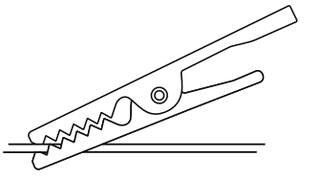
Preparations

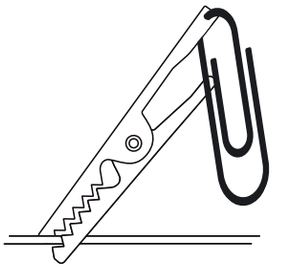
1. Alligator Clip "Wobbled Gong"

A 2.5 cm three-toothed alligator clip is clamped onto the string near the bridge and another is clamped over the fretboard to create a wobbled gong sound. They should be attached to that they do not bounce against any other strings when activated, which would cause unwanted sounds. However, a large wobble effect (causd by the sway of the clip up and down after the string is activated) is desireable. The clip that is placed above the fretboard should never come in contact with the fret wire (unlike the "Rattlesnake, No. 8 below); rather, it should remain suspended above it.



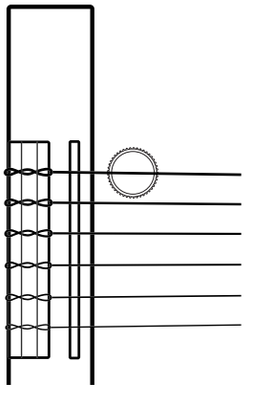
2. Alligator/Paper Clip "Wobbled Gong with Fuzz"

A metal paper clip, 2.5–3.0 cm in length, is threaded through the circular hole at the top of an alligator clip and the clip is clamped onto the string near the bridge to create a variation of the Alligator Clip preparation (No. 1). Optionally, a thin metal washer (0.5 cm diameter) can be placed around the paper clip and allowed to dangle freely to increase the rattle. This preparation should be attached to the string in the same manner as No. 1; however, the extra weight of the paper clip with washer will both shorten the wobbled sound and add a tambourine effect.



3. Screw Cap "Sitar"

A plastic or aluminum screw cap from a quart-size bottle will buzz like a sitar when placed between the low E string and the soundboard. Try caps of varying sizes to obtain the longest and smoothest sustain. The author has found that a plastic Hansen's juice cap works best for his guitar, but because the action of the strings varies with guitars, some experimentation is necessary. If an aluminum cap is used, place a slip of paper between the cap and the soundboard to avoid damaging the finish of the guitar.



4. Bread Tie "Gong"

A plastic bread package fastener is cut into a suitable shape and attached to a treble string to create a gong-like or Javanese Kenong sound. After a tie is chosen, cut it into a circle or octagonal shape, approximately 1 cm across. Then pierce it in the center, either with a tiny drill bit (using a pin vise) or a hole punch to provide a "seat" for the string, then slit it with a sharp knife from the edge to the pierced hole. Then the tie can be placed onto the string; when it is in place, you will hear a snap, indicating that the tie is secure.