

Shakere



1. Choose a dried gourd and wash it thoroughly. Use warm water and detergent with a steel brush or scrubber to remove the dirt and mold. A gourd covered in mold is normal, it grows during the two year drying process.



2. Use wood stain or shoe polish on a paper towel and coat the gourd thoroughly to give it a pretty color and gloss, and to help protect it.

3. Cut a piece of cotton string 6 feet long and thread 30 beads onto it, pushing them to the center of the string. Depending on the size of the gourd, you may use fewer, or more beads, but it must be an even number. You're creating a collar, a loop, to go around the neck of the gourd from which all the other strings will be tied. Tape the string to a clipboard spreading out the beads.

4. Cut more string to hang from the collar. If you used 30 beads, you'll need a string for every 2nd bead, cut 15 strings that are at least six times longer than the height of the gourd. Err on the side of having the string too long. If it's too short, you'll work for hours and then it'll be useless. If the string is too long, you can always trim it when you are done. The strings will probably be about 4 feet long. Coat the ends of the string in glue so they won't fray as you knot them.

5. Fold the string in half and put the loop under the collar, two beads to the right of the collar's knot. Feed the two loose ends through your loop and pull tight. The two halves of the string will hang down from the collar. Repeat this procedure every two beads. Remove from the clipboard and see if it fits the top of the gourd. Add more beads and strings or remove some to make it fit just right. I should be smaller than the fattest part of the gourd, but not tight on the skinny neck. There should be an odd number of string sets hanging down. When you tie

the two loose ends together, you then have an even number of strings..



6. Find two strings hanging from any one of the knots. Take the string on the right and thread one bead up onto it, all the way to one centimeter from the knot on the collar. Take a single string from the knot to the right and pinch them together to form a triangle with the bead hanging on the left. Grab the strings now hanging together and tie an overhand knot to form a perfect(ish) triangle. Use the single string left over from the knot on the right and string a single bead on it, continue to tie knots.



7. When you've come around full circle, check over the knots to make sure you've tied even triangles

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all the way around. Adjust and tighten any knots as necessary. This net should hang evenly and loosely from the gourd. If it is tight, make the triangles a little larger. Do not tie the net tightly to the gourd, it must be floppy (not sloppy, though) in order to strike the gourd when it is shaken

8. Start on the next row, this row will create long diamond shaped spaces in the net. Use whatever colors you choose and continue adding rows until you've covered the entire gourd.

9. When you've finished tying beads, simply tie the remaining strings into one big knot. If you choose, secure the strings with a rubber band and then wrap the rubber band in an extra piece of string to make it a little prettier.

10. Hold the gourd by the neck and shake. Happy music making!