

Twang

This is a sound experiment as much as an instrument. You'll need something thin, long and slightly flexible.

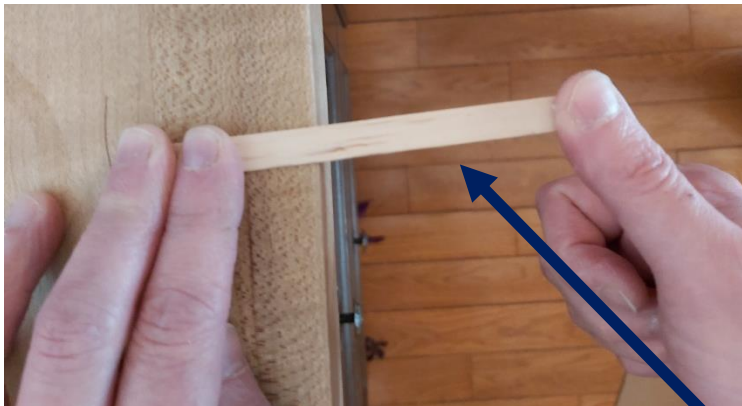
Possible Materials:

- Popsicle stick
- Paint stir stick
- Plastic knife (be careful!)
- Thin wood spatula
- Plastic stick



Set yourself up a clear space on a counter or table that has a sharp edge.

You're going to experiment with the sounds your object can make by holding one end firmly against the counter and "twanging" the other end. [Press on the free end and quickly slide off.]



Bigger sticks will generally produce lower sounds [but the pitch also depends on how thick and heavy the object is.]

Pressing more firmly on the object at the edge of the counter can also change the sound and pitch [you can end up with a harmonic instead of the fundamental pitch – *more on that in a future lesson*]

Experiment by moving the object so more of it is over the counter.

You should find that you get a lower pitch when more of the stick is off the counter.

Your Challenge:

Play a melody with your twang.

Here's a video of me attempting Twinkle Twinkle Little Star. <https://youtu.be/1suaEHY8P3Y>

For fun, see what your oscilloscope displays when you play your twang.

<https://academo.org/demos/virtual-oscilloscope/>