

**Percussion Instruments from Africa****Donno (the talking drum)**

This instrument is characteristic of Ghana. It consists of a hour-glass shaped hollow wood, with a skin stretched on either side. These two skins are attached together with strips of skin, which as the drum is placed under the arm, are stretched and released to alter the pitch of the sound from the drum. The instrument is played with a hook-like wooden beater.

**Balafon (the xylophone)**

The xylophone is a common instrument in African music. It is rudimentary xylophone, consisting of either a five or a seven note scale made out of hard wood. Underneath these flat pieces of wood are gourds which act as resonators.



## Percussion Instruments from Africa

**Axatse** : This is a rattle made from seeds or beads which are woven and attached to a net. This net is in turn stretched around a hollow gourd. When shaken this instrument produces a sharp loud sound. This dry rattling sound gives energy, rhythm and colour to the music it accompanies.



Characteristic of African music are the different drums which create and accompany the different rhythms of the traditional African music. Such drums are the Sogo and the Kidi.

**Gankogui and Atoke**: These are metal bell-like instruments, usually attached in pairs, with one instrument being larger than the other. These instruments come in different sizes and are struck with a wooden or metal rod. They are usually used for the same purpose in the music they are playing.

