Tudor instruments



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The Viol, or Viol da gamba, was played with a bow and initially held on the lap or between the legs. It had six strings rather than the usual 4 that modern string instruments have. There were different sizes and ranges, and the surface was often highly decorated.



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The lute was a wooden stringed instrument, similar to an acoustic guitar. It had six to thirteen strings and a round body and short fretboard. The head was also bent back to allow extra tension on the strings. The sound hole could be decorated to add artistry and individuality to the instrument.







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The rebec was another wooden stringed instrument with one to five strings. It was smaller than the lute and played with a bow. The body was narrow and shaped like a dew drop with a bridge to elevate the strings. Players could hold it against their bodies like a violin or viola.





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Pipe and tabor was a pair of instruments played by a single player, consisting of a three-hole pipe played with one hand, and a small drum played with the other. The tabor hung on the performer's left arm or around the neck, leaving the hands free to beat the drum with a stick in the right hand. You would play the wooden pipe with thumb and first two fingers of the left hand.



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Still very popular today, the recorder is a woodwind instrument, primarily with holes rather than keys.
It comes in a variety of sizes from high-pitched sopranino to low bass.
The sound is produced by blowing gently through the top of the instrument. It comes out through the window at the top of the head piece.
The recorder is often used to play fast, melodic passages. Henry VIII was said to have at least 70 recorders in his collection!

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The hurdy-gurdy was a string instrument that produced sound by a hand-turned wheel. As the player cranked the handle, the wheel would rub against the strings. The wheel functioned much like a violin bow. Single notes played on the instrument sounded similar to those of a violin. Melodies were played on a keyboard that pressed *tangents*, or small wedges, typically made of wood or metal.





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The shawm was a double reed woodwind instrument which was in the shape of a cone. The reeds were inserted directly into the top, similar to a bassoon. The end of the instrument flared out into a large bell, similar to brass instruments. There were many sizes and ranges, allowing musicians to play in entire ensembles of shawms from highest sopranino to great bass, very much like recorders.



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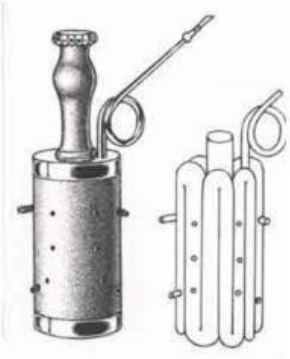


The sackbut was an early form of the trombone, which incorporated a slide to alter the pitch of the notes. The instrument was smaller than a modern trombone with a less pronounced bell at the end. It also had thicker tubing to allow a soft, mellow sound to accompany the higher, harsher trumpets of the day.



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The rackett was a double-reeded woodwind instrument. It had a cylindrical outer casing with nine drilled holes into a long, twisting tubing. This allowed the instrument to be small enough to fit in your pocket while being able to play low and high notes, depending on the fingering. The sound of the rackett was quite loud and buzzing. The family of instruments ranged from high descants to great bass.

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The crumhorn was a woodwind instrument with a double reed which was sealed in the top by a cap. It derived its name from the German for bent horn, or English meaning curved (similar to the shape of a crumpet). The sound was produced by blowing as you would a chanter in the bagpipes and covering the holes. They made a strong, buzzing noise and only had a limited range of notes.







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Questions:

1. How did the Viol produce its sound?
2. How many strings did it have?
3. Which part of the lute was bent back?
4. What was special about the lute's sound hole?
5. What shape was the rebec?
6. What was used to produce the sound?
7. How many holes did the pipe have?
8. Which hand was used to play the tabor?
9. What was the name of the highest recorder?
10. How many recorders did Henry VIII have in his collection?
11. How did the hurdy-gurdy produce its sound?
12. What were the *tangents* made from?
13. The shawm was shaped like a what?
14. What was the name of the lowest shawm?

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15. The sackbut was an early form of which instrument?
16. What allowed it to make more mellow sounds?
17. How many holes were drilled into a rackett?
18. The rackett was small enough to fit into what?
19. What sealed in the double reed of a crumhorn?
20. How could you describe its sound?
21. Do some research on another Tudor instrument. Choose from the following:

Dulcimer Hautboy Lizard Spinet Virginals

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