

# Flute

## Materials:

- Cardboard tube
  - I used a paper towel tube
  - A wrapping paper roll would work
    - Cut it down to 1-2 feet
  - Bristol Board or Card Stock
    - Lightly spray with water first to make it more pliable
    - Roll around a broom handle and tape it or elastic band it in place until it dries
  - Toilet paper tubes might work. You will need to piece at least 3 of them together lengthwise to make the instrument long enough. (Overlap the pieces and tape on both sides)
- Bottle cap
  - Or something that will fit into one end to plug it (something hard is best)
- Tape
- Scissors
- Decorations (optional – do these first if you're going to do them)

## Instructions:

1. My paper towel tube was a bit too big around, so I made 1 cut lengthwise and rolled it tighter. Get someone to help tape it together at the new smaller size



2. Cut an oval hole a couple of inches from one end. Be careful! Cutting cardboard can be awkward and you don't want to hurt yourself.

***You could also get an adult to use a knife to do this!***

- a. Your hole should be about 1 cm long and ½ cm wide. More or less.
3. Place your plug in the end closest to the hole that you cut and tape it in place.
  - a. You want to make sure no air can escape out this end

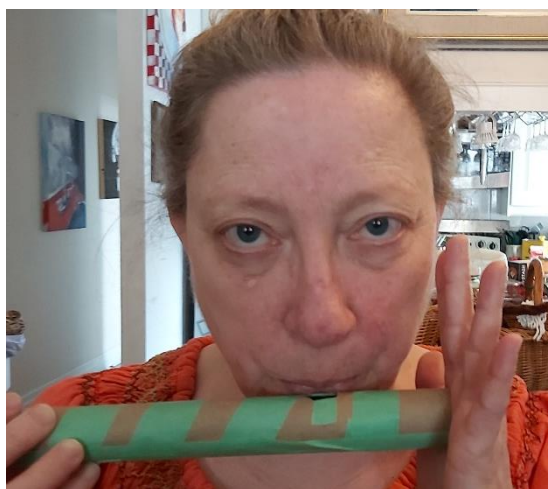


4. You can cut finger holes on the same side of the tube as the blow hole. Check out the instructions at the link below for placement.

**NOTES:**

You can find instructions at <https://ourpastimes.com/how-to-make-a-flute-out-of-cardboard-12162955.html>

1. The harder the material you use the better the sound the instrument will make. Flutes are normally made from metal or wood. When making your own though you need to have something soft enough to be able to work with.
  - a. Using a couple of layers of cardboard might help with this but that might be too awkward in some cases. Most of mine has a doubled layer because of the way I cut it to make the tube smaller around.
  - b. Yes, that does mean that for an adult with power tools, a piece of bamboo can make a great flute.
2. The shape of the blow hole makes a difference to the sound in a complex way. I put some tape on my blow hole to smooth it out.
3. You play this type of flute by putting the bottom of your bottom lip at the edge of the hole that is closest to you and blowing over and slightly down into the hole. In the picture I hadn't yet put the stopper in the end so I was holding the air in with my hand. No need to do that once your stopper is in place.



**NOTE: It is quite difficult to make a sound with this type of flute. It also takes a huge amount of air. *SIT DOWN WHEN YOU ARE PLAYING. YOU CAN GET DIZZY BY OVERBREATHING. STOP IF YOU FEEL AT ALL FAINT!!***