

Porotiti (or Kōrorohū)

A porotiti (also known as a kōrorohū) is a spinning disc or humming disc - a disc with two holes through which a string is threaded and used to make the disc spin.

The porotiti, usually made from wood, is often beautifully shaped and ornamented, which can be spun on twin cords to create a mysterious humming accompaniment to singing or other music.

A porotiti is an example of a taonga puoro - a musical instrument.

Ko ngā reo o ētahi o ngā taonga puoro i ahu mai i ngā tangi o ngā ngārara, o ngā manu, o ngā wai, o ngā rākau me ngā hau o te taiao.

The voices of the musical instruments come from the sounds of insects, birds, the water, trees and the winds of the environment.

The examples in this photo below from Te Ara are made from wood, pounamu (greenstone) and bone.



<https://teara.govt.nz/en/music/42171/porotiti>

How to make your own porotiti



You will need a piece of thick cardboard cut into a circle (a coffee cup is a good size), and a metre of string. Decorate your circle using felt pens or crayons.

>Make two holes in the centre of the cardboard. Thread the string through and tie the knot

>To spin, hold it loosely with your index fingers through the loops at either end. Twist it around until the string becomes very twisted. Pull the string tight and the cardboard will spin and hum

How to play a porotiti

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WTaOHSsaocw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qykEirPksnA>

