

The Kazoo is a simple musical instrument that everyone can play. You will not get far by just blowing in. If you sing into the wider opening your own voice causes a vellum membrane to vibrate. It produces a saxophone like sound like when blowing on a comb. The outcome solely depends on what you put in.

The Kazoo originates from the Mirliton, a traditional African instrument. In the Middle Ages the Mirliton was used too, but then had a totally different form. Our photo shows this old type: it is made from clay, consists of 2 pieces and can have a length of 27cm. The upper part has many holes (to make the sound) and a hole at the side serves as a mouthpiece. The Mirliton resembles an ocarina.

The sound quality varies according to the material. The most common and the cheapest one is plastic, which amplifies the squeaky sound. Kazoos from metal sound lighter and are more stable, but more expensive too. Kazoos from wood are more beautiful and offer a warm soft sound.

It is an ideal instrument for groups of kids and offers activity for their spare time. Maybe you could form a Kazoo choir, to create harmonious play among young musicians. Easy handling and a lot of fun are guaranteed. Just take care of the membrane as that affects the quality of sound, but many types of Kazoo allow the replacement of damaged membranes.