



# Paul Taylor

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## The Lagerphone

The lagerphone is a traditional part of Australian and American folk music. Basically it is a broom handle or branch with beer bottle caps nailed to it; hence the name lagerphone. Each lagerphone should be a unique instrument. This basic design can be modified in many ways. You could use a flat board nailed to the staff or a ring cut from a cardboard tube. Bells, ring pulls (just the ring), bicycle bells and horns, and many other types of noise makers could be added to this design.

### Materials:

A broom handle or dowel 1500mm (5'-6') long  
or a tree wood branch of the same length.

Two or more cross pieces made from 25mm (1")  
dowel or tree wood branches, about 200-400mm (8-16") long.

Numerous (e.g. 100+) crown seal bottle caps.

Half of numerous (e.g. 50+) flat headed 30mm nails.

A scrap of leather or a rubber crutch tip  
to go on the base of the main shaft  
particularly when it is to be used on floors.

### Assembly:

- 1 Design your instrument/lagerphone, lay out the main shaft, and cross pieces, other shapes (such as a ring), bicycle bells, etc.
- 2 Cut the pieces to length and round-off the ends with sand paper. With tree wood, remove the bark and allow to dry for a week or more. Then round-off the stumps of any old limbs with surform or rasp. Smooth the branches with sand paper.
- 3 Flatten the bottle caps, remove liners, and punch a hole in the center.
- 4 Position the bottle caps on the main shaft and cross pieces. Nail them to the dowel or branches in pairs. You may have to drill 1mm pilot holes in very hard wood or branches. Otherwise it will split, particularly if you are nailing them in a straight line.
- 5 Put a notch in the center of the cross pieces and drill a hole for a nail or screw.
- 6 Glue and screw or nail the cross pieces to the main shaft.
- 7 Put the rubber crutch tip or a scrap of leather around the base of the main shaft.

