

Making a Fizzunkafone

You'll need...

1. Old coke bottles and their lids
2. car tyre valves-one for each bottle (recycled or new from a tyre shop-I paid \$2each)
3. electric or hand powered drill
4. 6.5mm standard drill bit
5. vice grips
6. an electric jug (or stovetop and a pot of water) to make boiling water
7. a cup or thermos to hold the boiling water
8. a spoon to get the bottle caps out of the boiling water
9. a bike pump
10. a couple of lengths of rope about 2m long each
11. a couple of sticks

Useful but not essential

1. a clip on chromatic instrument tuner (\$20 or \$25 on trademe)
2. xylophone beaters with soft felted ball ends make a nice soft tone when playing, otherwise wooden ended beaters, chop sticks or whittled driftwood work too but have a sharper attack-that means a sharper percussive sound followed by the tone

Safety and Playing

There can be a lot of pressure in the bottles so I always choose bottles that are free from cracks, scuff marks and whitened pieces of plastic through crushing or bending.

I've never exploded one but heard of someone doing that on purpose with an air compressor

Experiment with where to strike the bottles. You'll find a spot that when struck creates a more resonant and bell like tone than any other spot.

When inserting the bottles into the drainage pipe ring avoid bending the valve from side to side or you could release some air and lose pressure and therefore pitch.

Experiment with different materials for beaters. Which one produces the sound you like best?

Try a little water inside a bottle. Can you create a different sound like that? How much or little water changes the sound in an interesting way?

The fizza-knafone I play in the video is tuned to notes...

C D E F G A B C That's a C major scale or the white notes on a piano from C to C

You can tune yours to anything you like but you'll discover different sized bottles each have a minimum and maximum pressure that seems to produce a satisfactory sound. At very high pressure you'll notice the plastic start to have a whitened frosty look-I suggest stopping pumping them up at this point and let a little pressure out.

Actually it gets very hard to pump up at that point so you probably won't go that far.