



Pandemonium presents

Junk Jam!

Pandemonium are very proud to present this document to help you build your own percussion instruments from 'Junk' and recycled materials. We have included some ideas to get you started on your way to making your own music from your own instruments. In our own Pandemonium Percussion concerts, we have included 'Junk' percussion instruments into our line up of world percussion. These instruments range from V drink cans filled with rice through to our 4-metre high scaffold frame covered entirely by 'Junk'! We hope you will find this download useful and informative on your way to creating awesome music from recycled rubbish!!



DRUMS

A drum is usually created by stretching a type of skin over a cylindrical shell. This is to isolate out the thinner striking surface from the thicker resonating shell. The other important aspect of drum design is that there is a hole somewhere on the resonating shell to let the air in and out while the drum vibrates. If there is no hole in the drum it will most likely sound 'choked'. Two of our favourite 'recycled' drum sounds are empty water purifier bottles and old paint buckets.

SHAKERS

Our recycled shakers are made from small plastic containers filled with different sorts of rice, beans, lentils and chickpeas. The size, amount and hardness of the shaker contents determine the tone and volume. Different shaped and sized containers also give different sounds. Experimenting is the key with this one! Also try using aluminium cans for a really different sound!



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WOODBLOCKS/CLAVES

The quality of a woodblock or clave sound is determined mainly by the density of the wood and how freely the instrument can resonate. The highest density woods will produce the loudest sound with the highest pitch. 'Recycled' broom handles, chair legs and table legs can sound great if they are cut to size. Wood blocks are generally a "box" shape and claves are short cylindrical sticks, which resonate best when they are touching the smallest surface area of the hand possible. Try cupping your left hand and resting one clave on the tips of your thumb and fingers. Hold the other clave between the thumb and first finger of the right hand and strike the resting clave!

SCRAPERS

Scrapers are traditionally made in the style of a guiro or a washboard. They require a serrated (grooved) section and a flexible scraping stick (usually made from bamboo, fiberglass or wire). An easy way to make one is to wrap some serrated cardboard around a hollow tube such as a cardboard tube from a glad-wrap roll. Our favourite 'recycled' scrapers were made from flexible serrated plastic duct tubing off-cuts donated by TelstraClear. We've even used one in a Symphony Orchestra concert!



BELLS

One of the most important parts in a lot of Latin percussion music is the high-pitched cowbell part. It is used to play complicated rhythms while the rest of the band plays the groove. Our bells are made from old car hub-caps, car wheels and pots and pans.



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