

# Make your own Tin-Can Telephone

## Materials:

- 2 tin cans (soup cans work well)
- Can opener
- Sheet of thin, strong paper
- Pencil
- scissors
- 2 thick rubber bands
- 30 feet of thin, strong string
- Sewing needle
- 2 toothpicks



## Directions:

1. Remove the label and both ends from the cans.
2. Make sure both cans are clean.
3. Place one can on the sheet of paper and trace around it with a pencil.
4. Draw a second circle 1 inch larger around the first circle. It's okay if it isn't perfect.
5. Cut the larger circle out with scissors.
6. Repeat steps 3, 4 and 5.
7. To fit the paper circles over your can, cut slits about 1 inch apart around the outer circle. Be careful not to cut into the inner circle.
8. Center the circle over the end of one can and fold down the edges. Hold the circle in place with a rubber band. The paper should fit as tightly as possible; like the head of a drum.
9. Thread one end of the string through the needle.
10. Push the needle through the center of the paper. Reach into the can and carefully pull the needle through.
11. Remove the needle and tie the string around a toothpick. You may have to break the toothpick to make it the right size.
12. Repeat steps 7-11 for the other can.
13. Your telephone is now ready to try. Hold one can while your partner holds the other and walks away from you until the string is taut. Be careful not to pull too hard. Make sure the string is straight; if it touches another object the vibration that transmits the sound will be blocked.
14. One person talks into their can while the other person holds their can up to their ear to hear what their partner is saying.