Homemade Bodhrán

The bodhrán is a circular wood frame drum from Ireland used in traditional Celtic music. The head of the drum is made of goatskin, which can be tuned by either tightening or loosening the skin when it’s stretched across the frame. The bodhrán can be played with the bare hand, but it is more commonly played with a special kind of drumstick called a tipper.

Here’s a picture of my bodhrán that I got on a family trip to Ireland several years ago.

To make your own homemade bodhrán you will need the following:

- 1 Embroidery hoop
- 1 Pencil
- 2 Arrowhead Cap Erasers
- 2 Pipe cleaners
- Yarn
- Paper
- Decorating Supplies

Bodhráns can very in size and are most commonly 16” or 18” in diameter. Feel free to use any size embroidery hoop you like. I am going to use a 6” embroidery hoop for the
drum frame which is a great size for children ages 3-5 to play on. You can order cheap embroidery hoops at [www.createforless.com](http://www.createforless.com)

1) Decorate a piece of paper with a fun Celtic design. If you’re using a 6” embroidery hoop, print out template on the last page and create your design inside the circle.

2) Separate the embroidery hoop and place the outer part on a flat surface. Take your design and place it over the hoop face down. Next, put the inner part of the hoop on top your design and start to tighten the hoop together. It is very important to keep the paper as tight as possible without ripping. If it is too loose, you will not get a pitch when you strike it with the tipper!

3) Make your tipper with the pencil, erasers and pipe cleaner.

4) Tear away the excess paper and Tie the tipper to the drums with your yarn.

5) Play away! If your bodhrán rips, place a piece of tape on the back and keep going!