

# Making Practice Taiko Drums

Buying a new taiko drum with a head diameter of about 20 inches can cost you roughly \$5000 - \$8,000 in Japan! Even cheaper taiko drums made here in the U.S. can cost about \$800 a pop. Luckily, we have a simpler and cheaper solution if you are just starting out on your taiko journey. For just around \$10, you can make a “tire-taiko” practice drum out of simple supplies in under an hour. It’s a great, lightweight alternative and it allows you to take it anywhere for practice.

## Supplies

1. Standard Car Tire (visit your local tire shop/mechanic for used tires).
2. Clear Packing Tape (1-2 rolls per tire). Duct Tape (*optional*)
3. Scrub Brush
4. Soap



## Instructions

### 1. Preparing your “tire-taiko”

Before you begin, be sure to scrub and wash the inside and outside of your tire with warm water and soap. Tires have oils and grime that can make it difficult for the tape to stick properly. Let it dry for a day then move on to the next step.

### 2. Taping Process

Use clear packing tape to create the first layers of your drum. Apply 4 strips of packing tape along the center of the tire, making them criss-cross. It will look like a wheel spoke. Be sure to pull the packing tape as tight as you can, well over to the far side of the rim of the tire to add strength and durability. Continue taping until you divide the tire into 8 equal pie sections. Turn the tire around and do the same thing.



### 3. Criss-Crossing

Continue to apply more tape to fill all gaps and spaces. After many criss-crosses, you will start to see the center thicken, to form the tire-taiko “sweet spot.” Test the sound by tapping the center. Remember to be generous with your tape! Additional layers of tape will add strength to the head and will also deepen the sound.

### 4. Reinforcement

Finally, let’s reinforce the rim of your new tire-taiko with additional tape or duct tape to hold down the edges to prevent any tape from unraveling. Start at the center of the tire tread and loop the tape all around the edge. Overlap with 2-3 more strips.

