



How to Build a Pan Pipe from Straws

You will need...

- 1 assistant
- 8 or more drinking straws – the more, the merrier! Plastic straws make a better sound, but paper ones work well too.
- Scissors
- Sellotape
- Ruler
- Pliers and a lighter/matches (optional).

Step One:

Cut your straws carefully into different sizes using the scissors. You can use a ruler to measure and cut off 2cm each time or you can just cut off as much or as little as you like!

(Once you've done this, if you are using plastic straws ask your assistant to hold one end of the straw with the pliers, leaving 1cm of straw showing. Then if they hold a lighter or a match over this 1cm bit of plastic it should seal up. Do this to all of the straws and it will make a louder sound when you play your pan pipes. Make sure that you **don't** do this with paper straws.)

Step Two:

Colour or paint your straws! If you are using paper straws be careful not to make any extra holes in them with sharp pencils. If you accidentally make a hole, don't worry – it might make a more interesting sound when you stick your pan pipes together!

Step Three:

Next, either line up all of the straws in a row from longest to shortest or (for a more fun sound) mix them up in any order you like. Use a ruler to make sure they are all in a straight line, then carefully wrap a long piece of Sellotape across the middle of the straws to stick them together.

As an extra step, you may want to try using little bits of the straws that you cut off to put in-between the straws that you're sticking together. This way the straws are more spaced-out when you play your pan pipes.

Step Four:

Play! Blow over the top of the straws to make a sound. Imagine you're blowing out the candles on a cake. Notice which straws sound **low** and which straws sound **high**!

Challenge: Try playing along with some of the pieces of music we've sent out that have bird songs in them. Make sure you play louder than us and make really fancy bird sounds!

Other videos that may help:

Making a Pan Flute out of Plastic Drinking Straws: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sglOT1J80Ss>

Making a Pan Flute out of Paper Drinking Straws:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BaymX3qJRbQ>