

Box Guitar/Lute/Harp

There's a variety of ways to make these.
Most of them look cute but sound terrible.

Materials:

- A small box
 - Substitute a small container or glass
 - A tissue box is nice because it already has a hole in it for the elastics to pass over.
- Elastics of different thicknesses (or just a few elastics)
- Cardboard tube (this is totally optional, all it does is look "guitar-like")
- Glue to hold the tube in place (probably not necessary if the hole is cut well)
- Scissors
- Decorations (optional – do these first if you're going to do them)



www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Tissue-Box-Guitar

Instructions:

1. Cut a hole in the small end of the box just big enough for the cardboard tube
2. Insert the tube into the hole by an inch or so
3. Put elastic bands around the box so that they lie over the original hole in the box (One version online suggests you stretch the elastics all the way to the end of the tube – *don't bother!*)

NOTES:

1. It might be easier to stretch the elastics over the box the short way. If you're going to do this don't bother with the tube in the end. *In fact you may not want to bother with the tube anyhow.*
2. You know from your lessons over the last 2 weeks how to change the pitch of the elastic.
 - a. To change the length you can put some kind of "bridge" under the elastic (on the top of the box – the side with the hole). Move the bridge around to get different pitches.
 - i. Bridge possibilities: a short pencil, an eraser, a piece of popsicle stick
 - b. To change the thickness: use thicker or thinner elastics
 - c. To change the tension: use longer or shorter elastics, or tie a knot in the elastic (*be careful it doesn't snap - it will hurt!*), put a pencil or other stick under the elastic and twist it around and around (wrapping the elastic around the pencil)
3. It may sound better overall if you put a bridge in between the hole and one end of the box. The elastics will pass over this giving you some space to pluck. You can use a pencil or a few popsicle sticks or whatever. See yesterday's activity for an example of a bridge on an instrument.
4. If you don't have a box just stretch the elastics over any container with an opening. It will even work on a glass. In fact, this option probably will sound the best because of the hardness of the material being used.