

Banjorine

A banjorine is just like a banjo, but it has strings made from fishing line and a plastic tub for a soundbox. If you strum with one hand, and press the strings against the wood with the other, you can make higher and lower sounds.



Ask an adult to help you attach the screw eyes to the wood.

You will need

- ✓ wood (pine), 45 cm x 5 cm x 2.5 cm (without splinters)
- ✓ wood (pine), 7.5 cm x 1 cm x 1 cm
- ✓ plastic tub
- ✓ nylon fishing line (see page 4)
- ✓ 4 screw eyes
- ✓ sticky tape
- ✓ scissors
- ✓ marker pen
- ✓ double-sided tape



Hold one end of the wood against the plastic tub and draw around it with a marker pen. Do the same on the opposite side.



Cut into the tub from the edge, and cut out the rectangle shapes you marked with the pen.



Push the wood through the openings. Stick tape along the top edges of the tub to strengthen it. Turn over the tub so the bottom faces you. (Look at the finished banjorine. The bottom of the tub is on the same side of the wood as the screw eyes.)



Ask an adult to help you fix two screw eyes about 1 cm from each end of the piece of wood. See Techniques on page 3.



To make the strings, cut two pieces of fishing line about 60 cm long. Tie one end of one piece to the loop of a screw eye (use a double knot that will not slip). Pull the string tightly down to the screw eye at the other end, and attach it in the same way. Tie the other piece of fishing line between the other two screw eyes.



Turn the screw eyes so that the strings twist around them to tighten up. Put the small piece of wood on the tub under the strings to make a bridge. Stick it in place with double-sided tape.



Decoration tips

Felt tips and paint work well on the wood. You might like to draw lines across the wood to look like the frets on a banjo or guitar. Why not make a label giving your name and the date you made your banjorine?

Design tips

You may find that the strings slip across the bridge when you play. Put tiny pieces of sticky tack between the bridge and the strings and press the strings down firmly to make grooves. If you add more strings, be sure to allow enough room to turn the screw eyes (it helps to set them diagonally). If you want to play standing up, fix ordinary string to a screw eye at each end, so it goes around your shoulders as a strap.

Troubleshooting

Refer to the Troubleshooting section on page 25 if you have problems with the screw eyes.