

## Introduction

Remember the last time you listened to a song you liked? Didn't you tap your foot along in time to the music? When you hear a drum beating, don't you clap your hands, slap the table top, or hit the dashboard of your car in time with the music?



Music makes us feel good. It's therapeutic, as we all know. Ancient peoples treated music as magic, and played instruments for healing purposes.

As kids, didn't we all have a little drum that we beat until we drove our parents nuts? As an adult, haven't you ever wanted to make and play a drum? I bet you have! I bet that sometime in their life, almost everyone dreams of drumming. Finally, you can play a drum that you make yourself!

Making a gourd drum is not as hard as you might think. You don't have to be a professional woodworker or musician to build a gourd drum. If you're fairly handy around the house, there's no reason why you can't build your own drum!

This book is written primarily for someone who has never made a drum, or someone who tried and wasn't successful. If you have some experience building drums, you may not need all of the details. In that case, pick out what helps. Otherwise, you should not skip any chapters.

You can also use this book if you have a gourd drum shell but aren't sure how to put a head on it. I'll show you how to cut the rawhide and put it on your gourd.

When I was learning to build gourd drums, I searched unsuccessfully for a book or guidance on how to do it. There are a few books on working with gourds, and they include a little bit on drums. But, they are incomplete and very simplistic. Because I couldn't find much help, I made lots of errors, and a number of very bad drums! I wrote this book to help you avoid repeating those errors.

The book describes different kinds of gourds; tells you what tools you need to make a gourd drum, and of those, which are essential and