

As you will hear, the longer the tube, the lower the pitch — the shorter the tube, the higher the pitch.

Start by clicking your mouse on each drum head (below). Then, choose a song and start playing. The sounds you hear were produced by playing each drum by hand. If you would like to make this instrument, just follow the directions below.

Building a 5-note set of Melodic Tube Drums

Begin by getting approximately 10 feet (3 meters) of 2-inch diameter ABS pipe.

	<u>Inches</u>	<u>Centimeters</u>	
Bb	27 3/4	70.4	1
C	24 5/8	62.6	2
D	21 5/8	55.0	3
F	17 13/16	45.2	5
G	15 7/8	40.3	6

1) Cut the tubing into the five sections listed on the left.

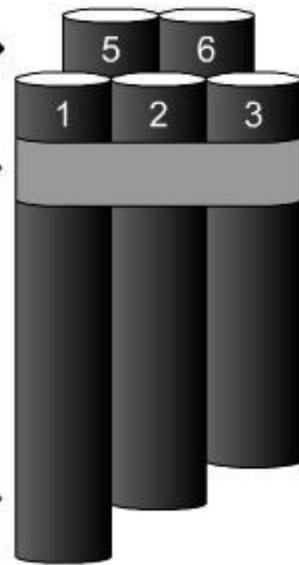
2) Cut five 2-inch circles from a rectangular plastic baby wipe container.

3) Glue a plastic circle on top of each tube — allow the glue to set.

Glue plastic circles on the top →

Glue tubes together and wrap tape around →

Open holes on the bottom →



4) Arrange tubes 1, 2 & 3 over a piece of duct tape that is 30 inches (76 centimeters) long. Apply a drop of glue between each tube in line with the duct tape.

5) On tubes 1-3, apply drops of glue (in line with the duct tape) where 5 & 6 will make contact. Carefully place tubes 5 & 6 on top of tubes 1, 2 & 3. Position tubes 5 & 6 to be 1-inch (3 centimeters) higher than tubes 1, 2 & 3.

6) Apply a drop of glue between tubes 5 & 6, and tightly wrap the duct tape around the 5-tube set — allow the glue to dry before moving the instrument.

7) After the glue is completely dry, hold the instrument under your left arm and play with your right hand. Quickly strike/tap the drum heads (plastic circles) near the center to produce the best sound — as shown below.

