

Instrument Creation Station

Digeridoo

MATERIALS

1 ½ inch or 1 ¼ inch diameter PVC pipe: depending on the pitch you want, cut to lengths of:
(these measurements based on a 1 ½ inch pipe)

Sandpaper - medium-grade and fine-grade

Acrylic paint, various sized paint brushes.

Beeswax.

Before you start decide where the FIRST AID supplies are. Beware that the beeswax doesn't get too hot.

Cut pipe to desired length using a hacksaw. Use a clamp – or have someone hold the pipe in place.

Sand the PVC pipe's body lightly with medium-grade sandpaper.
Sand and round the pipe's ends first with the medium-grade sandpaper
and then with the fine-grade sandpaper.

Wipe the dust off the pipe with a slightly damp cloth before you paint it.

NB: the next two steps could be interchanged in order...

1. DECORATE THE DIDGERIDOO – consider using traditional aboriginal art symbols, but in any case, tell something of your story.... Alternately – you can create your designs on paper and then glue or tape the paper to your didge.

Let everything dry.

2. TO CREATE THE MOUTHPIECE:

Warm a smallish piece of beeswax (a hair-dryer works or hot water).

Take a small object like a butter knife to dip into the wax. Build up a waxed surface around the edges of the end of the pipe you have chosen as the mouthpiece. Use your fingers to shape it and round it.

Let the wax cool and harden after you are satisfied with the shape.

PLAY YOUR DIDGE.

For help with this there are numerous videos, websites, and books on the subject. You may need patience. Here a few sites to get you started:

<http://www.didjiman.com/didjeridu/didge-play.htm> (descriptions, and background info on the didge)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JZKfpQADDk0> (very basic lessons – follow up with subsequent lessons from the same guy on YouTube)

also: <http://www.howtoplaydidge.com/About-the-didgeridoo/Women-and-the-didgeridoo.html> (see item regarding women and didge playing...)

Ultimately you will want to know how to achieve CIRCULAR BREATHING – the essence of the didgeridoo sound.