

To build your plastic didgeridoo, you'll need the following tools:

- Hacksaw
- File
- Sharp knife

To make the didgeridoo, follow these steps (if your pipe was cut at the hardware store, start with step 3):

1. Measure and mark an appropriate length of pipe, between 115-160 cm (45-62 inches) long.
2. Using the hacksaw, cut the pipe. It doesn't matter whether or not you cut the pipe exactly square, though get as close as you can.
3. Use the file and knife to smooth both ends of the cut tube, removing any rough edges and fuzzy stuff left over from cutting.
4. Follow the instructions in [Adding a Mouthpiece](#) to apply a beeswax mouthpiece to the tube.
5. If you wish, follow the instructions in [Tuning a Didgeridoo](#) to tune your didgeridoo to a specific concert pitch.

Cleaning Cut Tubing

After you have cut the plastic tubing to its rough length, it's desirable to wash the tubing inside and out.

Fill a bathtub with enough warm water to completely submerge the tube. Wash the tube inside and out with dishwashing detergent.

To wash the inside of the pipe, fold a sponge over the end of a broom handle (or any rod long enough to extend through the full length of the tube) and tie it securely in place.

Run the sponge on the end of the rod through the pipe several times to remove any dirt from the inside of the tube.

Prepare Your Plastic Tube For Painting

If you want to paint your plastic tube didgeridoo, or simply get rid of the markings which are printed on the outside of the pipe, you will need to sand the outside of the pipe. Paints will not adhere to the smooth plastic surface, and the printing cannot be washed off as it actually penetrates into the plastic.

To sand the plastic surface, use 200 grit wet-or-dry sandpaper. Sand the outside of the pipe by hand, while holding it under water. Doing the sanding under water is very important. The plastics from which the pipe is made have a very low melting point. If you don't do the sanding under water (completely submerged) the sandpaper will fill up (clog) instantly, and the surface of the pipe will gall from the friction heat of the sanding process.

How To Flare the End of a Plastic Didgeridoo

Flaring the end of the tube (the end opposite the mouthpiece) gives the finished didgeridoo a fuller sound, and makes it look more like a finished instrument. (See [Figure 6-1](#) and notice the bell-shaped flare on the white plastic didgeridoo.)

It is best to flare the end of the plastic tube after you have cleaned, sanded, and tuned the didgeridoo.

To flare the end of the plastic tube, you will need:

- A source of heat, such as a propane torch with flame spreader, or an electric heat gun (*not* a hair-dryer)
- A heavy oven mitt or other means to protect your hands from heat, such as a welder's glove
- A heat-resistant object to use as a form for the flare shape, such as a beer bottle (the author likes the small size Martinelli Sparkling Cider bottles and Budweiser bottles for this purpose)

The basic procedure to flare the end of the plastic tube is to heat the tube until it begins to get soft, then press it down over a forming object. Follow these steps:

1. Hold the end of the pipe in the heat, about 6 inches away. If you are using an open flame (such as a propane torch with flame spreader) **DO NOT hold the pipe directly in the flame – the plastic will start to burn, which is very very bad!**
2. Turn (rotate) the pipe continuously, so that the end heats evenly.
3. Use a thick oven mitt or other heat-resistant glove to give the heated end a quick squeeze from time to time to test whether the plastic has begun to soften.
4. When the end of the pipe gets kind of squishy, quickly press it down over the bottle. You'll have to press quite hard. The softened end of the tube will deform over the bottle neck, making the tube flare outwards.
5. Hold the pipe against the bottle with firm pressure until the plastic cools enough to retain the flare shape.

When flaring the end of the plastic tube, keep in mind that you working with open flame and hot stuff. You need to be careful about fire, burns to yourself, and other safety considerations. Do not breathe the fumes that come off the heated end of the pipe.

Source: <http://didjiman.com/didjeridu/didge-make.htm>