

Classification of Instruments

five categories of instruments.

- Aerophones
- Membranophones
- Chordophones
- Electrophones
- Idiophones

Aerophones

- An aerophone produces its sound by the vibration of air
- The two main families that are aerophones are woodwind and brass instruments.
- Most Woodwinds use the air and reeds to vibrate.
- Brass use air and the player's lips to vibrate.
- Some keyboard instruments also use air as the source of vibration and can be considered aerophones.



Chordophone Instruments

- Chordophones are part of the **string** instrument family.
- They produce sound by the vibrating of strings.
- To make the sounds: pluck, bow or strike the strings.
- This is done by a pick, bow or the musician's hand.
- Can you name any Chordophones?

Membranophones

- Membranophones produce sound
- when a stretched **skin** (membrane) vibrates.
- Different materials can be used to make membranophones, including wood, metal, or ceramics.



Types of Drums





Idiophone Instruments

- Idiophones produce a sound by the vibration of the **actual instrument** itself.
- These instruments can be struck, rubbed, shaken or plucked.
- This category belongs to the **percussion** family.



Idiophone Categories:

- ⑥ **Percussion** idiophones are hit with sticks, beaters, or clappers (bells, steel drums).
- ⑥ **Shaken** idiophones are shaken (maracas, eggs, jingle bells).
- ⑥ **Concussion** idiophones are played by clashing two of them together (castanets, claves, spoons).
- ⑥ **Friction** idiophones are made to vibrate by rubbing them (as when you make a wine glass ring by rubbing its rim).
- ⑥ **Scraped** idiophones are played by scraping a stick across a set of notches or corrugations on the instrument (guiro, washboard).
- ⑥ **Stamping** idiophones are stamped on the ground, floor, or hard surface. (Tap shoes are in this category.)
- ⑥ If the main sound is coming from the surface that is being stamped on, it is a **stamped** idiophone.
- ⑥ **Plucked** idiophones have a thin tongue of metal or bamboo that vibrates when plucked (jew's harp, mbira or thumb piano).

Electrophone Instruments

- This is the newest category of instruments. They have only been around since the 20th century.
- Electrophones produce an electronic sound.



- The two main families of electrophones are **electronic instruments** and **amplified acoustical instruments**.