

**FOI Release**  
***Information released under the Freedom of Information Act***

**Title:** Unusual musical instruments

**Date of release:** 22 October 2018

**Information request:**

I am currently researching the topic of unusual musical inventions. (The music typewriter is an example of what I mean, but I would be interested also in inventions that have been patented but never actually built).  
I was wondering if you have a music invention category in your archives and how would I go about consulting it.

**Information released:**

To identify unusual musical inventions, you'd ideally need to have actually seen them since the very fact that they are unusual would make them very hard to perform a search for. The best we can suggest would be a search of IPC mark G10 (Musical Instruments) on Espacenet, in conjunction with keywords which would not be expected to be included within the abstract of a musical instrument patent application (e.g. toilet seat, shoes, glasses etc).

Below is a list of some examples of unusual musical instrument patents and a link to a website that may be of interest:

GB1009749.1 - 'drum floor' (apparatus for producing percussive sounds using the feet)

GB0804168.3 - Wind instrument having dual mouthpieces located at opposing ends of substantially U-shaped tube

GB1316170.8 - Musical instrument with isomorphic button arrangement, switchable from diatonic to chromatic layouts

GB 1411588.5 - An interactive glove with light sources, switches and an audio facility

GB 0820494.3 - Double sided guitar

GB 1008028.1 - Drum boots (sensor system attached to foot or footwear, sends signal to receiving unit upon movement of foot)

GB 0701624.9 - Drum glove (pressure sensitive pads on fingers of glove for generating drum sounds)

GB 0707146.7 - Combined electric guitar and keyboard ('the bealyboard')

GB 0908708.1 - Percussion instrument (cuboid with faces of different thickness)

GB 0815900.6 - Harp guitar (two guitar necks plus a harp section)

GB 0819564.6 - Percussion instrument - drum with divided walls and transition regions that can be sensed by touch

There is a classification place, G10D15/00 "Combinations of different musical instruments, which is likely to contain some unusual inventions and it only contains 550 documents so could be 'browsed' without using keywords.

Also, this website may be of interest but the instruments featured here are not necessarily the subject of patent applications: <http://www.oddmusic.com/> "Oddmusic is home to unique, odd, ethnic, experimental and unusual musical instruments and resources"