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techkeen · Mar 11 · 1 min read



Thumb Picks

I just *love* my kalimba. If you haven't heard of the instrument, it's like a pocket piano which you play with your thumbs. Just throw it into your backpack at the beginning of the day, have an adventure, relax somewhere and play. It's easy to learn, and you can advance to more difficult tunes. Kalimba is just the perfect instrument for those on-the-go, travelers, and anyone who loves the idea of the harmonica, but do not love the idea of putting something dirty in your mouth.



Problem: I like to tinker. So my nails are always breaking. The nails on my thumbs are resilient, but they tend to break with the wear of life and the added stress of being used as tools and picks. I could probably benefit from biotin. I have it, I just remember to take it maybe once a month.

Solution: Thumb picks. They're just picks meant for guitar players, I believe. There is a box of guitar picks here, so I'll just bend them to shape.

Method:

1. Take two picks of matching density;
2. Heat the middle lightly with a torch lighter. Keep the lighter far enough away to avoid boiling the plastic;
3. Lightly bend the plastic to around 90°. Let cool;
4. Put it how to you thumb, and decide where and at which angle to put the supporting bend (goes over thumb for support. This is optional. I might cut this part off mine);
5. Heat the second bend, bend, let cool;
6. Test the fit and make any adjustments required.

For now, I have been using electrical tape to fasten them to my thumbs. I like it because it holds well, it is easy to untie, and at most 3 kuai a roll, it is perfect. I always have a roll in my bag.

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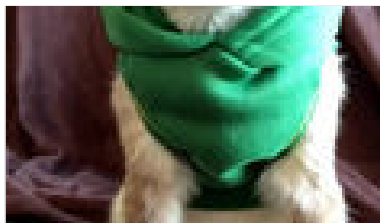
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