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Didjeridoo Workshop

- 1 Cut 40 inch lengths of PVC pipe schedule 40/1" diameter for starters. These generally come in 10 ft. lengths, so 2 cuts will give 3 pipes. Available from any hardware store.
- 2 With metal file or coarse 40 sandpaper, smooth and shape the mouthpiece. Choose one end to work on. Make sure this is well rounded and free of sharp edges. Finish with a finer sandpaper. 60/100
- 3 Exercise:
 - Buzz your lips loosely into one end to create the basic drone.
 - Push your tongue forward to create the high end of the note.
 - Push with your diaphragm to pulse the sound and experiment with rhythm.
 - Focus on shaping your month while buzzing to produce vowel sounds.
 - Throw your voice in while creating the basic drone to mimic animal sounds. e.g. growl like a bear, bark like a dog howls like a dingo, koo ka for a kookaburra sound.
- 4 Circular Breathing: This technique allows you to keep the sound continuous.
 - Puff your cheeks up while doing basic drone to create back pressure.
 - Think of your cheeks as a balloon or reservoir of air.
 - Squeeze your checks instantaneously and or give a short pump of extra air into your cheeks or balloon.
 - At the same instant then take a snatch breath through your nose.
 - Maintain basic drone through this.

Practice this technique with straw and glass of water. Blow bubbles and try circular breathing, keeping the bubbles going. Practice cheek squeezing by filling up your mouth with water then spitting out using your cheek muscles as a pump. Feel the cheek muscles working. Circular breathing can be applied to any blowing instrument-flute, trumpet, trombone, saxophone, bassoon, tuba, etc.
- 5 Cut different lengths of pipe for different notes, for example:
 - E is approximately 40".
 - D is approximately 3 ft. 11".
 - C is approximately 4 ft. 6".

Create your own didjeridoo orchestra. The longer the length the deeper the note. Start smaller lengths then go to longer lengths as your lip develops.
- 6 Try using 1 1/4" diameter or 1 1/2" diameter pipe. These will give you greater volume and resonance. Adjust mouthpiece for these using beeswax. Purchase a block from craft stores, soften it and mould mouthpiece with your fingers in the shape of an oval or ellipse to follow the contour of your mouth.
- 7 Slide Didjeridoo or Doo Bone: Place one length of schedule 40/1" diameter pipe inside 1 1/4". These fit perfectly to allow you to slide the pipes and change the note like a trombone.
- 8 Decorate your personal didjeridoo using acrylic paints. Sand outside of pipe thoroughly using coarse 40 sandpaper and apply basecoat. Follow up with various colors. Traditional colors are red oxide (usually basecoat), yellow oxide, black and white. When complete, varnish to protect artwork.
- 9 Material Costs: Allow \$3/student to be safe. However creative planning can cut this down significantly.