

Tambourine

The **tambourine** is a musical instrument in the percussion family consisting of a frame, often of wood or plastic, with pairs of small metal jingles, called "zills". Classically the term tambourine denotes an instrument with a drumhead, though some variants may not have a head at all. Tambourines are often used with regular percussion sets. They can be mounted, for example on a stand as part of a drum kit (and played with drum sticks), or they can be held in the hand and played by tapping or hitting the instrument.

Tambourines come in many shapes with the most common being circular. It is found in many forms of music: Turkish folk music, Greek folk music, Italian folk music, classical music, Persian music, samba, gospel music, pop music, country music, and rock music.

Contents

History

Playing

- Tambourine rolls
- Thumb roll

In popular music

In classical music

Similar instruments

- Buben
- Daf
- Pandeiro
- Panderoa
- Riq
- Dayereh
- Kanjira
- Tar
- Timbrel
- Rabana
- Rebana

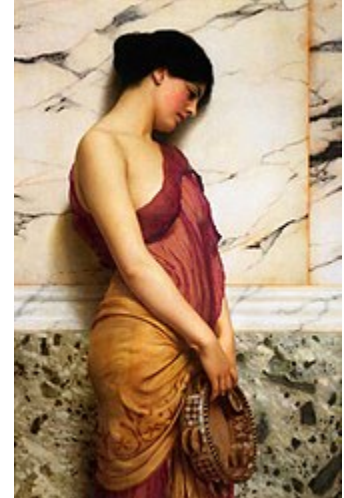
See also

References

External links

History

Tambourine



La tambourine, by John William Godward, 1906

Percussion instrument	
Other names	Riq, Buben
Classification	hand percussion
Hornbostel –Sachs classification	112.122(+211.311, with drumhead) (Indirectly struck idiophone, sometimes including struck membranophone)
Timbre	bright, complex
Volume	medium
Attack	fast
Decay	fast
Playing range	
	High sound of jingles, plus some have a skin with a lower sound.
	high
Related instruments	
	Riq, Buben, Dayereh, Daf, Kanjira, Frame drum

Tambourines originated in Egypt, where they were known as the tof to the Hebrews, in which the instrument was mainly used in religious contexts.^[1] The word *tambourine* finds its origins in French *tambourin*, which referred to a long narrow drum used in Provence, the word being a diminutive of *tambour* "drum," altered by influence of Arabic *tunbur* "drum".^[2] from the Middle Persian word *tambūr* "lute, drum".^[3]



Ancient Greek black-figure pottery depicting a girl playing the tambourine. Bourgas Archaeology Museum.



Woman holding a mirror and a tambourine facing a winged genie with a ribbon and a branch with leaves. Ancient Greek red-figure oinochoe, ca. 320 BC, from Magna Graecia. (Notice the coloured decorative woven stripes hanging on the tambourine, which can still be seen today on "tamburello", the tambourine of Southern Italy.)



Maenad playing a tympanum. Detail from the Roman mosaic from Tunisia (3rd century AD)



Girl playing a tambourine. Detail from Recreation (1896), by Charles Sprague Pearce. Library of Congress Thomas Jefferson Building, Washington, D.C.

Playing

The tambourine can be held in the hand or mounted on a stand, and can be played in numerous ways, from stroking or shaking the jingles to striking it sharply with the hand or a stick or using the tambourine to strike the leg or hip.

Tambourine rolls

There are several ways to achieve a tambourine roll. The easiest method is to rapidly rotate the hand holding the tambourine back and forth, pivoting at the wrist.

Thumb roll

An advanced playing technique is known as the thumb roll. The finger or thumb is moved over the skin or rim of the tambourine, producing a fast roll from the jingles on the instrument. This takes more skill and experience to master. The thumb or middle finger of the hand not holding the tambourine is run around the head of the instrument approximately one centimeter from the rim with some pressure applied. If performed correctly, the thumb should bounce along the head rapidly, producing the roll. Usually, the end of the roll is articulated using the heel of the hand or another finger. In the 2000s, the thumb roll may be performed with the use of wax or resin applied to the outside of the drum head. This resin allows the thumb or finger to bounce more rapidly and forcefully across the head producing an even sound. A continuous roll can be achieved by moving the thumb in a "figure of 8" pattern around the head.

In popular music

In rock music, a tambourine is most often played:

- By lead singers who shake it while they sing – Lead singers such as Mick Jagger, Freddie Mercury, George Michael, Mike Love, Jon Anderson, Jim Morrison, Robert Plant, Peter Dinklage, Liam Gallagher, Gene Clark, Ray Thomas, Trent Reznor, Ian Astbury, Stevie Nicks, Roger Daltrey, Jon Davison, Tyler Joseph, Gerard Way, Florence Welch, Tim Booth, Taylor Momsen, Davy Jones, Nico and Ryan Tedder have all been known to use a tambourine while singing.
- By drummers/percussionists – Drummers such as Larry Mullen, Jr. of U2 mount a tambourine above the cymbals of their hi-hat stand; others mount it elsewhere. Other drummers and percussionists who have played the tambourine include Ringo Starr, Roger Taylor, Hal Blaine, Phil Collins, Charlie Watts, Maureen Tucker, Bev Bevan, Ralph MacDonald, Danny Seraphine, Laudir de Oliveira, Mick Fleetwood, Milt Holland, Paulinho da Costa, Sheila E., Steve Gadd, Airto Moreira, Bobbye Hall, Russ Kunkel, Liberty DeVitto, Nigel Olsson, Luis Conte, Dave Weckl, Steve Jordan, Jeff Porcaro, Neil Peart, Graeme Edge, Dallas Taylor, Don Henley, Emil Richards, Ray Cooper, Crystal Taliefero, Angus MacLise, Alex Acuna, Joe Lala, Nick Mason, John Bonham, Billy Cobham, Ian Paice, Frank Ricotti, Carl Palmer, Bobby Colomby, Tré Cool, Joel Gion

Tambourines in rock music are most often headless, a ring with jangles but no drum skin. The Rhythm Tech crescent-shaped tambourine and its derivatives are popular. The original Rhythm Tech tambourine is displayed in the Museum of Modern Art. Jack Ashford's distinctive tambourine playing was a dominant part of the rhythm section on Motown records.^[4] The tambourine was featured in "Green Tambourine", a busking-oriented song with which The Lemon Pipers, a 1960s musical group, notched a chart selection.

In classical music

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was among the earliest western composers to include the tambourine in his compositions. Since the late eighteenth century it has become a more permanent element of the western orchestral percussion section, as exemplified in some of Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's dance pieces from The Nutcracker Suite. Gustav Holst's seven-movement orchestral suite The Planets also features the tambourine in several places throughout the suite, especially in the "Jupiter" movement.

Similar instruments

Buben

Buben (Бубен in Russian, Бубон in Ukrainian, *boben* in Slovenian, *buben* in Czech, *bęben* in Polish) is a musical instrument of the percussion family similar to a tambourine. A buben consists of a wooden or metal hoop with a tight membrane stretched over one of its sides (some bubens have no membrane at all). Certain kinds of bubens are equipped

with clanking metal rings, plates, cymbals, or little bells. It is held in the hand and can be played in numerous ways, from stroking or shaking the jingles to striking it sharply with hand. It is used for rhythmical accompaniment during dances, soloist or choral singing. Buben is often used by some folk and professional bands, as well as orchestras.



Ukrainian buben

The name is related to Greek language βόμβος (low and hollow sound) and βομβύλη (a breed of bees) and related to Indo-Aryan *bambharas* (bee) and English *bee*. Buben is known to have existed in many countries since time immemorial, especially in the East. There are many kinds of bubens, including *def*, *daf*, or *qaval* (Azerbaijan), *daf* or *khaval* (Armenia), *daira* (Georgia), *doira* (Uzbekistan and Tajikistan), *daire* or *def* (Iran), *bendeir* (Arab countries), *pandero* (Spain). In Kievan Rus, drums and military timpani were referred to as *buben*.

Daf



An Iranian woman playing a frame drum, from a painting on the walls of Chehel Sotoun palace, Isfahan, 17th century, Iran.

A **daf** (دف) is a large-sized tambourine or Perso-Arabic frame drum used to accompany both popular and classical music in Iran, Azerbaijan, the Arab world, Turkey (where it is called *tef*), Uzbekistan (where it's called *childirma*), the Indian subcontinent (where it is known as the *Dafli*) and Turkmenistan. Daf typically indicates the beat and tempo of the music being played, thus acts like the conductor in the monophonic oriental music. The Persian poet Rudaki, who widely used names of the musical instruments in his poems, mentions the daf and the tambourine (taboorak) in a Ruba'i: A common use of tambourine (Daf) is by Albanians. They are often played by women and bridesmaids in wedding cases to lead the ceremony when bride walks down the aisle.

Pandeiro

Originated in Galicia or Portugal, the **pandeiro** was brought to Brazil by the Portuguese settlers. It is a hand percussion instrument consisting of a single tension-headed drum with jingles in the frame. It is very typical of more traditional Brazilian music.

Panderoa

The Basque pandero is a folk instrument currently played along with the trikitixa (basque diatonic accordion) in a duo most of the times. Sometimes the players, who play in festivities to enliven the atmosphere or less frequently at onstage performances, sing along. At times the pandero accompanies the alboka or txistu too. Yet these kinds of duos have not always been the case. As attested in 1923 (<http://www.trikimailua.com/testuak/Trikitiak.htm>), the youth gathered to dance to the rhythm of the bare pandero, with no other music instrument implicated but the player's (a woman's) voice.

Riq

The **riq** (also spelled **riqq** or **rik**) is a type of tambourine used as a traditional instrument in Arabic music. It is an important instrument in both folk and classical music throughout the Arabic-speaking world. Widely known as "Shakers".



Arabic riq



A traditional Central Asian musician from the 1860s or 1870s, holding up his dayereh.

A **dayereh** (or **doyra**, **dojra**, **dajre**, **doira**, **daire**) is a medium-sized frame drum with jingles used to accompany both popular and classical music in Iran (Persia), the Balkans, and many central Asian countries such as Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. It is a percussion instrument, and is something intermediate between a drum and a tambourine.

Kanjira

The **kanjira** or **ganjira** is a South Indian frame drum of the tambourine family. It is mostly used in Carnatic music concerts (South Indian classical music) as a supporting instrument for the mridangam.



Kanjira drums

Tar



Ta'r, Egypt, picture p.366 in Edward William Lane (1860) [1836]. *An Account of the Manners and Customs of Modern Egyptians* (5th ed.).

Tar (Arabic: طار) is a single-headed frame drum of Turkish origin, but is commonly played in North Africa and the Middle East.

Timbrel

Timbrel or **tabret** (the *tof* of the ancient Hebrews, the *deff* of Islam, the *adufe* of the Moors of Spain), the principal musical instrument of percussion of the Israelites, similar to the modern tambourine.

Rabana

A **Rabana** (plural *Raban*) is a one-sided traditional tambourine played with the hands, used in Sri Lanka.



Deff - Tambourine, Palestine, picture p. 579 in W. M. Thomson: *The Land and the Book; or Biblical Illustrations Drawn from the Manners and Customs, the Scenes and Scenery of the Holy Land*. Vol. II. New York, 1859.

Rebana

Rebana is a Malay tambourine that is used in Islamic devotional music in Southeast Asia, particularly in Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei, and Singapore.

See also

- [Frame drum](#)
- [Dayereh](#)
- [Bendir](#)
- [Daf](#)
- [Riq](#)
- [Timbrel](#)
- [Tamborim](#)
- [Ravanne](#)
- [Bodhrán](#)
- [Sistrum](#)

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Redep, a rebana from Palembang, South Sumatra, with its typical red, black, and gold color.

External links

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