

Folk Instruments of Punjab

■ By Inderpreet Kaur

Folk Instruments of Punjab

Algoza

Gharha

Bugchu

Kato

Chimta

Sapp

Dilruba

Gagar

Dhadd

Ektara

Dhol

Tumbi

Khartal

Sarangi



Alghoza is a pair of woodwind instruments adopted by Punjabi, Sindhi, Kutchi, Rajasthani and Baloch folk musicians. It is also called Mattiyan ,Jōrhi, Pāwā Jōrhī, Do Nālī, Donāl, Girāw, Satārā or Nagōze.



Bugchu (Punjabi: ਬੁਘਚੂ) is a traditional musical instrument native to the Punjab region. It is used in various cultural activities like folk music and folk dances such as bhangra, Malwai Giddha etc. It is a simple but unique instrument made of wood. Its shape is much similar to damru, an Indian musical instrument.



Chimta (Punjabi: ਚਿਮਟਾ This instrument is often used in popular Punjabi folk songs, Bhangra music and the Sikh religious music known as Gurbani Kirtan.



Dilruba (Punjabi: ਦਿਲਰੱਬਾ; It is a relatively young instrument, being only about 300 years old. The Dilruba (translated as *robber of the heart*) is found in North India, primarily Punjab, where it is used in Gurmat Sangeet and Hindustani classical music and in West Bengal.



Dhadd (Punjabi: ਢੱਡ), also spelled as **Dhad** or **Dhadh** is an hourglass-shaped traditional musical instrument native to Punjab that is mainly used by the Dhadi singers. It is also used by other folk singers of the region



Dhol (Hindi: ढोल, Punjabi: ਢੋਲ, can refer to any one of a number of similar types of double-headed drum widely used, with regional variations, throughout the Indian subcontinent. Its range of distribution in India, Bangladesh and Pakistan primarily includes northern areas such as the Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Kashmir, Sindh, Assam Valley



Gagar (Punjabi: ਗਾਗਰ, pronounced: gāger), a metal pitcher used to store water in earlier days, is also used as a musical instrument in number of Punjabi folk songs and dances. It is played with both hands with rings worn in fingers. It is closely associated with the other musical instrument, Gharha, which is an earthen pitcher.



Gharha (Punjabi: ਘੜਾ), also spelled as **Ghara**, is a musical instrument used in the folk music, folk songs, and folk dances of the Punjab region



Ektara ' ਇਕ ਤਾਰ'; literally "one-string", also

called **iktar**, **ektar**, **yaktaro**, **gopichand**, **gopichant**, **gopijiantr**

a, **tun tuna**) is a one-string instrument most often used

in traditional music from Bangladesh, Egypt, India, and Pakistan.

In origin the *ektara* was a regular string instrument of wandering

bards and minstrels from India and is plucked with one finger.



Kato (Punjabi: ਕਾਟੋ), also spelled as **Kaato** or **Katto**, is one of the traditional musical instruments of Punjab. It is used in various cultural activities specially in folk dances like Bhangra, Malwai Giddha. *Kato* literally means squirrel in Punjabi



Khartal is an ancient instrument mainly used in devotional / folk songs. It has derived its name from Hindi words 'kara' means hand and 'tala' means clapping. This wooden clapper is a Ghana Vadya which has discs or plates that produce a clinking sound when clapped together.



Sapp (Punjabi: ਸੱਪ, also known as **Chhikka** (Punjabi: ਛਿੱਕਾ)), also spelled as **Sap** or **Supp** is a musical instrument native to Punjab. It is used with the folk dances Bhangra and Malwai Giddha.¹



sārangī a bowed, short-necked string instrument from India as well as Nepal which is used in Hindustani classical music. It is the most popular musical instrument in the Western part of Nepal, and is said to most resemble the sound of the human voice – able to imitate vocal ornaments such as gamaks (shakes) and meends (sliding movements).



Tumbi or toombi (Punjabi: ਤੁੰਬੀ, pronunciation: *tūmbī*) is a traditional North Indian musical instrument from Punjab. The high pitched, single string plucking instrument is associated with folk music of Punjab.