



tin foil theremin

charles matthews 2019 / instrumentmaker.org

1 Plug the Touch Board in

Plug the Touch Board into a power bank and speaker.

Make sure the power switch is on.

2 Test the sound

Touch the electrodes.

Sound plays

Light flashes

Troubleshooting

Doesn't work? No problem, that's why we needed to test it!

Go back to step 1, and make sure the speaker is on. Is the power bank empty?



A Theremin is an instrument that can be played without touching it.

In this activity, we will use a Touch Board to make our own Theremin-style instruments out of foil.

3 Connect crocodile clips and tin foil

Make a tin foil shape.

Clip one end of the croc clip onto the tin foil.

Clip the other end of the croc clip onto an electrode.

Each electrode has a different sound.

We can connect up to 12 croc clips at once.

4 Measure the tin foil's sensitivity

Sound stops

Light glows

Push hard!

Press the reset button on the Touch Board.

Don't touch the foil for ten seconds.

The Touch Board is measuring what is nearby..

5 Make some noise!

Move your hand near the foil to play music.

The sound should get louder when you are closer.

Use the cards on the table to think of different ways to play the foil!

Troubleshooting

Does the sound keep playing, even when you're not anywhere near the instrument?

Make sure the crocodile clips and tin foil aren't touching each other. If there's no sound, try a different crocodile clip.

