

Make A Pizzicato String Cup

Variation 1: Individual

Step 1: Gather materials

- 1 cardboard cup (different size options if possible)
- 1 rubber band
- 2 pieces of tape

Step 2: Stretch the rubber band over the cup, so the rubber band is stretched across the opening of the cup.

Step 3: Tape the rubber band on each side of the cup so it won't fly off.

Step 4: Put the cup up to your ear and pluck the rubber band with your finger.

Step 5: Squeeze the sides of the cup, so the rubber band tightens or loosens. This should change the pitch.

-Tighten the rubber band for higher pitches

-Loosen the rubber band for lower pitches

Step 6: Try different rubber bands for different pitches

Bonus challenge: Can you play "Hot Cross Buns" on the string cup?

Variation 2: Partner

Step 1: Gather materials

- 2 cardboard cups
- 1 string
- 2 paper clips

Step 2: Poke a hole in the bottom of each cup.

Step 3: Feed one end of the string into the bottom of each cup.

Step 4: Tie a paper clip to each end of the string to keep the string from coming out the bottom of the cup.

Step 5: With a partner, each person takes a cup and spreads out until the string is tight between them.

Step 5: Put the cup up to your ear and pluck the string. Tightening and Loosening the string should change the pitch.

-Tighten for higher pitches

-Loosen for lower pitches

Bonus challenge: Have another partner pinch the string with their finger at different points on the string to change the pitch.

What is Pizzicato?

Pizzicato is a technique that involves plucking the strings of a string instrument, like the violin, with your fingers instead of bowing. When asked to play pizzicato, you'll see a "pizz." in the sheet music. It comes from the Italian word *pizzicare*, which means "to pinch or pluck". Pizzicato playing sounds short and percussive.



Bonus Fact: Arco is a musical instruction that means "with the bow". Arco playing sounds smooth and connected.

How does a Pizzicato String Cup make sound?

A pizzicato sting cup makes sound by plucking a stretched rubber band or string that vibrates and the sound is amplified by the cup. This is very similar to a violin string being plucked and amplified by the instrument body.



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