

# Junk Band Ideas, Summer 2009

Here are a few ideas to get kids' creativity sparked. Encourage them to use these materials (and any others you'd like to provide) to create their own unique instruments as well! \*note\* not all kits have supplies for all of these instruments. Sorry.

## **Sparkly Ukelele**

Supplies: red sparkly box lids (from DFT), rubber bands

Instructions:

1. stretch rubber bands across the width of the box (you could also do the length of the box if your rubber bands are long enough).
2. pluck them! Play around with "tuning" the strings by stretching them more or less tightly across the opening of the box lid.

## **Shaker Eggs**

Supplies: plastic eggs, rice, colored tape

Instructions:

1. open the egg and add some rice (this might work best if they have a scoop of some kind to use to scoop out of a bowl (not the bag) and hold the egg over the bowl while filling it.)
2. close the egg and seal it shut with the tape.
3. Shake, shake, shake!

## **Rain Stick**

Supplies: Paper towel tubes, foil, duct tape, rice (optional—markers to decorate it)

Instructions:

1. Tear off a piece of foil (about 12-15" long?) and twist it into a stick shape.
2. Twist the stick into a spiral and pull the spiral until it is narrow enough to fit into paper towel tube.
3. Seal up one end of the tube with duct tape.
4. Put the foil spiral into the tube and pour in some rice.
5. Seal the other end with more duct tape.
6. Decorate your rainstick with markers.

## **Panpipes**

*Supplies:*

Plastic drinking straws, tape, scissors

*Instructions:*

1. Cut 4 drinking straws into two pieces each—making sure that all 8 resulting pieces are different lengths.
2. Line up the 8 pieces in order from tallest to shortest.
3. Fasten them together with a strip of clear tape (then carefully pick it up and tape the other side too)
4. Blow across the tops of the straws. Do the short straws make a different sound than the long ones?

## **Tin Can TomTom**

### *Supplies:*

Tin can (empty, clean, and with a safety-cut edge), balloon, duct tape, pencil, eraser head

### *Instructions:*

1. Cut the neck of the balloon off and discard it.
2. Carefully stretch the body of the balloon over the open end of the tin can. Stretch it tightly enough that it makes a nice sound when you tap on it, but not so tightly that you break it.
3. Seal the edges down with duct tape.
4. You can create a mallet from an unsharpened pencil and a rubber eraser head.

## **Finger Cymbals**

### *Supplies:*

Clicky lids, rubber bands, tape

1. Choose two clicky lids that make a nice sound when you “clink” them against each other.
2. Tape a rubber band onto the top of each lid (you might want to double or triple the rubberband into three rows—as though you were using it to put hair into ponytails—if you want the straps of your cymbals to fit snugly on your fingertips.)
3. Wear one cymbal on your forefinger and one on your thumb and click, clack, clink!

## **Cricket Sticks**

### *Supplies:*

Skewers, wooden beads, glue (if necessary—tape might also work)

### *Instructions:*

1. Push 5 beads onto one skewer—close together at one end of the skewer, so that one end of the stick is the handle and the other end is where you play the instrument. Some skewers are thicker than others and may not fit into the beads—just pick another skewer.
2. If the beads are loose, attach them with a drop of glue inside the hole of the bead.
3. Repeat with a second skewer.
4. Play them by rubbing the beads against each other.

## **Sandpaper Blocks**

### *Supplies:*

Wooden blocks, sandpaper, glue, (markers optional for decoration)

### *Instructions:*

1. If the wooden block has any rough spots, use the sandpaper to smooth them out.
2. Glue the sandpaper to one of the broad sides of the block.
3. Repeat for a second block to make a pair.
4. Decorate with markers
5. Once the glue and marker is dry, play the instrument by rubbing the sandpaper surfaces together.

**Anandalahari** (from *Open Ears: Musical Adventures for a New Generation* c. 1995, p. 101)

*Supplies:*

Styrofoam cup, dental floss, masking tape, toothpick or skewer, ruler (optional)

*Instructions:*

1. Tear off a one-inch piece of masking tape and stick it to the center of the outside bottom of the cup.
2. With the point of the toothpick, push a hole through the center of the tape, piercing the cup's bottom.
3. Place a second piece of masking tape one inch long on the inside of the cup, covering the hole you just made.
4. Use the toothpick point exactly as you did in step 2 to punch the hole again; this time you will also poke through the new piece of tape on the cup's inside bottom. You now have a cup with a piece of tape on both the inside and outside of its bottom, and a hole through the middle of its bottom about the same size of a toothpick. This is the amplifier for your "anandalahari" (that means the cup will "amplify" the sound).
5. Measure out a 24 inch piece of dental floss. Fold it in half and join the ends together.
6. Tear off a 4-inch piece of masking tape and press the joined ends of the dental floss onto one end of the tape. The floss and the tape should look like a flag (the tape) on a pole (the floss).
7. Fold a small section of the tape over the floss. You should have a square of tape containing the floss and still have a sticky tape "flag" extending from the non-sticky square (the square is not sticky because that part of the tape is stuck together with the floss inside it).
8. Wrap the floss twice around the non-sticky square of tape.
9. Finish wrapping the tape around the floss. You have created a square of masking tape which will make a sturdy end for your string.
10. Pull the floss to a point at the other end. Push that point through the hole in your cup amplifier.
11. Tear off a 4-inch piece of masking tape and press it to the untapped end of the floss. The floss and tape should again look like a flag on a pole.
12. Now repeat steps 7 to 9 to finish off the other end of the floss. You now have a cup pierced by a doubled length of dental floss; squares of masking tape are on each end of the floss.
13. To make a pick to pluck the string (optional, you can just use fingers), tear off a six inch piece of tape. Fold the tape over itself one inch at a time, so that you end up with a one inch by  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch piece of thick tape.

*How to play it:*

1. Hold the cup's bottom with one hand.
2. Bite the taped end with your teeth and pull the string tightly.
3. Hold the pick in your other hand and pluck up and down on the string. Try plucking near the middle. Now try plucking towards the ends. Different?

*Variation:*

Hold the cup under your armpit, pinch the taped end of the floss between the fingers of the same hand, pull the string tightly, and use your other hand to hold the pick and pluck.

