



Whistling Dakota style

*I got a wooden whistle
and it wooden whistle;*

*Then I got a steel whistle
and it steel wooden whistle;*

*I got a tin whistle,
and now I tin whistle.*

- Anonymous



You won't need either the steel or the tin whistle if you build this wooden one. Not only will it sound good, but you can determine the pitch too.

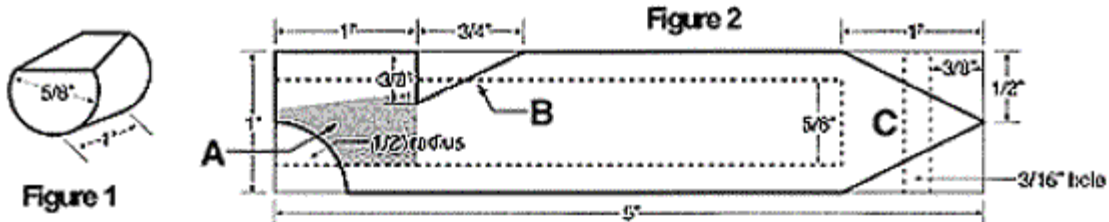
Have fun making wooden whistles. They make great gifts for your friends. They are also a great scrap box project and can be made from almost any kind of wood. Recommended native woods include aspen, basswood, cottonwood, and ponderosa pine.

Tools and Materials:

pencil; tape measure; scroll or coping saw; drill; sandpaper; glue

- 1 inch piece of 5/8" dowel
- 1" x 1" x 5" whistle blank

Plans: Making a Wooden Whistle



Directions:

Because of the cutting involved in this project, ask an adult to help you.

Cut a 1: length of 5/8" diameter dowel and sand a flat slope on one side so you'll have an air hole about 1/8" wide (see Figure 1 above). Apply glue and insert the dowel into the end of the whistle block with the flat side up. (see diagram)

Now measure 1 inch from the end and again 3/4", and lay out the "blow out" hole. It should be a V-shaped hole about 3/8" deep (see B of Figure 2.)

Next, lay out a half inch radius mouth on the plugged end and, on the scroll saw or band saw, cut out the radius to accommodate your lower lip, and the V-notch for the "blow out" hole.

Optional: drill a 3/16" hole and bevel the other end of the whistle. You can slip a cord through the hole and wear the whistle around your neck.

Sand all edges smooth and give your whistle a try. You can vary the pitch of your whistles by using blanks with different length holes. The deeper the hole, the lower the pitch.

Optional: Apply nontoxic stain or finish.