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Peru

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Name: Cajita (pronounced cahita).**Type:** Struck > Percussion.**Region:** Costal Peru > South America.**Specimen:** Made by the owner of this site.**Completion Date:** 2010.08.19 Thursday.

The Cajita is a struck percussion instrument in the form a tapered wooden box with a lid attached to the top. It is found in in the north western coastal region of Peru. Particularly around Lima, the cajita is played in percussive and instrumental ensembles in Afro-Peruvian communities. The cajita is played by opening up and closing the lid, while striking the sides or the lid to achieve five different sounds. There are three sizes of cajita the specimen in the photo is a lead cajita. The largest of the three sizes is a cajita the bass it also the lowest sounding of the three. The cajita is played by rapidly opening up and closing the lid. The lid is attached to the cajita using brass cabinet hinges. On my specimen of cajita the striker is from a piece of lathed wood originally intended for the repair of furniture. The cajita is a "time keeper" that regulates the tempo of the melody.

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Citations: