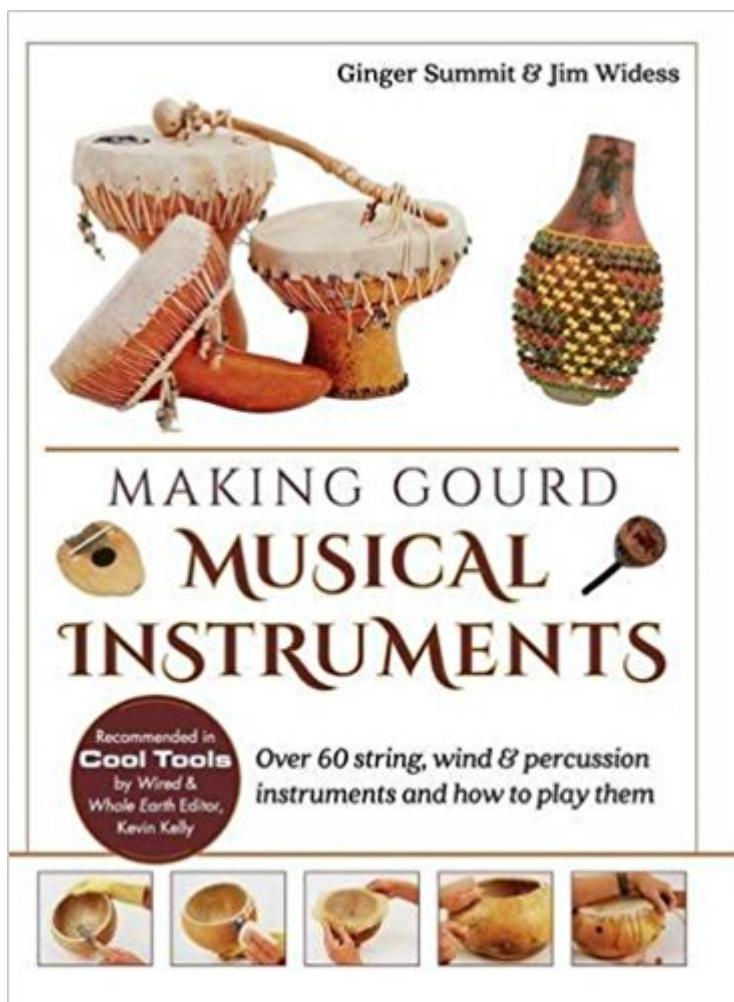


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# Making Gourd Musical Instruments: Over 60 String, Wind & Percussion Instruments & How To Play Them



## **Synopsis**

Naturally resonant and aesthetically appealing, gourds seem ripe for music making before they're even plucked from the vine. Once they're hollowed, dried, and cleaned, it's easy to see how gourds can be transformed into a drum, shaker, banjo, flute, and more. From water drums to guiros, rain sticks to lutes and pipes, gourds have been used to make joyous, vibrant music for centuries. And now you can make gourd instruments of your very own! In this fun and instructive book, authors and gourd artists Jim Widess and Ginger Summit provide step-by-step instructions for building over 60 instruments from gourds. From xylophones and drums to stringed spike fiddles and wind instruments like the fipple flute, building your own instruments from gourds has never been easier. The authors also provide historical and cultural context for the designs, explaining where and when the instruments were first developed and how they have evolved over time. They also include clear and easy-to-understand explanations of the science behind the instruments. From cleaning, drying, scraping, and sealing gourds to decorating the final products, no step of the process is left uncovered. Making Gourd Musical Instruments is richly illustrated with photos and diagrams and will have you blowing, plucking, strumming, and striking with the best of them in no time.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Historically, ethnic groups in many countries have used a great number of musical instruments made from gourds. In North America these instruments are used mainly by percussionists. Most of

the step-by-step projects in this book by gourd artists Summit and Widess (The Complete Book of Gourd Craft) are for percussion or stringed instruments such as the Latin American guiro (gourd scraper) or the spike fiddle. There are also a few from the wind family, such as the fipple flute. These are legitimate musical instruments made from traditional materials, and they are fully playable as well as being beautifully crafted. Highly recommended for general crafts as well as ethnomusicology collections. Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The authors introduce readers to make-it-yourself musical instruments. There is an amazing wealth of information here, covering not only how-to's and history but also extending into the social sciences and even science. We learn that pigeon flutes (crafted gourds attached to the birds' tails) were first mentioned about A.D. 1041 A.D. and that drummers are highly respected in India. Actual instructions on gourd transformations into spike fiddles, water drums, and even xylophones are included, along with a few photographs. But all the erudition tends to drown out the craft aspect, since instructions are sandwiched within the narrative text, and photographs are less than optimal. Nonetheless, a book that patient crafters will appreciate. Barbara Jacobs --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

First things first: Buy the book. I can't tell you how many hours I've sat with this book open. If there's a better resource on the subject of using gourds to make musical instruments, I haven't found it. The photography is excellent from cover to cover, and the how-to's are useful and just as importantly - believable. I make musical instruments as a hobby, and after making one from a gourd, I went out and scored a boat load of gourds. This book really expanded my thinking, and has resulted in countless cool and useful projects. The only thing I don't like are the chapter titles. They make me think too much. I mean, "Idiophones", "Chordophones", and "Aerophones"? Seriously - If you want a book that serves as entertainment, reference, and inspiration all at once, "Making Gourd Musical Instruments" is the next best purchase you'll make....And check out Bela Fleck: Throw Down Your Heart. See some of the instruments in action. AWESOME! Bela Fleck: Throw Down Your Heart

good instruction

I have bought this book for our ethno music club and instruments museum "BarabanZA". Once I have heard about this book I decided to buy it. Reviews of this book were really good. So I decided

to bought a hard copy of this book about building gourd instruments.I have gave 5 stars mark to this book, 'cos it's really informative as I expect.This book is very clear and easy to follow. Pictures included are better than most books I could find.This book is the best choice.

Fun, great ideas and beautiful photos!

Very helpful information as I am making drums from gourds.

My year old grandson will be have many gourd instruments and rattles, etc. from my gourds I've grown. I can't wait until he can make these himself.

The book is well written, documented, and illustrated. While not written as a Dummy's guide type book, it is a great source of inspiration to help to create your own designs and instruments. This is a great quiet evening's read to stir the imagination and fire up the desire to turn the lights back on in the hobby section of your work shop.

Good book very detailed instructions. Don't know if I would ever create a gourd instrument I mainly do gourd bowls, gourd birdhouses and weaving baskets. I met a man at a juried show I did and he was a musician and interested in doing one so I have the book in case he gets back to me I can show him how to go about making one..

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