

# MAKE YOUR OWN CANJO KIT

Assembly  
Instructions



  
Annalise's  
Crafts

Hello!

Thank you for buying the “Make Your Own Canjo Kit!”

We discovered this fun musical instrument on a family vacation in the Smokey mountains. After building several for my family, my Dad and I designed and built this kit for a school event.

The kids LOVED building these and their parents sent us photos of them playing them. We decided that we should offer these kits for others to enjoy.

We hope you have as much fun building and playing yours as we did!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Annalise". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letter 'A' being particularly large and stylized.

Annalise

ps. If you have ANY questions about your new canjo kit, please feel free to contact us through our Etsy shop, Facebook page, or via email.

Etsy: <https://www.etsy.com/shop/AnnalisesCrafts>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/jarominguitars>

Email: [hello@jaromin.com](mailto:hello@jaromin.com)

# What is a Canjo?

The canjo is a stringed musical instrument with the same basic components of a guitar or banjo (where it gets its name).

The key distinctions of a canjo are its simple design, single string, and *diatonic* frets. In simple terms, this means that your canjo will play the equivalent of the white keys on a piano – the 7 notes of a major scale.

The Appalachian mountain dulcimer features this same diatonic scale, though are typically constructed with 3 or 4 strings.

This is in contrast with the guitar's chromatic frets which include the intervals of both the white and black keys on a piano keyboard.

Your canjo kit features an extra 6<sup>th</sup> fret that gives it the ability to play in 2 *different* keys – or just add an extra *accidental* to allow for more songs!

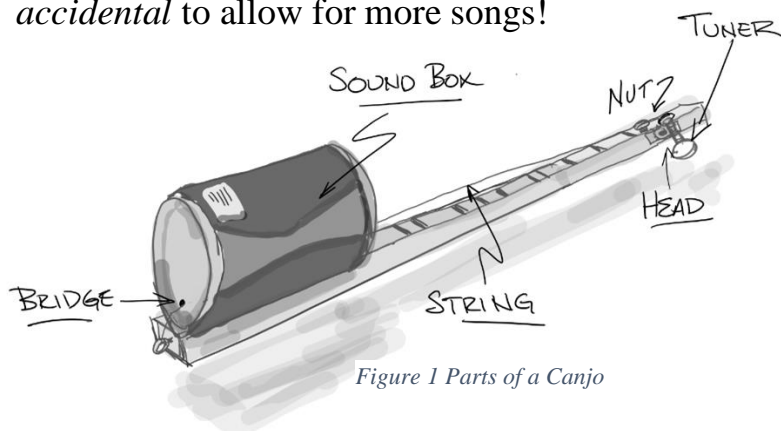


Figure 1 Parts of a Canjo

# Kit Contents

Your “Make Your Own Canjo Kit” includes:

- Fretted Canjo “stick” body
- Tuning machine
- (2) small phillips screws for tuning machine
- (1) #6 phillips screw “nut”
- (1) screw eye



Tools you will need:

- Can opener (manual)
- Hammer & nail
- Hot melt glue gun
- Phillips head screwdriver (#1)

# Step One: Preparing the Can

Using a manual safety can opener, remove the top of the can. Be careful to cut through only the top and not the sides of the can with the opener. It may be easier to hold the can on your lap loosely between your legs as you slowly turn the opener handle.

Next, clean out the can in the sink to remove any remaining contents or residue. Set aside on a paper towel to dry.



*Figure 2 removing the top*



*Figure 3 Poke a hole in the bottom*

Use the hammer and nail to poke a small hole in the bottom of the can. The hole should be located just above and as close to the ridge as possible. This will act as the *bridge* for your canjo.

# Step Two: the Nut

Locate the #6 3/8" screw in the parts bag. This is the largest of the 3 screws in the bag – and the only one of its kind.

Position the canjo stick fret side up and locate the single pilot hole nearest the large hole at the top.



*Figure 4 Installing the nut*



Insert the #6 screw into the pilot hole and use your Philips driver to screw it in *most* of the way down, leaving the bottom of the head about 1/8" above the stick.

Align the longer slot so that it runs parallel to the sides of the stick. The string will ride in this slot.

*Figure 5 Aligning the nut*

# Step Three: Tuning Machine

Insert the tuner into the side hole as pictured.

Align the holes in the tuner with the pilot holes in the canjo body.

Locate the two small screws in the parts bag and use them to attach the tuning machine as shown.



*Figure 7 Insert tuning machine in side hole*



*Figure 6 Install screws with Phillips #1*

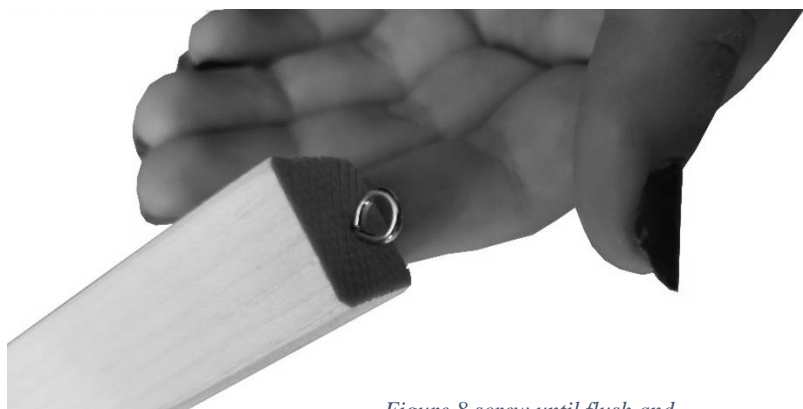
## Step Four: Tail Piece

The tail of the canjo holds the string at the opposite end of the tuning machine. This is a simple screw eye inserted in the end.

Locate the 1/16" pilot hole at the end of the canjo opposite the tuning machine. Hand screw the screw eye into the hole all the way in, leaving the opening facing up as shown.



*Figure 9 Insert screw eye into end*



*Figure 8 screw until flush and oriented properly*



# Step Five: Attach the Can

Carefully apply hot glue the top of your canjo behind the strum area (the curved cut-out in the top).

Press the can into the melted glue with the bridge hole from step one aligned at the

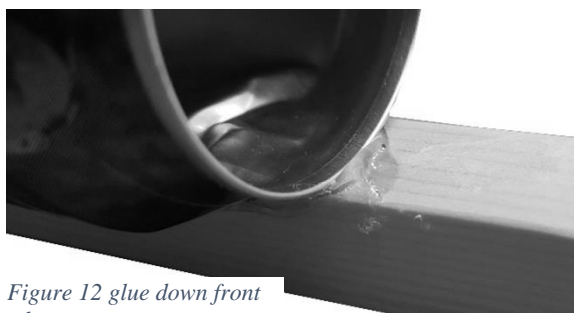
bottom and back end of the stick, just above the screw eye. Be sure to align the bottom of the can with the bottom of the canjo stick.



*Figure 11 Applying the hot melt glue*



*Figure 10 bottom of can aligned with bottom edge of canjo*



*Figure 12 glue down front edge*

Glue down the front edge of the can securely to ensure the string doesn't hit it when pressed down.

# Step Six: String it up

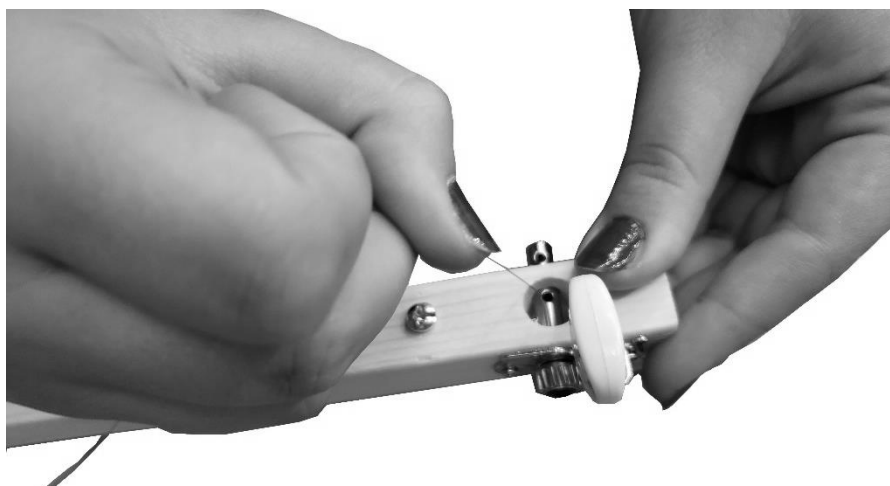
Now it's time to string it up and try out your new canjo!

Carefully uncoil the string and feed it through the eye screw and hole in the bottom of the can as pictured.



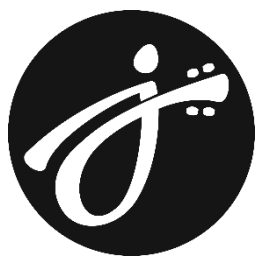
*Figure 13 feed string through eye*

Then feed it into the hole in the tuner and turn the tuner clockwise until the string is tight. If you've got a piano or tuner app, tuning to "D" is a good choice.



*Figure 14 turn tuner clockwise to tune*





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