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# A Changui-Style Ensemble



Tres

Marimbula

Bongo

Flam Flam

Maracas

Guiro

# The Guiro

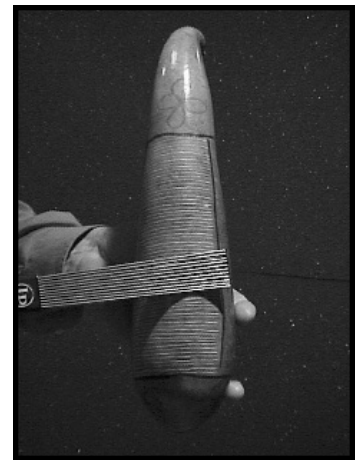
## (Guira, Guicharo, Guayo, Rayo)

These are all names that have been given to the different types of guiros throughout the years. I'm sure there are probably more names. Instruments in Latin countries are many times given names because of their shape, sound, and makeup. In this chapter, we will be discussing the common guiros that are used in various cultures. All of these guiros have the carved ridges or grooves in common.



The Afro-Cuban guiro traditionally is made from a gourd and is a fragile instrument. This guiro is used in Cuban traditional music such as danzón, cha-cha-cha, guajira, charanga, and others. The ridges are fairly wide and a little far apart. This type of guiro is played with a small thin stick. Today, we find some of the guiros made of plastic with a plastic stick as the scraper.

Another type of guiro also made from a gourd is one used commonly in Puerto Rico. This guiro is smaller in size than the Cuban guiro. The ridges are very narrow and very close to each other. Also, a wire scraper is used to make the sound rather than a stick. This guiro is used in Puerto Rican traditional music such as plena, danza, bomba, jibaro (country) music, and others.



The Dominican Republic also has a guira. This instrument is made out of metal, and rather than ridges the metal is shaped in a cylindrical manner with hundreds of small round indentations (see photo). This particular guira has become very specialized, and hearing what some of these players have achieved is amazing.

This type of guira also uses a wire scraper similar to the Puerto Rican scraper and is used primarily for the rhythm of merengue.

As I always say in my clinics and books, once you have learned the basic patterns played on these instruments, make up your own and try these instruments in different styles of music— pop, rock, funk, and so on.

