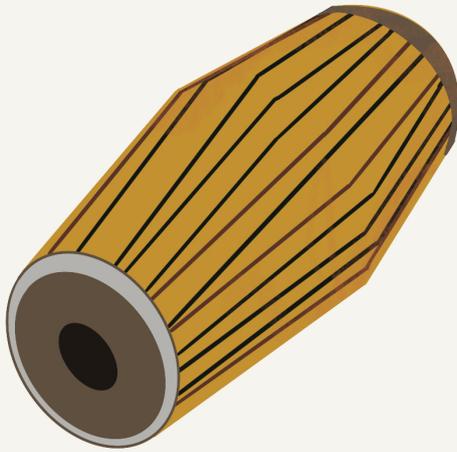


The World of Indian Drums

Did you know?



Percussion instruments are a big part of Indian cultural celebrations and performances across different Indian ethnic groups. Here are a few instruments you might be able to spot around performances and celebrations in Singapore.



1. Mridangam
(Say: muhr-ruh-dung-gum)

A drum from Tamil Nadu, an area in South India. This drum can be found in Carnatic music, a style of Indian music. Many Indians in Singapore have roots in South India.



2. Tabla
(Say: Ta-blaa)

A pair of twin hand drums from North India. It is used a lot in Hindustani Music.



3. Dhol
(Say: Dole)

A drum that is used to accompany Punjabi folk music. You might hear it during a Bhangra performance.

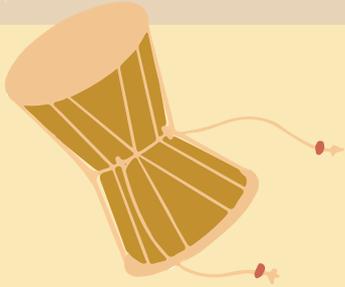


4. Parai
(Say: Pa-wry)

It is one of the oldest frame drums from Tamil Nadu. This drum was used to communicate messages to people and to alert them of danger. It was also an instrument that was played at temple festivals and funerals.

Making A Handheld Drum

A *damaru* is an hourglass-shaped clapper drum. When it is twisted, its heads are struck by the cords attached to the shell. One of the Hindu deities, Shiva, is known to have carried around this drum. Try your hands at making this *damaru* inspired drum.



WHAT YOU NEED

1. Two paper cups / bowls of the same size
2. White glue / craft glue
3. Scissors
4. Craft paper (200 gsm) / cardboard
5. Paint and paintbrush
6. Thick yarn / string (Make sure the yarn / string can go through the holes in the beads.)
7. Two plastic beads with holes
8. Optional: Glitter, stickers, washi tape, markers.

1. Use the bigger end of the paper cup / bowl and put it on the paper. Trace two circles around it. Cut out the circles.

4. Apply glue to the rim of the paper cup / bowl. Then take the circular cut out and stick it to the rim of the paper cup / bowl. Repeat it with the other end.

2. Colour in two black circles.

Cut the string / yarn so that it is long enough to go around the middle of the drum. There should be enough left to swing the string / yarn back and forth so that it will hit the heads of the drum. Next, thread the string / yarn through the beads. Tie a knot at each end of the string / yarn.

3. Paint the outside of the paper cups / bowls in any colour you like. Let it dry for a few hours.

6. Tie the string / yarn around the middle of the drum.

7. Lastly, personalise your drum with whatever materials you have at home.

Play the drum! Hold the drum in the middle and twist it back and forth. The beads will hit the heads of the drum, creating sound.

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