

Instruments Used In Western Style Music



Fiddle - Informal name for a violin. A four-stringed instrument played by drawing a bow across the strings and held under the chin.

Mandolin- A teardrop shaped instrument from the Lute family of instruments. Originally they were designed with 6 strings and plucked like a guitar. Typically today they have 8 strings and are played with a pick.



Guitar - Typically made with six strings and constructed of wood, this ancient instrument can be plucked or played with a pick. When the strings are plucked, the vibration resonates in the hollow body, causing the sound.

Bass Fiddle - The largest and lowest pitched string instrument, it can be played with a bow or plucked. Also called a double bass or a contrabass.



Cello - Part of the Violin family of instruments, typically has 4 strings and played with a bow. Like the bass fiddle, it is played while seated.

Banjo - Typically 5 strings, the banjo evolved from instruments created by African slaves that they had been familiar with in Africa. Today the banjo is typically associated with country, folk and bluegrass music.



Harmonica - A free reed wind instrument played by blowing air in and drawing air out of the holes, or reed chambers, causing a vibration which creates sound.

