

How to Make a Güiro from a Water Bottle

The **güiro** is an instrument that was invented in either South America or Africa. The oldest kind of güiro might have been made by the Taíno people of the Caribbean using animal bones.

We're not going to use any animal bones today though!

You will need...

- An empty plastic bottle – one with ridges (lumps and bumps) is best!
- A pencil or a pen to use like a drum stick.
- Optional: Some dry rice, stones, water, cotton wool, sand, or anything else that you can pour into your güiro to make a noise.
- Optional: Some paint or colouring pens.

Step One:

Decorate your water bottle! Use paints or pens and leave it in the sun to dry.

Step Two:

When your water bottle is dry, you're ready to go! To play it, rub your pen or pencil against the bumpy bits of the bottle to make a scraping sound. To make a sound you could also try using your fingernails, another water bottle, or a wooden spoon or metal fork. For a very quiet güiro sound, you could try using a leaf or a feather! Try recording some of the sounds up-close on a phone or an iPad and see what they sound like played back to you...

Step Three:

This step is fun, but optional. Pour rice, stones, cotton wool, crisp packets, sweet wrappers, bits of plastic and paper, or whatever else you like into your bottle. You don't have to just use one thing and if you can put different objects into your güiro it will make different sounds when it's finished. Try not to fill up your water bottle too much or it won't make much sound! Also, if you're going to pour water into your bottle, it's probably a good idea not to add anything else in as well, as the water will stop the other objects from making a sound. Lastly, don't forget to put the lid on top!

Once you've done all this, you can make sounds on your güiro by both scraping your pen or pencil along the side and by shaking or rolling your güiro along the floor.

An Activity to Try:

Emma has recorded a new story this week that you can try playing your güiro along to. You could also try making some creepy sounds with you güiro to these short, spooky videos, below. Try making scraping noises when you think a monster or a shark might be about to appear and shake your güiro loudly when you can see them on the screen!

1. Scary Sleepover: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=msrwbC7Y-FQ>
2. Lego Batman Shark Attack: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zyGE5xk257o>
3. Booba – Halloween: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QeLiAg80yCE>