

Charango



SICH100

The Charango belongs to the family of plucked instruments. It was developed in the 16th Century from the Chitarra battente of the Spanish and Portuguese conquerors. Originally the dried shell of an armadillo was used as the resonating body; nowadays it is replaced by a wooden body. Of course this was due to the protection of animals. The construction of a Charango is quite similar to the Guitar but it is much smaller.

The left hand makes the chords while the right hand plucks the five double strings (Nylon) of different thicknesses. They are not tuned in the normal rising height but crosswise. Therefore it is a bit difficult for Guitar players to get used to the Charango.

The rhythmic striking technique is quite common when all the strings are played together as a chord. Either the Charango is held onto the right of the chest or upright onto the right thigh.