

DIY Guitars

Simple Cereal Box Guitar

Materials:

1 empty cereal box (that can still be closed at the top)

1 large rubber band

2 markers

Tape

Decorating supplies like paper, markers, stickers & colored or patterned duct tape are optional but fun!

Procedure:

1. Lay your cereal box on its side. Wrap the rubber band around the outside border of the cereal box like this making sure it fits tightly around the whole box.



2. Take one of the markers and place it under the rubberband on the long side of the cereal box towards the bottom edge. Tape this marker in place at this position. The other marker will also be placed under the rubberband, but it will not be taped so that it can slide up and down the side of the box.
3. Use your index finger to pluck the rubber band between the stationary marker and the free moving marker. Slide the free moving marker up and down the side of the box as you pluck the rubber band to see how the sound changes as you move it.
4. Use paper and markers to decorate the front & back of the box, if you want to personalize your guitar. Then play your guitar and experiment with sound!

Shoe Box Guitar

Materials:

1 Shoebox

Scissors

2 cardboard squares 3" x 3"

6 Rubber bands

1 Cardboard tube

Glue

Decorating supplies like paper, markers, stickers & colored or patterned duct tape are optional but fun!



Procedure:

1. Draw or trace a circle about 3-4 inches in diameter in the box top of the shoebox. This will become the sound hole of the guitar and should be a bit lower than the center of the box. Cut out the circle to create a hole in the box lid. Cut out the circle to create a hole in the box lid.
2. Cover the bottom of the box, the box lid and the cardboard tube with construction paper and decorate to personalize your guitar.
3. Cut both 3-inch cardboard squares into three equal parts. You should end up with a total of six rectangles. Stack and glue three of the cut cardboard rectangles into one stack and set aside. Then, stack two cardboard rectangles and glue them together. Discard the remaining rectangle. Decorate both of the stacked rectangles.
4. Trace the end of the cardboard tube on the center of the bottom half of the shoebox. Cut out the hole so it's tiny bit smaller than drawn to ensure a snug fit. Push the tube through the hole and inside the box.
5. Glue the inside edges of the box lid, and then put the lid on the body of the guitar to secure it.
6. Glue the stack of 3 cardboard rectangles to the box lid about 1/2 inch from the box edge on the end where the cardboard tube was inserted.
7. Glue the stack of 2 cardboard rectangles to the box lid about 1/2 inch below the sound hole.
8. Stretch the 6 rubber bands around the shoebox - 3 on each side of the cardboard tube. Make sure they cover the sound hole and rest on the cardboard rectangles.
9. Pluck the rubber bands and play your guitar to experiment with sound!

