



Lesson: Construct Taiko Tire Drums

OVERVIEW

Letter from Sado requires that drums be constructed out of tires to replicate the sound of a taiko drum. The students will work together in small groups to construct tire drums. Tires of various sizes may be used to create drums of various relative pitches. The tires will be play-tested and a worksheet completed. Links to online videos about taiko drumming on Sado Isle and demonstrating the construction of drums are provided as examples.

LEARNING GOAL

The students will:

- learn simple drum construction.
- consider how the construction, dimensions, and other characteristics of the tire drum affect the sound that it produces.

RESOURCES & MATERIALS

- Used tires of various sizes
- Heavy duty packaging tape (clear)
- Duct tape
- Student copies of:
 - [Making a Taiko Tire Drum](#) instruction sheet
 - [Tire Drum Construction & Sound](#) worksheet

PROCESS

1. Assign students to a group and provide them with the instruction sheet and materials to construct a tire drum.
2. Make sure the tires are clean.
3. Lay tires down on sides and stretch packaging tape across the middle diameter of the tire, making sure the tape is stretched tightly
4. Continue in an “X” fashion, much like slicing a pizza until one side of the tire is completely covered and there are no gaps between the tape
5. Secure circumference of tire with duct tape
6. Repeat on the other side and circumference
7. Combine drum making groups so that each student has access to two drums (or convene as a whole class), play the drums for one another and fill out the [Tire Drum Construction & Sound](#) individually or as a group.

ASSESSMENT

- Play each drum to ensure it produces the desired tone.
- Students complete a worksheet about the tire construction.

VIDEO LINKS

[Making PVC Tape Drums](#)

[Making a Tire Drum](#)

[Playing Taiko Tire Drum](#)

[Taiko Drummers of Japan](#) (on Sado Island)

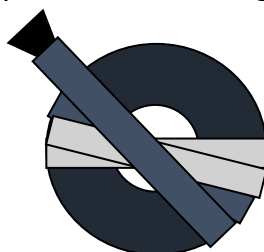
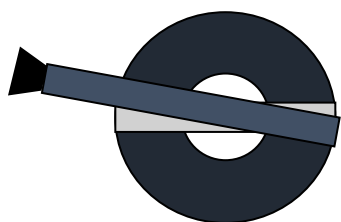
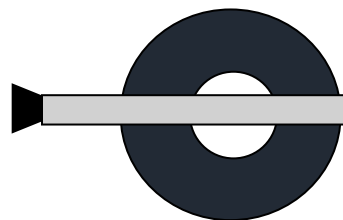
[Kodo Drummers from Sado Isle](#)

EXTENSIONS

- Teach students about Taiko drums using the Mini Lesson: Taiko Drums found in the Interdisciplinary Lessons folder of this curriculum.
- Take pictures of your drum-making and share them with BandQuest! BandQuest@composersforum.org or on Facebook, [ACFEEd](#) (American Composers Forum Education).

MAKING A TAIKO TIRE DRUM

1. Make sure the tires are clean.
2. Lay tires down on sides and stretch packaging tape across the middle diameter of the tire.
3. Flip the tire and continue wrapping on the back side of the tire.
4. Flip to the front and continue wrapping. Overlap the first layer covering about $\frac{1}{2}$ the strip of tape. Be sure the tape is stretched tightly.



5. Keep flipping the tire and wrapping tape in and overlapping "X" fashion until the whole tire is covered and there are no gaps between the strips of tape. Don't cut the tape until the whole tire is covered.
6. Cut the tape. You now have a drum that makes an awesome sound.
7. Apply a couple strips of duct tape around the tread of the tire to ensure that the packing tape stays stuck to the drum.
8. **MAKE SURE STUDENTS WASH THEIR HANDS FOR SAFETY REASONS AFTER HANDLING THE TIRES.**



A Rosemount Middle School band student plays the taiko tire drum



TIRE DRUM CONSTRUCTION & SOUND

Name: _____

1. Compare the sound of the drum constructed by your group with a drum of a different size constructed by another group. How do the sounds of the drums differ based on their sizes?
2. Compare the sounds of two tire drums that are the same size. How does the tension of the tape stretched across the drums affect the sound?
3. How does the sound of the tire drum change depending on where you hit it?
4. How does the homemade tire drum compare to a professionally manufactured drum?

