

# Moorambilla Magic Module

## TAIKO

*Artist: Sophie Unsen*

### How to make your own Taiko?

Learn how to make your own 'gomi taiko' by following the instructions below. You can also use a variety of other materials to imitate a taiko for your own practice. This could be as simple as a pillow on a table. You can also use rubber mats, or even an old car tyre.

### How to Make a Gomi-Daiko (Garbage Bin Taiko)

#### What you need:





- Round plastic garbage bin (any size)
- One x roll of good quality packing tape or duct tape
- Small sized Bachi (sticks) - see note below

#### Step One

Apply strip of tape across the opening of the bin. Make sure each strip of tape overlaps the edges by around 20cm. Do the same in the opposite direction to make an x over the opening.



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## Step Two

Apply strips in a spoke pattern, overlapping the width of each strip by half. Apply strips straight across the opening, overlapping the width of each strip by half. Repeat in the opposite direction. By now the opening should be completely covered by tape.







## Step Three

Apply tape around the edge of the bin to hold the overlapped tape in place. Finally, make some sound on your new Gomi-Daiko by hitting in the centre of your taiko with your bachi!



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## Bachi





When choosing bachi (drum sticks) a player must always carefully consider the particular taiko to be played and the style in which it is to be played. Sound production is a very important consideration when deciding which bachi to use and a serious player should have a wide range of bachi from which to choose; length, diameter, weight and density all combine to produce a good sound.

If you are just starting out, you will need to find your own bachi. Some suggestions are crafting your own by purchasing some dowel from a hardware store and sanding these down. Pine is always a good light-weight but strong choice. Remember a good length for your standard pair of bachi is to measure from your elbow to the top of your middle finger. A good length is around approx. 42cm. You could also utilise some found 'sticks' that you can shape and sand, or some kitchen utensils such as a wooden spoon might also be a good start.

In caring for the skins of the taiko it is most important that splintered, cracked or dirty bachi are never used. Clean, smooth, well-maintained bachi are not only good for maintenance of the taiko, but also reflect fine etiquette and respect for the instruments.

(Text on Bachi sourced from *Wadaiko | A Handbook, Ian Cleworth*).

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