

Wednesday Ping Pong Music

Rather unsurprisingly, Tamboo Bamboo was in turn banned and so the workers made music with whatever they could lay their hands on. This included drums made from biscuit tins. The players noticed that where the biscuit tins had become misshapen, they played different notes or pitches, and so they actively began to hammer out different areas of the biscuit tin, so as to produce two distinct notes. This became known as "Ping Pong" music. Eventually, different Ping Pong bands would compete with each other to see who could produce the largest number of different notes from a biscuit tin drum.

See if you can find an old biscuit tin, baked bean tin, soup tin or sweet tin **and hammer the left hand side of the bottom of** the tin, leaving the right hand side as it is. You will now have two different tones or notes to play: one will sound high, the Ping note, the other low, the Pong note. Using small beaters, you can now use your biscuit tin drums to play the examples of Ping Pong music in the diagrams below.

Rhythm 1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Ping	rest	Pong	rest	Ping	Ping	Pong	rest

Rhythm 2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Ping	Pong	Ping	rest	Ping	Pong	Ping	rest

Rhythm 3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Ping	rest	rest	Pong	Ping	rest	rest	Pong

You can repeat these exercises round and round, remembering to keep counting even beats and not to play when it says "Rest".

You can also try different combinations of three rhythms playing together and you can also experiment by making up your own mixes of Pings, Pongs and Rests. Write them down or send a photo or video of you playing your biscuit tin.