MAKE

Materials:

- Pie tin
- Long piece of yarn
- Long stick made of wood or cardboard
- Wooden dowel or paint stick
- Sharpies or Puffy Paint to decorate
- Stickers
- Hammer and nail

Instructions:

1. Have a grown-up use the hammer and nail to make two holes in the top of the pie tin, about 3 to 4 inches from each other.
2. String the long piece of yarn through both holes in the pie tin and then tie it tightly and securely to make a loop.
3. Decorate the gong with Sharpies, paint, or stickers.
4. Hang the gong on the long wooden or cardboard stick using the string.
5. Balance the stick on the tops of two chairs; make sure the gong is not touching the ground.
6. Use the wooden dowel to play your gong!

LEARN

Gongs are found across East and Southeast Asia in countries such as China, Japan, South Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and the Philippines. They are generally disc or bowl shaped and made of metals, and they come in many sizes. Some are flat, while others have a large, round knob in the center. Gongs can be played when they are suspended from ropes or laid down flat on a wooden frame. The instrument's sound changes depending on where it is struck with a mallet. Gongs are played for a wide range of occasions, including musical concerts, theatrical performances, and religious ceremonies.

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SEE

Visit MIM's Asia Gallery and see gongs in the Gong display and Indonesia: Gamelan display. You can also play a gong in the Experience Gallery.

LISTEN

Check out **this playlist** for:
- Performances of Indonesian gamelan music with *kempul* and *bonang* gongs
- A video explaining how to play your own gong
- A video showing how a gong is made

PLAY ALONG

Create your own pattern on the gong and play along with the gamelan performances in the playlist! Try hitting the gong slowly or quickly and in different places. How does this change the sound?

LEARN MORE

Check out **this article** from *Encyclopedia Britannica* to read more about different types of gongs and the history of the instrument.