



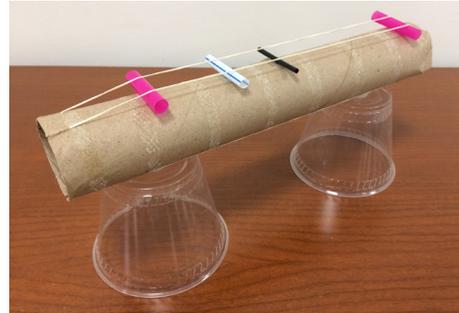
LEARN

The *rudra vīṇā*, also known as the bin, is an instrument type with a long and illustrious history in India. It has two large gourd resonators attached below each end of a straight, hollow bamboo or wooden body. A platform bridge and raised frets allow the player to pluck the four main strings and produce several notes from each fret position.

The *rudra vīṇā* was the premier melody instrument in the North Indian royal courts from the fifteenth to the eighteenth centuries and reached its modern form and musical peak circa 1530–1860. It was the primary carrier of the instrumental dhrupad repertoire and technique, the elite court genre of the time, but also carried a reputation of religious and mystical potency. In the early nineteenth century, its popularity declined as the more versatile and less intimidating sitar eclipsed its preeminence, rendering it all but obsolete in contemporary Indian classical music.



MAKE



Materials:

Cardboard tube	Two rubber bands
Two plastic cups	Ruler
1.5" pieces of straws, various diameters	Glue dots or glue
Marker, pen, or pencil	

Instructions:

1. Glue the cups to the bottom of the tube, about two inches from each end, and set the instrument on the cups, tube side up.
2. On the top side of the tube, measure 2", 4", 5½", and 10" from one end and make a mark on those spots.
3. Glue two pieces of the largest-sized straw on the outermost dots. Then glue two smaller-sized straws on the two dots in the middle.
4. Make two small cuts at the end of the tube on the top side, up to an inch apart. Do the same on the bottom side and repeat at the other end of the tube.
5. Making sure they lie on top of the straws, stretch the rubber bands around the tube lengthwise, securing them in the slots, one on each side of the tube.
6. Decorate the tube and cups however you like and pluck away!

SEE



Visit MIM's Asia Gallery and see a *rudra vīṇā* in the "India: Hindustani" display.

PLAY ALONG

Sing and strum along to "[Nini Baba Nini,](#)" a [Hindi lullaby](#).

Hindi

Nini baba nini
Mackhan roti cheene,
Mackhan roti hoa gia,
Soja Baba Soja,
Mera baba soja,
Ninnie Nina baba so gaya.

English

Sleep baby, sleep,
Butter, bread, and sugar,
Butter and bread are finished
Sleep baby, sleep,
My baby, sleep
Little baby has gone to sleep.

LISTEN

Compare Ustad Asad Ali Khan's [rudra vīṇā North Indian performance](#) with a [South Indian vīṇa performance](#) by Jayanthi Kumaresh. What similarities and differences do you see and hear?

LEARN MORE

Explore more children's music from India on [Mama Lisa's Musical World](#) website.

Read about tablas, classical Indian kettledrums, and India's rich musical culture and history in the [Roots of Rhythm curriculum](#).

Learn about bharata-natyam, a South Indian classical dance, and participate in introductory dance moves through this [video](#).