DIDDLEY BOW

BASH THE TRASH

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**

YOU WILL NEED:
- 2 nails
- Wooden plank (1x2, 2x3, etc), approx 2.5-3 feet long
- Non-stretchy wire (old guitar strings, "music wire," or piano wire – found on-line super cheap. I use #2B 0.022" diameter. Galvanized or braided wire will not work well. The traditional wire for diddley bow is the stuff wrapped around brooms to hold the bristles together.)
- Glass or metal bottle, can or jar.
- A slide: short pipe, spoon, spice jar, etc. Smooth, hard, curved surfaces are best!
- A pick: any plastic of the approx. thickness and hardness of a credit card, cut to size with gnarly scissors. Or, use a pencil or chopstick to "hammer" the strings.
- (optional, for a tuneable version): Turnbuckle

TOOLS: Hammer, wire cutters, pliers (if necessary)

watch John Bertles' how-to video:

1. Drive a nail into one end of the plank, angled slightly toward the end.

2. Loop the wire around the nail by tying a bowline, or loop-and-twisting, etc. Use pliers if needed. (Tuneable version: fully extend the turnbuckle, hook the eye on the nail, and fasten the wire to its other end.)

OR

3. Stretch the string to the far end of the plank and make another loop. Insert the other nail in the loop and hammer it in angled toward the end of the plank.

4. Take the bottle and slide it underneath the middle of the string, then slide it gently toward one end of the plank to make the string tighter. (Adjust the turnbuckle to achieve the desired pitch).

Depending on the tightness of the string, you may need a bigger or smaller bottle, or to refasten the string to make it tighter.

created for

MAKE MUSIC
JUNE 21