

Bomba and Plena Instruments

Both bomba and plena use percussion instruments, the family of instruments that are played by striking, shaking, or scraping. In what way are the two sets of instruments the same? How are they different?

Bomba Instruments



Barriles are large, barrel-shaped drums.



Cua sticks are any wooden sticks played on the sides of a smaller barril drum.



The maraca is a shaker, typically played by the lead singer.

Plena Instruments



Panderetas are hand drums that look like tambourines without the jingles. From largest to smallest, they are the sequidor, the segundo, and the requinto.



The güícharo, or güiro, is a gourd that is scraped on its side with a stick.