

Kids Explore!



Make a Tin Can Xylophone

Make party music with treasures from your trash!

Materials

- ◆ 5-10 clean tin cans with tops removed
- ◆ One extra large tin can
- ◆ Pliers
- ◆ Extra large rubber bands
- ◆ Duct tape
- ◆ Pencils with erasers
- ◆ Sharpies (optional)
- ◆ Ribbons (optional)

*Adult help may be needed on steps with **

* 1. Remove the wrappers from five to ten recycled tin cans of different sizes. Check for sharp edges on the open ends and use pliers to mash down anything that sticks out.

2. Turn your cans open side down and use the pencil erasers to test their

tunes. Choose the ones you like best and set them up in an order you like.

3. Wrap several rubber bands (the same number as your cans) around the closed end of your extra large can (1/2 inch between each) and put the can on the floor closed side down. Turn your other cans closed side down (in order) and set them around the large can.

* 4. Pull the lowest rubber band out and wrap it around one of the small cans so it is held tightly against the middle can. Proceed around the circle attaching each can with the next highest rubber band.

5. Turn the instrument over, closed ends up. Adjust the can bottoms so they

are even. Wrap duct tape around the whole instrument for extra security.

6. Use Sharpies to decorate the duct tape on your tin cans if you would like your xylophone to be colorful. Add ribbons if you would like your instrument to be even more festive.

7. Now you're ready to play. Make music with your eraser tips!

Activity adapted from "Tin Can Xylophone" in Earth-Friendly Crafts for Kids by Heather Smith. See review on the next page.

