

## LEARN

'Uli'uli rattles are used in Hawaiian hula dancing. Hula performers can hold one or two 'uli'uli rattles by grasping the neck of the rattles, and then shaking and striking them against their bodies as part of the dance movements. Dancers often move a pair of 'uli'uli rattles in front of their bodies in circular patterns, in time with the rhythm of the dance. When dancers move quickly during a fast dance, the feathers on top of the rattles make for an attractive display. Like many musical instruments in Polynesian tradition, 'uli'uli rattles are often made from dried gourds. 'Uli'uli rattles have been used in hula dance for a long time. Legendary English explorer Captain James Cook and his maritime crew are said to have witnessed a hula 'uli'uli dance during their expedition to Hawaii in 1779.

## MAKE



### Materials

- 6" wooden dowel
- 3" plastic ball
- Short piece of chenille stem
- Two paper discs, one cut with 2 holes in center and one without
- Double-stick tape
- Plastic beads
- Six sheets of round tissue
- Stapler
- Duct tape (1" piece)
- Rubber bands

### Instructions

1. Cut a small "X" opening on each side of the plastic ball.
2. Push a few (5–10) plastic beads through one of the holes making sure they stay in the ball.
3. Push the dowel through one cut hole on one end of the ball and out through the other end.
4. Wind a rubber band on the end of the dowel to act as a stopper.
5. String chenille stem evenly through holes in the paper disc.
6. Position tissue paper circles in the middle of the circle with the chenille stem and staple all together.
7. Use double-stick tape to secure other paper disc on the uncovered side, or top of the tissue paper circles.
8. Twist the pipe cleaner around the dowel and secure with duct tape.
9. Cut the tissue edges up to the disc, all the way around the circle.
10. Fluff the tissue and shake your 'uli'uli!

## SEE



Visit MIM's Oceania Gallery and see the 'uli'uli rattles in the Hawaii display.





## LISTEN

Check out Hula Hālau 'O Kamuela's performance with 'uli'uli rattles: [here](#).





## PLAY ALONG

**Listen** to a traditional Hawaiian instructor talk about and demonstrate the instrument. Basic techniques are provided so you can try them too!





### 'Uli'uli pattern 1 FRONT:

1	2	3	4
			
Down	Down	Down	Down





### 'Uli'uli pattern 2 OUT:

1	2	3	4
			
Down	Down	Down	Down

### 'Uli'uli pattern 3 IN:

1	2	3	4
			
Down	Down	Down	Down









### 'Uli'uli pattern 4 FOLLOW:

1	2	3	4
			
Down	Down	Down	Down



# INSTRUMENTS! 'ULI'ULI

'Uli'uli pattern 5 FOLLOW:

1		2		3		4	
							
Down		Down		Down		Down	

Make up your own 'uli'uli pattern:

1	2	3	4

1		2		3		4	
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

### LEARN MORE

Learn more about choosing the right 'uli'uli by watching [Mike Kop, an instrument maker](#).

Read more about traditional instruments from the [Ka 'Imi Na'auao O Hawai'i Nei Institute](#).