



How to Make a Guitar from a Cardboard Box

You will need...

- Someone to help you (very important!)
- A cardboard box
- A pen
- Something circular to draw around (like an upside-down glass)
- Scissors
- Sellotape
- Elastic bands
- Optional: Paints, colouring pens, stickers, glitter, glue

Step One:

Ask your helper to draw a circle just under halfway down one of the big sides of the box (using something like an upside-down glass if it helps). Then ask them to cut it out using scissors. Don't throw away the circle you've cut out, though – we'll need it in step two!

Step Two:

Next, ask your helper to cut the cardboard circle in half and place it to one side. Using the other half of the circle, cut from one end to the other to make a rectangle. Fold the rectangle 2 times to make it thicker and Sellotape it just underneath the circle you have in your cardboard box. Lastly, take the semicircle you cut out first and Sellotape it on top of the little cardboard rectangle with the straight bit of the semicircle touching the hole you've cut out.

If this doesn't make much sense, take a look at the photos below!

Step Three (Optional):

Decorate your box guitar using paints, colouring pens, stickers, glitter and glue!

Step Four:

When your box guitar is dry, stretch your elastic bands around your cardboard box so that they stretch from one long end to the other and go over the top of your circle. You can use as little as one elastic band, but you can use lots more than that if you like! Most guitars have 6 strings if you'd like to copy that. Bass guitars have 4 strings.

Step Five:

To stop your elastic bands buzzing when you play them, put one last bit of Sellotape over the top of your cardboard semicircle at the bottom of the guitar.

Things to Try:

When you strum your guitar with one hand, try pushing down the elastic bands against the box with your other hand – does it make a different sound when you push down the elastic bands nearer the soundhole?

If you want to try making another guitar and use a smaller or a bigger box, do your box guitars sound different when you play them?

As well as strumming your guitar, see what other sounds you can make by scraping different objects against the tight rubber bands. Do the rubber bands make a sound when you shake your box guitar?

Step One:



Step Two:





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Step Four:

