

Instruments of Jordan



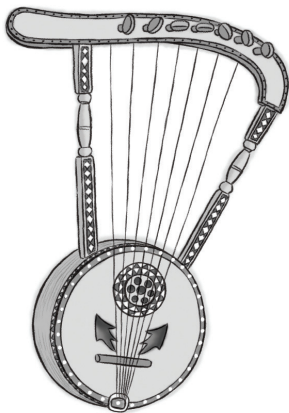
Oud

The oud is a pear-shaped string instrument with a rounded back and a short face. While the oud looks like a big gourd, its body is made from many wooden strips—in fact, its name in Arabic means “wood”! Ten of the strings are paired together—pairs of strings play the same note—with one low string on its own.



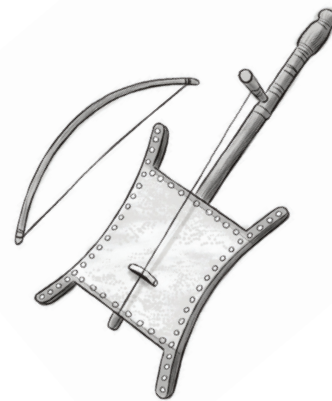
Daf

The daf is a frame drum and is the ancestor of the tambourine. The daf has a heavy frame made of wood and is covered by animal skin (like goat, horse, or cow) with one or more rows of metal rings or chains that create a jingling effect.



Simsimiya

The simsimiya is an ancient plucked musical instrument that is played in Jordan, Yemen, and Egypt and is mostly used as a social musical instrument. It is made of beech wood with steel strings and similar in shape to a harp.



Rababa

The rababa is a single-string fiddle made of several strands of horsehair, wood, metal, and furry skin stretched over a wooden frame. The rababa is played with a bow made of horsehair and is primarily used by the Bedouins to keep them entertained in the desert.