

Introduction

Tongue drums are fun! You don't have to be a professional musician to play one, although professional musicians **do** play them.

There are good reasons for making a tongue drum. Most importantly, music makes us feel good. It's therapeutic, as we all know. Ancient peoples treated music as magic, and played instruments for healing purposes.



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

I'm going to show you how to use both a gourd and a wooden box as a base for your tongue drum. One base is not necessarily better or easier to make than the other

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

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

The book describes tongue drums; tells you what tools you need to make a one, and of those, which are essential and which are helpful; explains what materials you need; and provides detailed steps on building your tongue drum. There are separate chapters on tuning and web sources for materials and tools.



Some hand tools are essential, but they're so common that you probably already have them. There