



A found object, in an artistic sense, indicates the use of an object which has not been designed for an artistic purpose, but which exists for another purpose already. Found objects may exist either as utilitarian, manufactured items, or things which occur in nature. In both cases the objects are discovered by the artist or musician to be capable of being employed in an artistic way, and are designated as "found" to distinguish them from purposely created items used in the art forms.



- Found objects are often used in music, often to add unusual percussive elements to a work.
- Their use in such contexts is as old as music itself, as the original invention of musical instruments almost certainly developed from the sounds of natural objects rather than from any specifically designed instruments.
- The use of found objects in modern classical music is often connected to experiments in *indeterminacy* (chosen by chance) and *aleatory* music (chance music *alea* = dice) by such composers as John Cage, although it has reached its ascendancy in those areas of popular music as well
- Some music artists credit found objects on their tracks.
- Found objects have occasionally been featured in very-well known pop songs: "You Still Believe In Me" from the Beach Boys's *Pet Sounds* features bicycle bells and horns as part of the orchestral arrangements.



- Shawn "Clown" Crahan from the metal band **Slipknot** who **beats a beer keg with a baseball bat** to the beat of the song.
- The Dodos** also played a **garbage bin** as a part of their percussion gear.
- Wall of Voodoo** drummer Joe Nanini would commonly use **pots and pans** instead of conventional drums.
- ***Many street drummers- what do they use and why?!
- The band **Neptune** uses **VCR-casings, scrap metal** and all kinds of other found objects to create **experimental musical instruments**.
- The use of found objects in music takes one of two general forms: either objects are deliberately recorded, with their sound used directly or in processed form, or previous recordings are sampled for use as part of a work (the latter often being referred to simply as "found sound" or "sampling").
- With the improvement and easy accessibility of sampling technology since the 1980s, sampling (and sampling found sounds) has flourished and is a major component of much modern popular music, particularly in such genres as hip hop.

John Cage:

- What era of classical music was he from?
- What were his beliefs about music?
- 4'33" and "Waterwalk" (what musical elements/ideas did he use in these compositions?)
- Describe his personality by using what you observe from the videos of him

John Cage-inspired Composition

- at least 1 minute long
- you must time your piece using a clock, stopwatch, cell phone timer, etc
- must use at least 2 found sounds
- every person in group must join performance in some way
- must write down outline for piece