

How to make a traditional drum (Djembe)

You will need:

Two clean plastic yoghurt or flower pots of differing sizes
PVA glue and water
Newspaper
Paint brush
Scissors
Parcel tape
Plastic e.g. a piece of plastic bag
Tissue paper in a variety of colours

What to do

- Place the two pots together so that the bases touch (Figure 1).
- Use parcel tape to secure them together firmly (Figure 2).
- Take the plastic bag and draw a circle that will overlap the edge of the pot, by approximately 6cm all around. Cut this out carefully, it will form the drum skin, repeat for the other side (Figure 3).
- Now stretch the plastic over the top of the pot and stick with single layer of parcel tape. The tape should start by being fixed to the pot at one side, and stretch right across the plastic to the other side of the pot. Stretch each additional piece of tape in the same direction each time, keeping the tape and plastic very taut (Figure 4). Do the same on the other side. This will give you a large and a small drum.
- Mix the water and PVA glue together (3 parts glue to 1 part water). Use a paintbrush to coat a section of the outside of the drum with the mixture. Do not put any glue on the drum skins (Fig. 5).



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5

What to do (continued):

- Tear up the newspaper into pieces roughly 6cm by 6cm. You will need enough pieces to cover the outside of the drum.
- Place each piece of paper onto a glued area of the drum and paint a layer of glue and water mixture over it (Figure 6). Repeat this process until the whole of the body of the drum is covered in a layer of glue-soaked newspaper. Remember to leave the drum skins at the top and bottom clear of glue and paper (Figure 7).
- Leave to dry. Once dry, this layer will strengthen the drum and provide a good surface for painting. You could decorate your finished Djembe by painting it or by using glued-on tissue paper shapes (Figure 8).



Figure 6



Figure 7



Figure 8