

Cardboard Tube Kazoo

Do you love music? Have you ever wanted to make your own musical instrument? Using a few household materials, you can make your very own kazoo! Kazoos are membranophones, which produce sound by vibrating a stretched membrane. With this homemade instrument, the vibrations from your voice wiggle the wax paper of the kazoo, creating a buzzing sound!

Materials needed:

- A cardboard tube
- Wax paper
- Rubber bands
- Scissors
- Markers (Optional)



Step-by-step instructions:

1. Poke a hole in the side of the cardboard tube, about 2 inches from one of the ends.
2. Cut a square of wax paper that is 1 or 2 inches bigger than the diameter of the tube.
3. Wrap the wax paper around the end of the tube where you poked the hole and secure it tightly with a rubber band.
4. Trim the extra wax paper and decorate the tube with markers (optional).
5. Bring the open end of the tube to your mouth. Hum, sing, and talk into it!

Additional explorations:

- Try blowing into the kazoo instead of humming or singing. What changes?
- What would your kazoo sound like if you used a different material instead of wax paper?
- Would your kazoo sound different if you used a longer or shorter tube?

Discussion questions:

- What other instruments use material stretched over something to make a sound?
- Why do you need a hole punched in the kazoo for it to work?