The Ultimate Guide to Making Drums, Tomtoms, and Rattles: A Step-by-Step Guide for Beginners

Drums, tomtoms, and rattles are essential percussion instruments that can add rhythm, texture, and excitement to any musical ensemble. They are also relatively easy to make, making them a great project for beginners who want to learn more about music and instrument building.

In this guide, we will provide you with step-by-step instructions on how to make drums, tomtoms, and rattles from scratch. We will cover all the materials and tools you need, as well as the techniques you need to know to create beautiful and functional instruments.

The materials you need to make drums, tomtoms, and rattles will vary depending on the specific type of instrument you want to make. However, some general materials that you will likely need include:



How to Make Drums, Tomtoms and Rattles: Primitive Percussion Instruments for Modern Use by Lawrence Bennett

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- Wood (for the body of the drum)
- Animal skin (for the drumhead)
- Rope or twine (for lacing the drumhead)
- Sticks or mallets (for playing the drum)
- Beads, seeds, or other materials (for filling the rattle)

The tools you need to make drums, tomtoms, and rattles will also vary depending on the specific type of instrument you want to make. However, some general tools that you will likely need include:

- Saw
- Drill
- Hammer
- Nails
- Screwdriver
- Knife
- Sandpaper

How to Make a Drum

- Cut out the body of the drum. The body of the drum can be made from any type of wood, but hardwood is best. The shape of the body will depend on the type of drum you want to make. For a basic drum, you can simply cut out a circular or rectangular piece of wood.
- 2. **Hollow out the body of the drum.** Once you have cut out the body of the drum, you need to hollow it out to create a cavity for the drumhead. You can do this using a drill or a chisel.
- 3. **Attach the drumhead.** The drumhead can be made from any type of animal skin, but calfskin is the most common. To attach the drumhead, you will need to lace it around the rim of the drum body. You can do this using rope or twine.
- 4. **Tune the drum.** Once the drumhead is attached, you can tune it by tightening or loosening the lacing. To tune the drum, you can use a tuning key or a simple wrench.
- 5. **Decorate the drum.** Once the drum is tuned, you can decorate it however you like. You can paint it, stain it, or carve designs into it.

How to Make a Tomtom

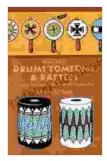
- Cut out the body of the tomtom. The body of the tomtom can be made from any type of wood, but hardwood is best. The shape of the body will depend on the size and shape of the tomtom you want to make. For a basic tomtom, you can simply cut out a circular or rectangular piece of wood.
- 2. **Hollow out the body of the tomtom.** Once you have cut out the body of the tomtom, you need to hollow it out to create a cavity for the drumhead. You can do this using a drill or a chisel.

- 3. Attach the drumheads. The tomtom has two drumheads, one on each side of the body. The drumheads can be made from any type of animal skin, but calfskin is the most common. To attach the drumheads, you will need to lace them around the rims of the drum body. You can do this using rope or twine.
- 4. **Tune the tomtom.** Once the drumheads are attached, you can tune them by tightening or loosening the lacing. To tune the tomtom, you can use a tuning key or a simple wrench.
- 5. **Decorate the tomtom.** Once the tomtom is tuned, you can decorate it however you like. You can paint it, stain it, or carve designs into it.

How to Make a Rattle

- 1. Gather your materials. To make a rattle, you will need a container, some beads, seeds, or other materials to fill it with, and a way to seal the container. The container can be made from any material, such as wood, metal, or plastic. The beads, seeds, or other materials can be anything that will make a rattling sound when shaken.
- 2. **Fill the container.** Once you have gathered your materials, you can start filling the container with the beads, seeds, or other materials. You can fill it as much or as little as you like.
- 3. **Seal the container.** Once the container is filled, you need to seal it so that the beads, seeds, or other materials do not fall out. You can do this using glue, tape, or a lid.
- 4. **Decorate the rattle.** Once the rattle is sealed, you can decorate it however you like. You can paint it, stain it, or attach beads or other decorations to it.

Making drums, tomtoms, and rattles is a fun and rewarding project that can be enjoyed by people of all ages. With a little time and effort, you can create beautiful and functional instruments that will bring joy to you and your family for years to come.



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