

# TAMBOURINE

## DESCRIPTION

- The tambourine is an unpitched percussion instrument. It is made of a wooden or plastic hoop with cutout openings into which small metal jingles are suspended.
- Tambourines are available in a variety of sizes. Some have a head of plastic or skin stretched over one side. Some don't.

## HOW TO PLAY

- A tambourine is most commonly played by the hand, knuckles, or fingers. Sometimes it is tapped against the hip or the knee.
- If the tambourine has a head, it can be tapped lightly with the fingers or loudly with the knuckles. If it has no head, tap the hoop.
- Rolls may be played on the head by wetting the thumb and pulling it along the circumference of the head.
- The tambourine may be placed on a table or other flat surface in order to play rolls or difficult patterns. The player may use two hands, two fingers, or two mallets or sticks.

## SOUND

- The tambourine adds a wonderful jingle to any piece of music.
- Tambourines and jingle sticks are two forms of the same instrument. They can be shaken to prolong the ringing sound or struck to produce a shorter, percussive sound.
- Although the tambourine doesn't have a pitch, it can sound higher or lower, depending on its size and the size and number of jingles.

## FUN FACTS

- The tambourine was one of the first percussion instruments, developed in ancient times and known as the timbrel.
- Other world percussion instruments that include jingles are the pandeiro, riq, buben, daf, kanjira, and dayereh.
- Other rhythmic percussion instruments include the woodblock, castanets, triangle, sandpaper blocks, and sleigh bells.

## SOUND SAMPLES

TRACK 47 - Classic Tambourine

TRACK 48 - Rockin' Tambourine

# TARANTULA ON THE TAMBOURINE

