

# Rainstick



## Rainstick

Sound of a rainstick	
<b>Classification</b>	Percussion instrument
<b>Hornbostel–Sachs classification</b>	112.13 (vessel rattle)
<b>Inventor(s)</b>	uncertain, some theories include: Peru, Aztecs, enslaved African slaves in North America
Related instruments	
HoshoMaracasRainstickVibraslap	

Many traditional cultures believed the sound of falling rain that rainsticks made could produce a storm. Although that belief has faded from contemporary society, rainsticks are still used to this day. The instrument is usually made from a long, hollow tube filled with pebbles or beads. Walls of the tube are stick with iron nails, cactus needles or something similar. When the stick is turned over, it produces the sound of falling rain.

Rainsticks may also be made with other common materials like paper towel rolls instead of cactus, and nails or toothpicks instead of thorns and are often sold to tourists visiting parts of Latin America, including the Southern United States.

## References

- Exploratorium Article Make your own rainstick <sup>[1]</sup>
- There is an article in a Peruvian journal, Quepo (Roque & Ramirez 2005. Palos de lluvia y Cactaceas <sup>[2]</sup>), which describes the Peruvian species of cacti used to make these instruments.
- "The Rain Stick" <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Sb7OfXGhUE>
- Moseley, Christine, and Carmen Fies. "Rainsticks: Integrating Culture, Folklore, and the Physics of Sound." *Science Activities* 44.1 (2007): 2-5. Academic Search Premier. EBSCO. Web. 27 Sept. 2011.

## References

- [1] [http://www.exploratorium.edu/frogs/rain\\_stick/index.html](http://www.exploratorium.edu/frogs/rain_stick/index.html)
  - [2] <https://share.acrobat.com/adc/document.do?docid=08a48f5c-079b-46a4-9a1f-595b2aa5aed5>
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# Article Sources and Contributors

**Rainstick** *Source:* <http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?oldid=454715597> *Contributors:* 2help, Alan Liefting, Alansohn, AmadeusW, Aum, Bawm79, BostonMA, Bumm13, Caltas, Can't sleep, clown will eat me, Christopher, Crazy Boris with a red beard, Dbuckwalter, Erud, EvanSeeds, FordPrefect42, Fusionmix, Gary2863, Gfoley4, GoRight, Goldom, Grm wnr, Gurch, Hooperblob, Impasse, J.delanoy, JForget, Jeff G., John Cardinal, KGasso, Kingpin13, Kuru, Laager, Leonblo, LorenzoB, Lova Falk, Mion, Miqonranger03, MushroomCloud, NuVanDibe, PacificBoy, Pegship, Peperoque, Ravn, Rbraunwa, Reach Out to the Truth, Rufus843, Sadads, Sluzzelin, Smalljim, Snowolf, Sole Soul, Spiritia, SquidThing, StAnselm, Steel, Sud Ram, Syp, The Thing That Should Not Be, Tony Fox, UberScienceNerd, Vancouver Outlaw, Vanished User 8a9b4725f8376, WODUP, WadeSimMiser, Wahoofive, Wimt, 214 anonymous edits

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