

..... a great idea for Ambassador groups

How to Build a Kazoo Band

This is transforming a regular Kazoo (available at any toy store and in bulk from Pricilla See below) into a clown band by using recyclable containers for sound and decorating it with color tape, paint, flowers, or feathers. There is no limit. It would make a great entrance for some of those stage situations we ambassador clowns get ourselves into. Pricilla gives us some tips on how to conduct these mad happenings.

by *Pricilla Mooseburger*

A kazoo band has been one of my favorite clown activities for many years. I enjoy it so much because I get to perform with my students!

I started it years ago when I needed a performance bit for the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary. They wanted to be clowns in our upcoming Centennial parade for my home town of Maple Lake. It worked well and has followed me to clown Camp, Mooseburger University, then Moose Camp, Moose Camp Caravans across the country. I have been lucky to perform with this idea at regional and International conventions, as well.

1) Go to the dollar store and use your imagination. Also a craft store can be a great resource. I usually get 3 feet of hose per student, if they are making the garden hose French Horn type. If you want to get away from the expense of garden hose you can save money by using recyclables. Liquid detergent for clothes and dishes come in great colorful bottles.

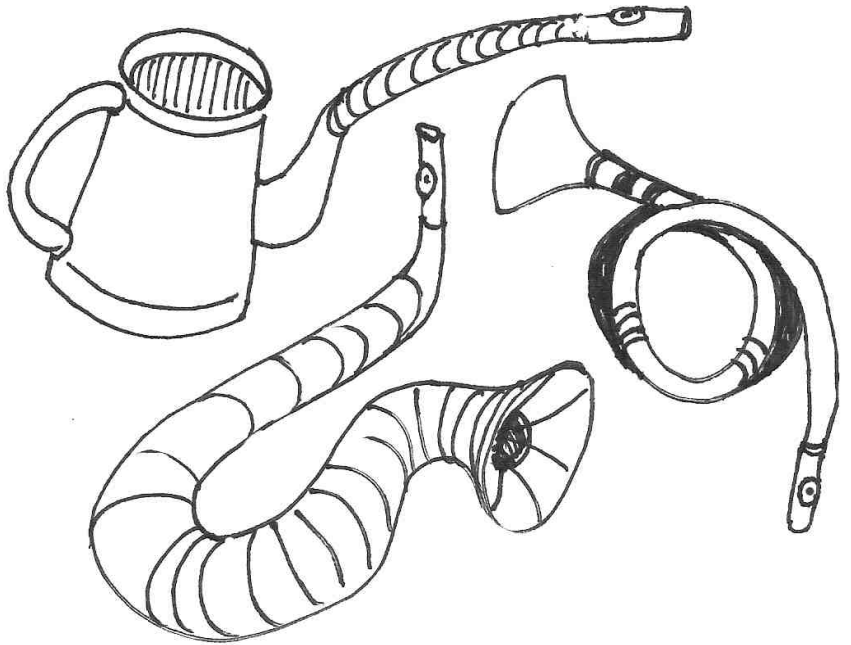
Get a Fostners bit from the hardware store to drill out the hole for the funnel.

It works great on plastic and is a lot less dangerous than anything else I have tried! Funnels can come from the dollar store or automotive section of discount stores. I use colored electrical tape for added decoration, but you can also use contact paper and stickers.

2) Here is my list for Kazoo band. Be creative and add some of your own favorites. Local university fight songs, whatever tickles your turkey! Warm up with *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star* or *Mary had a Little Lamb*.

1. When the Saints (clowns) go Marching In!
2. Oscar Meyer Weiner Song
3. It's a Small World After All
4. I'm Looking Over a Four Leaf Clover
5. It's a Grand Old Flag
6. I'm a Yankee Doodle Dandee
7. God Bless America
8. 76 Trombones (kazoos!)

To conduct the band, I always sing a few notes of the song first. It helps everyone get close to the same pitch. Then I count off 1 2 3 and begin. I tell the group the important thing is to start together and finish together. Everything in between is gravy!



Use one meeting to introduce the idea. That way you can get help with recyclables and craft supplies that folks may have in their homes collecting dust. Make a list and pass it out. The next meeting is for making the horns. Have at least two examples, one with the hose and one with the recyclable bottles. You can tell them about the rest.

Give folks half an hour to build. They do not have to finish them. They can finish at the end of the class or take them home for more embellishment. Use the other half hour to practice the songs sitting down. Run through each song two or three times. Get everyone to stand up and play. Add some fun moments like bending the knees on a slide note or leaning to the left gradually and then back to the right.

You can also practice marching in place. Marching into the performance area is always fun. Clap to the beat or play a tune. Practice depends on how involved your group wants to get and how many songs you want to do. I can get it all done in an hour. However, you will want to plan two different meetings for sure just for the fun of it.

As the conductor you can have fun with a long glove coming out of your sleeve, a funny baton like a decorated plunger or toilet brush. Try some jokes in between songs. One of the band members can stand up and tell a knock knock joke. The rest of the band can answer in unison. Make sure they laugh together at the corny blow off. Tell a joke, play a song, do a quick skit if you have one, play another song. Be sure to add Flag wavers for the ones in your group who can't play. (Don't laugh! There is always somebody!) It is nice to give them an option.

Percussion is always helpful. Some one to just bang out the beat on a kids drum is helpful. Nothing fancy it just gets folks confused. I like to finish with God Bless America.

When we do a parade it is fun to add flag bearers and pompom girls. In Clown Town they are nice enough to supply a Clown Color Guard! They march with inflatable Crayola crayons! Remember the more the merrier!

I like metal kazoos because they are louder and more durable. But a good quality plastic one will do. I order colored plastic tape in large quantities. I can sell you kazoos and colored tape. By the dozen 48.00 High quality metal kazoos Colored tape red, yellow, royal, green, orange, lavender. They are good sized rolls like the size of masking tape and an inch or so wide. You could get by with one color of each roll. Call the office for availability 1-800-973-6277 www.mooseburger.com