

## TUBE DRUMS (packing tape version)



Bash The Trash builds, performs and educates with musical instruments made from reused and repurposed materials. They combine science, music and environmental awareness in performances, programs and social initiatives, reaching over 60,000 students a year in the New York City metro area, online, and nationwide through a network of regional performers. [www.bashthetrash.com](http://www.bashthetrash.com)

An alternative to the balloon membrane is to use layers of clear packing tape. This is a surprisingly good method which is used by people across the globe. I first saw one made from an old spare tire which had been covered with layer upon layer of clear packing tape. The advantage of the tape over the balloon is playability. The balloon has too much "give" and eventually striking the end of the cardboard gets uncomfortable. The packing tape makes a stronger membrane, and is easier to play.

### YOU WILL NEED:

- One or two pieces of sturdy cardboard tube, 6-12" long (use an extra fine-toothed saw to cut pieces from a carpet tube)
- Clear packing tape, approx. 2" wide

**Caution!** Instructions include common-sense simple tool use. You, the user, need to take all precautions to keep yourself safe.....

**watch John Bertles' how-to video:**  
[bit.ly/packingtapedrums](http://bit.ly/packingtapedrums)

1. Cut about 8" of clear packing tape, and lay a bit less than half along the side of the tube.



2. Pull the tape over the hole, tightly but without deforming the cardboard tube itself. Smooth down the tape so that it is still tightly stretched over the hole.



3. Rotate the tube a bit and repeat, pushing down the tape so that it is fully attached to the tape already there. (Make sure there are no air pockets!) Keep applying tape until the hole is completely covered.



4. Test the drum head to be sure that it is tight and not floppy. If it is tight, finish it off by wrapping one more length of tape around the tube just below the head.



5. (Optional) Repeat steps 1-4 to make a second drum, and wrap duct tape around the tubes to hold them together (two lengths of duct tape ensures better stability).



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This process can be used on a surprising array of containers, and with amazing results. Bigger is going to be better...