

Finger Cymbals



Finger cymbals are called "zils" or "zills" in Turkey and "sagat" or "zagat" in Arabic. They are small metal disks, worn on your hands and played while you are belly dancing. Most belly dancers wear two on each hand: one on each thumb, and one on the middle finger of each hand.

Bongos



Bongo drums or bongos are a Cuban percussion instrument consisting of a pair of single-headed, open-ended drums attached to each other.

It is most often played by hand.

Bongos are typically made of wood, metal or composite materials, attached by a thick piece of wood. The drum head can be made of animal skin or synthetic.

Guitar



Guitars are string instruments and can have between 4 and 18 strings on them. The vibration of the strings is made louder by the hollow body.

Traditionally guitars have been constructed of various woods and strung with animal gut, or more recently, with either nylon or steel strings.

Ukelele



A ukelele is like a small guitar, with just 4 strings.

The ukulele originated in the 19th century as a Hawaiian interpretation of a small guitar-like instrument brought to Hawai'i by Portuguese immigrants.

Ukuleles are generally made of wood, although some are made of plastic.

Drum



The drum is a member of the percussion group of music instruments.

Drums consist of at least one membrane, called a drumhead or drum skin, that is stretched over a shell and struck, either directly with parts of a player's body, or with some sort of implement such as a drumstick, to produce sound.

Digeridoo



The didgeridoo is a wind instrument developed by Indigenous Australians of northern Australia at least 1,500 years ago. The instrument is traditionally made from Eucalyptus trees which have had their interiors hollowed out by termites or died of other causes.

The didgeridoo is played with continuously vibrating lips to produce the drone while using a special breathing technique called circular breathing. This requires breathing in through the nose whilst simultaneously expelling stored air out of the mouth using the tongue and cheeks.

Rainstick



A rainstick is a long, hollow tube which is filled with small baubles such as beads or beans and has small pins or thorns arranged helically on its inside surface. When the stick is upended, the beads fall to the other end of the tube, making a sound reminiscent of a rainstorm as they bounce off the pins.

The rainstick is generally considered to have been invented in Chile or Peru, and was played in the belief that it could bring about rainstorms. Rainsticks are usually made from any of several species of cactus. The cacti, which are hollow, are dried by the sun. The spines are removed, and driven back into the cactus, like nails. Pebbles or other small objects are placed inside the rainstick, and the ends are sealed off.

Güiro



The güiro (guy - ro) is a percussion instrument consisting of an open-ended, hollow gourd with parallel notches cut in one side. It is played by rubbing a wooden stick ("pua") along the notches to produce a ratchet-like sound. The güiro is commonly used in Latin-American music, and plays a key role in the typical cumbia rhythm section. The güiro is also known as calabazo, guayo, ralladera, or rascador.

Claves



Claves are a percussion instrument, consisting of a pair of short, thick dowels. Traditionally they were made of wood. Nowadays they are also made of fibreglass or plastics due to the greater durability of these materials. When struck they produce a bright clicking noise.

Claves are very important in Afro-Cuban music. They are often used to play a repeating rhythmic figure throughout a piece, known as the clave.

Maracas



Maracas are a native instrument of Puerto Rico, Cuba, Venezuela and several nations of the Caribbean and Latin America. They are simple percussion instruments, usually played in pairs, consisting of a dried calabash or gourd shell or coconut shell filled with seeds or dried beans.

They may also be made of leather, wood, or plastic.

Tambourine



The tambourine is a musical instrument of the percussion family consisting of a frame, often of wood or plastic, with pairs of small metal jingles, called "zils".

Tambourines come in many different shapes with the most common being circular. It is found in many forms of music.

The tambourine can be held in the hand or mounted on a stand, and can be played in numerous ways, from stroking or shaking the jingles to striking it sharply with hand or stick or using the tambourine to strike the leg or hip. A less common way to play a tambourine is with the nose.

Kazoo



The kazoo is a wind instrument which adds a "buzzing" timbral quality to a player's voice when one vocalizes into it. The kazoo is a type of mirliton – a device which modifies the sound of a person's voice by way of a vibrating membrane.

While blowing is the term typically used to describe the technique required to play a kazoo, a more accurate term would be humming into the kazoo. Blowing with the lips closed around the mouthpiece of the kazoo will not make sound – one must vibrate air from their lungs by humming in to the instrument in order for the kazoo to make any sound.

Such instruments have been used in Africa for hundreds of years, to disguise the sound of somebody's voice or to imitate animals, often for various ceremonial purposes.

Jingle Bells



A jingle bell is a type of bell which produces a distinctive 'jingle' sound, especially in large numbers. They find use in many areas as a percussion instrument, including the classic sleigh bell sound and morris dancing.

A bell is a simple sound-making device. The bell is a percussion instrument.