HOW TO MAKE
MARACAS

http://maxwellmuseum.unm.edu/   (505) 277-2924
WHAT IS IT?

Maracas are a type of rattle used in music making and celebrations. Generally they are made from a gourd with a stick attached. Small seeds or pebbles inside will make the sound when the instrument is shaken. Maracas are very popular in Latin and Afro-Caribbean music.

MATERIALS

Materials Needed:
• small plastic water bottle with lid or small plastic bulb ornament
• small wooden clothes pin about 3.5” in length or a pencil or other narrow stick
• Phillips head screwdriver
• a palm-full of beads, aquarium gravel, small pebbles, etc.
• decorative tape
INSTRUCTIONS

1) If using a small plastic water bottle, start by making a hole in the lid with the screwdriver just big enough for the stick to fit in.

2) If using a plastic ornament, wrap enough tape around the top of the stick so that it fits tightly into the ornament.

3) Fill the bottle or ornament with a palm-full of beads, gravel, or small pebbles.

4) Attach the lid to the bottle or insert the stick into the ornament.

5) Wrap some decorative tape around the stick. Use the tape to affix the stick to the ornament.

6) Your maracas are complete and ready to make beautiful music!