

DIY MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Let's play! Learn how to make a guitar and a shaker with DCPL librarians Claire and Charisma.

FOR AGES 4-8



Materials for the guitar:

- * Paper towel roll
- * Rectangular tissue box
- * Tape
- * 3-4 rubber bands
- * Scissors

Optional:

- * Use a tissue box with a pattern or another kind of design.
- * Decorate your paper towel roll before attaching.

Steps:

- * **Cut** 2 slits (roughly 1 inch) on one end of the paper towel roll.
- * **Fold** and flatten the slits.
- * **Tape** the slits onto one end of the tissue box. This is your fingerboard!
- * **Wrap** each rubber band, lengthwise, around the tissue box.
- * Strum away!

Tips:

- * You can also cut a hole in one end of the tissue box and insert the paper towel roll that way.
- * Use different sizes of rubber bands. What do thicker rubber bands sound like when you strum them? What about thinner bands?

Materials for the shaker:

- * Empty toilet paper roll
- * Paper (anything that folds easily)
- * 2 rubber bands
- * Scissors
- * A handful of items small enough to fit inside the toilet paper roll

Optional:

- * Markers, colored pencils, crayons, paints, stickers

Steps:

- * **Decorate** the toilet paper roll: draw on it, paint on it, or cover it with gift wrap! Get creative!
- * Use a piece of paper to **cover** one end.
- * Use a rubber band, tape, or glue to **make sure the paper stays on**.
- * **Cut** off any extra paper if you like/are able.
- * **Turn over** the roll and **put in** some of the small items that you chose.
- * Repeat steps **#3** and **#4**.
- * Shake it up!

Tip: Make more shakers and use different fillings, in different amounts. How do the shakers sound the same or different from each other?

