



LESSON 15 LEVEL B TOYS

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

learning to use papier maché;
making a usable musical toy from
papier maché

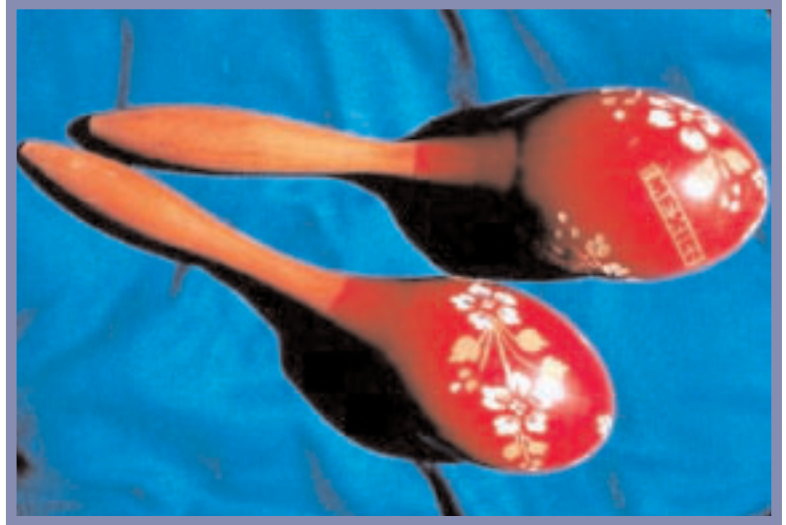
WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

2 good quality round balloons;
newspaper; wallpaper/papier
maché craft paste or ordinary
flour and water paste; a low bowl
or pie tin; two 1.2 cm (1/2")
dowel rods about 28 cm (11")
long; large thumb tacks; small
beans, rice, or pebbles; tempera
paint; small paint brushes;
shellac or glossy plastic spray;
(optional) heavy string or cord;
white glue

"TIPS": Note: This project
requires several days for the
papier maché to dry.

You can get wall paper paste at
wallpaper and craft stores, but
you may want to make a paste
from flour and water instead.
Start with flour. Add water
gradually, stirring to make a
creamy, smooth consistency. Pour
the paste into a shallow bowl or
pie tin. It will keep in the
refrigerator for a few days. Tear
the newspaper into small pieces
no larger than 4 cm
(1 1/2 inches). These are the
"patches" you will use. Torn

A MUSICAL TOY



A Pair of Maracas Photograph by Kay Alexander

Getting Started: Maracas
(mah rah' kaz) are simple musical
instruments made from gourds by
people in the Caribbean and South
American countries. They are
shaken to provide a rhythmic accent to
folk music. Your papier maché maracas
will look and sound very much like
gourd maracas. Try to examine either
actual maracas or photos of them
before you begin. Think of the designs
you can paint on yours to make them
special.

1. Blow up two small, round
balloons to a diameter of about 13 to
15.5 cm (5 to 6"). Tie them to keep
the air in. Wet them with water.
Then, apply patches of newspaper that
have NOT been dipped in the paste.
The water on the balloon will hold the



edges make a smoother surface. To make it easier to see when a previous layer has been completely covered, use two colors of newspaper, such as the business section and the colored comics. Use one; then, the other, on alternating layers.



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paper in place. Overlap the patches to hide the balloon surface entirely.

2. Before this layer can dry, add another layer of patches that have been dipped in the paste. Dip a patch, then remove the excess paste by pulling the patch through your fingers. Overlap the patches and smooth each one so it blends with the others.

3. Continue in this way until both balloons are covered with four layers of patches. Allow the papier maché to dry completely at room temperature. . .three or four days, at least.

4. Pop the balloons with a pin. (The balloon will peel away from its shell with weird crackling noises!) Enlarge the hole and pull the balloon out.

5. Pour a spoonful of beans, rice, or pebbles through the hole of each shell. Insert a dowel all the way, until it bumps the opposite side. Stand each maraca on its handle. Someone can hold it for you or you can put it in a container that will not break. Then pound a big thumb tack through the shell and into the hidden end of the dowel.

6. Apply three more layers of narrow, torn, paste-dipped paper strips to join the shell to the dowel and keep the noisemakers inside.

7. Add another layer of torn paste-dipped patches over each maraca to cover the tacks and add strength. Smooth the surface carefully. Let the maracas dry again.

8. Now comes the chance to paint creatively. Cover each maraca with a

solid color tempera. When it is dry, add your own special designs with a small pointed brush.

9. To keep the paint from coming off, spray the dry maracas (outdoors) with a glossy, plastic finish. Or, you can paint them with a layer of shellac. Shellac will require a special brush cleaner: shellac thinner. Soak the brush in the thinner and then wash it with soap and hot water.

10. If you wish, you may wrap the 'neck' of the dowel with heavy string or cord. Cover the part you wish to wrap with white glue. Then coil the cord neatly around the dowel. Let it dry and you are finished.

CLEAN UP: Throw away the leftover paste and newspaper. Clean your brushes. Put the paints and other materials away. Do you always have to clean up? Yes, you do.

TALK ABOUT IT: Instead of just talking, use your maracas to play the rhythm as you sing a lively song. Or, you can play along to a tape of Latin American music. Listen for maracas in the music and play along with them.

CONNECTIONS:

1. Find out more about the music of the Caribbean Islands, Mexico and South America. Learn about stringed instruments, like guitars; steel drums made of old oil containers, and the guiro (gwee-roho), a gourd with lines cut in it. It is stroked with a metal fork to make rasping sounds.

2. Learn about different dance rhythms of Central and South America: the tango, salsa, rumba, samba, cha cha, mambo, conga, and others. Shake your maracas to the beat of the different dances. (If you have someone to teach you, you could learn the dances.)