Egg Shakers

Egg shakers are simple percussion instruments that developed from traditional rattles, used in many cultures around the world. Bright, engaging, and easy to hold, egg shakers have become ubiquitous in early years percussion set-ups and are a great addition to any classroom.

How to play

Hold the shaker and shake it gently.

What does it sound like?

A short rattling sound.

Musical role

Excellent for keeping a steady pulse or repeating rhythm patterns.

Try this

Shake slowly, then quickly, and hear how the sound changes.



Claves

Claves are one of the most important instruments in Afro-Cuban and Latin American music. They are a pair of short wooden sticks played together to create a bright, cutting sound, and are often used to hold a steady rhythm or guide other players. In many styles of Cuban music, the “clave pattern” acts as the rhythmic backbone of the whole ensemble.

How to play

Hold one clave loosely in one hand and strike it with the other.

What does it sound like?

A short, sharp clicking sound.

Musical role

Excellent for keeping a steady pulse or playing simple repeating rhythm patterns.



Try this

Tap two steady beats, then try a simple pattern with a pause in the middle.





Castanets

Castanets are strongly associated with Spanish music and dance, especially flamenco, where they are used to add fast, lively rhythmic patterns. Traditional castanets are usually held in the fingers and played with quite advanced technique, although our classroom versions make the instrument much easier to explore.

Try this

Click slowly at first, then see if you can make an even, steady pattern.

How to play

Hold the castanet and click the two sides together.

What does it sound like?

A bright, dry clicking sound.

Musical role

Good for short rhythmic patterns and crisp accents.



Jingle Stick

Jingle sticks are related to tambourines and other jingle instruments found across Europe and the Middle East.

Instruments with small metal discs or bells have been used for thousands of years in folk music, dance, and religious celebrations, although the first recorded use of the term 'jingle stick' wasn't until 1927!

How to play

Shake it or tap it lightly.

What does it sound like?

A bright jingling sound.

Musical role

Great for adding rhythmic accents to music.



Try this

Small movements often make the clearest sound.

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Maracitos

Maracitos are fun, child-sized versions of maracas, an instrument widely used across Latin America and the Caribbean. Traditionally they were made from hollowed-out gourds (a fruit related to the pumpkin) and filled with seeds or stones. Maracas are an important part of musical styles such as salsa, son, and Cuban folk music.

Try this

Shake slowly, then quickly, and hear how the sound changes.

How to play

Hold and shake slowly in a back-and-forth motion.

What does it sound like?

A short rattling sound.

Musical role

Often used to keep the rhythm moving and support the pulse.



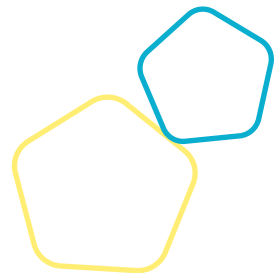


Try this
Try long scrapes
and short scrapes
to create different
rhythms.

Guiro

The guiro (pronounced gwi-ro) originates in Latin America, particularly Puerto Rico and Cuba. It is commonly used in musical styles such as salsa, son, and Latin folk music.

Our Percussion Plus guiros are hand-carved from bamboo in Bali and sourced using Fair Trade principles.



How to play

Use the stick to scrape along the ridges.

What does it sound like?

A scratchy, rhythmic sound.

Musical role

Great for playing repeating rhythmic patterns.



Kokiriko

The kokiriko (sometimes spelled kokoriko) originated in Japan during the Edo period (1603–1868). It is associated with traditional folk dance and kabuki theatre, where performers used it to add rhythmic clicks and visual movement to performances.

How to play

Open and close the slats.

What does it sound like?

Sharp clicking sounds.

Musical role

Creates clear rhythmic patterns and dramatic accents.



Try this

Try opening and closing slowly, then quickly.

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Djembe

Djembe drums are native to West Africa. The name 'djembe' comes from the Bambara phrase 'Anke djé, anke bé', which translates to 'everyone gather together in peace'. Traditionally, djembes were crafted from a single piece of hardwood, often Ineke or mahogany, and fitted with a goatskin head. Our Bali-made Percussion Plus djembes now feature Mylar heads, offering increased durability. The printed 'slap' design on the head also give players a helpful, visual guide.

Try this
Tap the centre for
a deeper sound,
then try the edge
for a lighter,
sharper sound.

How to play

Place the drum securely between your knees and strike the head with your hands.

What does it sound like?

A deep or bright drum sound, depending on where and how you hit it.

Musical role

Ideal for keeping a strong pulse, leading the group, or adding deeper rhythmic patterns.



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Try this
Move the drum slowly to make the sound last longer.

Wave Drum

The wave drum is a modern percussion instrument inspired by traditional frame drums. It is popular in music therapy, sound design, and film scoring, where it is often used to recreate the sound of the ocean. Small beads inside the drum roll across the drum head when tilted, creating the sound of waves washing ashore.

How to play

Tilt or gently roll the drum.

What does it sound like?

A soft rolling sound like waves.

Musical role

Used to create atmosphere and sound effects.

