

PLAY A GLASS ARMONICA

MATERIALS

- ✿ Wine or water glasses with a bowl shape (use glass, not crystal)
- ✿ Water
- ✿ Your finger

Fill a wine glass halfway with water. Clean and dry your hands. Then wet your index finger—your finger should be really wet. Lightly rub your wet finger around the wine glass rim in a circular motion. Keep rubbing your finger around the rim until the glass starts

“singing.” Can you feel the vibration of the glass? What pitch do you hear?

Pour a different level of water into another glass and repeat the experiment with your wet finger rubbing around the rim. How does the amount of water affect the sound?

Sound is made through vibrations. The friction from your finger makes the glass vibrate. Water makes the glass vibrate less. Less water equals a higher pitch, and more water equals a lower pitch. The size or thickness of the glass itself can also affect pitch.

