

## PREPARATION MATERIALS

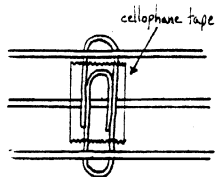
Please note that not all examples are illustrated. Space has been left for the reader to make any sketches necessary to recall the preparations as they appear on the reader's instrument.

### A. METAL

**1. Nuts and Bolts.** One or more small bolts can be clamped onto a string by pinning the string between the head of the bolt and a nut. A low gong sound is produced.



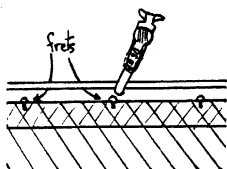
**2. Nails, Hairpins, Paper Clips, and Screws.** Any of these materials can be woven between three or more strings to produce a "steel drum" sound. If necessary a small piece of tape can be used to keep them from working themselves free during playing.



**3. Alligator Clips.** These versatile items are available in a variety of sizes and either with or without teeth. They can be clamped onto any string to produce a very clear gong of definite pitch.



If a clip is placed directly over a fret it can produce a snare drum effect by rattling against the fret when the string is plucked.

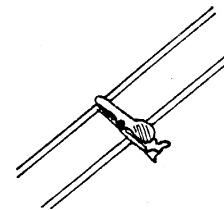


A very satisfying "rattlesnake" sound can be created by attaching a small clip above a fret that is near the nut (usually the third or fourth fret and the first or second string work best) and then suddenly bringing the string into contact with a fret near the string's midpoint. When the string is so activated, the clip rattles against the edge of the fret in a steadily accelerating buzz. Even among clips of the same size and type, some will produce better rattles than others, so the preparer is advised to try several clips before making a final decision.

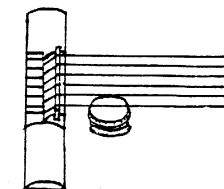
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### Alligator clips (continued)

A bouncing sound resembling that of a dropped ping-pong ball can be achieved by attaching a clip to a wound string and letting it lean by gravity against another string. When the latter string is plucked, the clip bounces against it.



**4. Aluminum bottle cap.** When a threaded aluminum cap from a quart-sized bottle is lightly pinned between a string and the soundboard, the flexible, rounded top of the cap will cause the string to buzz like a sitar string. By carefully adjusting the position of the bottle cap a surprisingly haunting sound with great sustaining power can be obtained. Caps of varying sizes should be tried in order to determine which provide the preferred sounds.



*NOTE: any plastic gaskets that are attached to the cap should be removed in order to allow the cap to vibrate freely.*

**5. Metal Wire.** A soft buzzing sound can be produced by looping a short piece of wire around part of another object, such as an alligator clip. Pieces of wire can also be looped directly around a string, but will have a tendency to move along the string unless they are held in position by masking tape "leashes" connecting them to another part of the guitar.

**6. Safety Pins.** Small safety pins can also be used to produce buzzing sounds. They can be closed loosely around a string and then anchored, as in the previous example, with a thin leash of masking tape.

