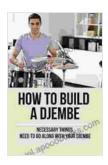
How to Build a Djembe: A Complete Guide

The djembe is a West African drum that is traditionally made from a single piece of wood, with a goatskin head. It is a popular instrument for drumming circles and other musical gatherings, and it is also used in traditional African music.

Building a djembe can be a rewarding experience, and it is a great way to learn about the instrument and its construction. In this guide, we will provide you with step-by-step instructions on how to build a djembe, from choosing the right materials to assembling and finishing the drum.

The following materials are required to build a djembe:



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by Walter Trobisch	
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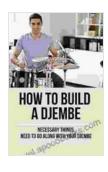


- A log of wood, approximately 24 inches in diameter and 36 inches long
- A goatskin

- A metal hoop, approximately 22 inches in diameter
- A piece of rope or twine
- A sharp knife
- A chisel
- A hammer
- A drill
- A saw
- A sanding block
- Wood glue
- A finish (optional)
- Choose the right log of wood. The best wood for building a djembe is a hardwood, such as mahogany, oak, or ash. The wood should be free of knots and other defects.
- Carve the body of the djembe. Use a sharp knife to carve the body of the djembe from the log of wood. The body should be approximately 24 inches in diameter at the base and 18 inches in diameter at the top. The height of the body should be approximately 36 inches.
- 3. **Drill a hole in the bottom of the body.** The hole should be approximately 1 inch in diameter and 2 inches deep. This hole will be used to attach the goatskin to the body of the djembe.
- 4. Attach the goatskin to the body of the djembe. Soak the goatskin in water for several hours to soften it. Then, stretch the goatskin over the bottom of the body of the djembe and secure it with rope or twine.

- 5. Attach the metal hoop to the body of the djembe. The metal hoop should be placed around the top of the body of the djembe, approximately 2 inches from the edge. Secure the metal hoop with rope or twine.
- 6. **Tune the djembe.** Use a hammer to tighten or loosen the rope or twine that is securing the goatskin and the metal hoop. This will change the pitch of the drum.
- 7. **Finish the djembe (optional).** You can finish the djembe with a variety of finishes, such as paint, stain, or varnish. This will help to protect the drum and give it a more finished look.

Building a djembe is a challenging but rewarding experience. By following the instructions in this guide, you can create a beautiful and unique instrument that will bring you years of enjoyment.



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