

# What is Percussion?

Aside from the human singing voice, percussion instruments are some of the oldest known instruments. Percussion instruments make music by being struck with a hand or mallet, like drums, tambourines, xylophones, cymbals...even the piano (because it has little hammers inside that hit its strings)!

The clave (pronounced clah-veh) rhythm is very popular in Latin American music. Claves are two small sticks made out of rosewood, ebony, or granadilla. When hit together, they produce a bright, clicking sound. Claves usually play this repeated pattern throughout an entire piece of music, but sometimes people join in on other percussion instruments like the maracas—or even by clapping with their hands!



ham - bur - ger      hot - dog



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