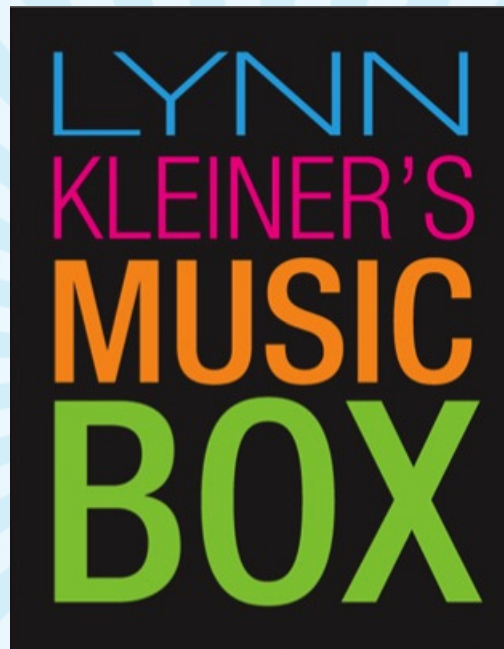


V I S U A L S / D I Y I N S T R U M E N T S

Cuica

A Homemade "Bird" Instrument



A resource for teachers
who love to teach and live to learn.

How To Make Your Own Cuica (Weird Bird)

Use with the song "Bird Dance" from [Farm Songs and the Sounds of Moo-sic](#) and "Weird Birds" from [Recorder Rookies](#) by Lynn Kleiner.

What You Need

Red Plastic Cups
Ballpoint Pen
String (embroidery thread or dental floss)
Feathers
Felt for eyes (white and blue), markers, or self-adhesive googlie eyes
Felt for beak (yellow or orange)
Hot glue gun
Small sponges
Glue sticks
Scotch tape
Scissors
Containers to place feathers, eyes, beaks



What You Do

1. Pre-cut string to 18 inch lengths.
2. Cut beaks and eyes (white and blue or one light, one dark color).
3. Punch small hole in the cup, using a ballpoint pen.
4. Poke the end of the string through the hole of the bottom of the cup (which is now the top of the cuica).
5. Secure feathers (about 4) by tying them together with the end of the embroidery string that's outside the bottom of the cup. (The feathers act as a stopper so the string doesn't pull all the way through the cup.)
6. Using glue gun, glue feathers to the bottom of the cup, covering the hole as well.
7. On the other end of the string, tie a small sponge which will be used to wet string.
8. Decorate cuica's face, adding eyes and beak.
9. Dunk sponge in water and wet fingers. Rub fingers along the string to create sounds, using short strokes and long strokes to make different sounds. Or wrap the damp sponge around the string closest to the cup and move downward to the rhythm of "Weird Birds" from lesson 1, [Recorder Rookies](#), and play 4 beats during the 4 claps on "Bird Dance" from [Farm Songs and the Sounds of Moosic](#).

