

HISTORY AND IMPROVISATION: MAKING AMERICAN MUSIC EDUCATION GUIDE

Worksheet #2: Innovative Instruments

"I just have these bamboo sticks, felt–piano felt, calf skins, metal bowls, I mean in some ways it is not that fair–but we're supposed to make music with it." — Joseph Pereira

You will be making a musical instrument, with the option of making a banjo, from simple recycled materials. Time to brainstorm some prototype plans. Draw and label sketches of an instrument to meet the following themes:

an instrument that	an instrument that
refers to an era or an event in history	is 'flashy'
an instrument that has iconic symbols that represent you	an instrument that has an old, antique version

After examining the maker parts available, sketch three ideas for an instrument you might actually make. Label the features. Do you think the instrument will "work?" If it doesn't work, could it still have some kind of value?

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After	constru	action

• Sketch what you made (or tried to make).
• Describe your standard for success for this project. Is your instrument a success?
• Think about the experience of inventing. Did you improvise as you worked?
• What did you learn from trying to make the instrument?
• Did you decorate your instrument? Why or why not?