

BUTTON & STICK MUSICAL RATTLES

For this craft, it is fun to make two or more rattles with different sized buttons of different materials so that the rattles make different sounds when shaken. You can experiment to select the buttons and sizes that make the right sound for you.

SUPPLIES & TOOLS

- 15-20 buttons
- Forked sticks (preferably green wood so you can cut notches)
- Wire or heavy thread – 23 GAUGE aluminum wire is easy to use
- Soft cord or thread for the grip
- OPTIONAL: String, paint, glue, etc. for decoration
- OPTIONAL: Ribbons for streamers from the handle
- OPTIONAL: Scissors, Needle nose pliers to pull the wire

CONSTRUCTION of each rattle

1. Find a forked stick in the garden or forest. Cut it to a size comfortable for your hand.
2. Ask a grownup to cut notches on opposite sides of the stick to hold your string or wire in place. This is done if you got the kit.
3. OPTIONAL: if you want, cut ribbon streamers for the rattle handle. Wrap a rubber band around the handle right below the fork. Glue the ends of the ribbon to the handle about 3" up from the bottom. Slide the rubber band down to hold them in place while you continue.
4. Create a grip for your rattle by rapping the handle with ribbon or string. Glue one end of the string to the handle, with the end up a couple inches, and let it dry.
5. Holding the handle with streamer and wrapping ends, wrap the handle from the bottom of the stick upwards, covering the string and ribbon ends tightly. As you go up, move the rubber band out of your way. At the end, put glue on the end of your wrapping material, and move the rubber band to hold it until it dries.
6. Tap your buttons together and select 6-10 for each wire on the rattle.
7. Start with the bottom wire or string.
8. If you are using string, tie one end tightly to one side of the fork at the lowest notch. For wire, wind it tightly in the notch then twist the ends tightly.
9. Push the buttons you selected for this section onto your wire or string and stretch it to the other side, tying it tightly at the notch on the other side.
10. Move up to the next notches and repeat steps 7 and 8.
11. You can decorate your handle or rattle by needlework on the grip, or painting, etc.

