

Balloon Saxophone

Best for Ages

6+

Workspace

Flat indoor surface

Adult supervision recommended

Is electricity required?

No

Description

Build a unique instrument and create interesting sounds with the balloon saxophone! This instrument makes sounds by simply making a balloon vibrate.

Materials

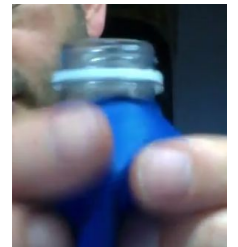
- One plastic water bottle
- One balloon
- One cardboard tube diameter of about one inch. Try using the tube from a roll of aluminum foil
- Scissors

Concepts Explored

- Upcycling materials
- Sound

What to Do

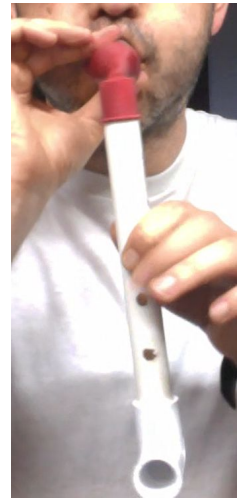
1. Adult supervision is recommended due to balloon and scissors.
2. Start by cutting a small hole at the end of the balloon (opposite end of the nozzle). The hole should be a little smaller than dime and smaller than the hole in the nozzle of the balloon.
3. Next cut off the top of the water bottle. Cut about two inches down from the mouth of the bottle. Save the top part since this is going to be the air hole for the balloon. Recycle the lower part of the bottle.
4. Stretch the end of the balloon where you cut the small hole and wrap the balloon around the wide part of the water bottle to form a tight seal. The spout of the bottle should remain uncovered by the balloon.
5. Lastly take the neck of the balloon and stretch it over the end of the cardboard tube. Make sure the center of balloon is slightly off center from the tube. Gently pull the balloon nozzle towards you.
6. Time to play your balloon saxophone! Blow air into the bottle spout while holding the tube straight. What do you hear?



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Troubleshooting Tips

- Make sure the balloon has formed a seal around the water bottle so that all the air you are blowing goes into the balloon.
- Do not twist the neck of the balloon.
- Reposition the balloon on the tube so that it is slightly off center. Adjust the angle you are holding the balloon and water bottle spout.



What happens if you cut small holes in the cardboard tube?

What happens if you quickly shake the balloon while playing?

What happens to the sound when you change the length of the cardboard tube?

What is Happening?

- **Sounds** are heard when vibrations reach your ears and stimulate the nerves inside. These nerves then send electrical signals to your brain and you hear a sound.
- **Vibrations** are created when you blow air into the balloon and it travels through the tube.

Taking it Forward

- Next time you are with friends or family, get creative! Make your own instruments to form a DIY band.
- If you like this activity you may also like these [Amazeum You](#) activities:

Cardboard Creations

Funnel Horn

PVC Didgeridoo