

Cuica

Materials:

- A large plastic cup
 - Or a large yoghurt container
 - Or a coffee can and it's plastic lid – *remove the bottom first and make sure there are no sharp edges!*
- String
 - Or a bamboo skewer, a hot glue gun and glue, and a cloth
- A paper clip (or you can just tie a large knot)
- Water



www.exploratorium.edu/snacks/coffee-can-cuica



<https://explorer.compassion.com/a-cup-of-laughter/>

Method:

1. Poke a hole (just big enough for your string to fit through) in the bottom of your cup/yoghurt container (or in the plastic lid of your coffee can)
2. Push your string through the hole. *If you are using a paper clip you can first tie your string securely to the paper clip and use the paper clip to push through the hole. If you are not using a paper clip, tie a big knot on the end of the string on the outside of the container.*

To play your Cuica, completely wet the string and rub your fingers up and down the string. You will need to hold it taut.

Bamboo Skewer Alternate Method

1. Poke a hole (just big enough for your bamboo skewer to fit through) in the bottom of your cup/yoghurt container or plastic lid of your coffee can
2. Push the skewer through the hole, leaving a small amount free at the top (so that it's easier to glue in place). Most of the skewer will be inside your container.
3. Hot glue the bamboo skewer in place.

To play your Cuica, wet your cloth and use it to rub up and down the bamboo skewer.

Here's a short video of someone demonstrating a commercially made cuica:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NVOtE1qSymU>

Here's a video of a group of Brazilian percussionists playing a selection of instruments together, including the cuica: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qNktDNVg_u8