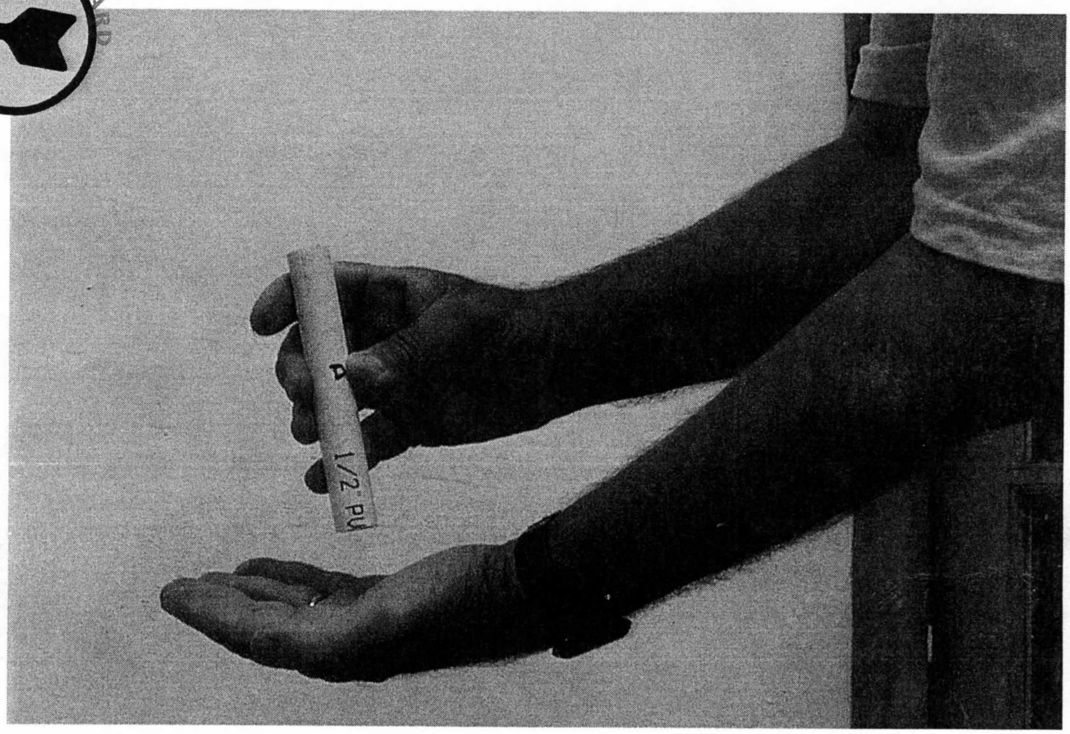
Palm Pipes

Make music that's entirely out of hand.

If you bang the open end of a piece of PVC pipe against the palm of your hand, you'll make a musical sound. The frequency, or pitch, of the sound depends on the length of the pipe. Based on this simple but significant fact, you can make instruments for your own pipe band. You'll find it surprisingly easy to play some simple songs.



Materials

- PVC shears or hacksaw (Inexpensive PVC shears are amazingly handy for cutting PVC pipe and can be bought at hardware or home improvement stores; if available, an electric band saw, chop saw, or table saw makes the job of cutting many pieces of PVC go even faster.)
- $\frac{1}{2}$-in PVC pipe, about $6\frac{1}{2}$ ft (2 m) long
- centimeter ruler
- sandpaper (if necessary)
- permanent marker pen
- some friends