

## Materials

**Gourd Sources:** Gourds are grown in most states, but most are grown in warm-climate states. They need a long growing season, well-drained soil, and water. You can probably find someone who sells gourds in your home state. If you have trouble finding someone, check the Web and see if you have a chapter of the American Gourd Society. If so, they probably hold an annual festival where everything gourd is sold. If that doesn't work, check the American Gourd Society web site: <http://www.americangourdsociety.org/>

There are also lots of gourd vendors on the web. All will ship; some have a minimum order. I've included a list at the back of the manual.

**Thumb Piano Components:** Here's the thumb piano you can buy from Musicmakers. It is mounted on a piece of wood. I've included it here so you can see the components you'll need:



A "bridge" is a thin, narrow strip of wood that has a little hill on each edge, separated by a little valley. The keys rest on the front and back hills, and are secured to the soundboard through the valley;

A "bridge clamp," at least those sold by Musicmakers, is a brass tube a little longer than the bridge. It has a hole near each end, through which you insert screws that thread into "t-nuts" installed into the bottom of the soundboard;

A brass "bridge rod" is a thin piece of brass that fits in a little groove in the front hill of the bridge. You can barely see it between the keys in this picture. Its function is to keep the metal keys from gouging the bridge as they're plucked;