

Plant Pot Okedo

(slightly more advanced version)

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Presented in collaboration with the South Bay Beat Institute sbbeat.com

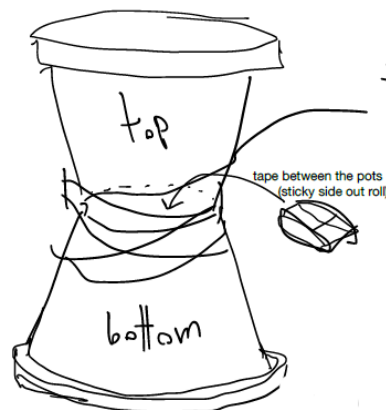
You'll need:

- 2 plastic plant pots (roughly 15 in diameter) - make sure the top edge is sturdy enough to be drilled into and has a lip that curls under
- 3 nuts, 3 bolts, and 6 washers, all the same diameter
- A drill, with a drill bit the same diameter as the nuts and bolts or slightly larger
- 1 large roll of packing tape
- Scissors
- Nylon rope or clothesline, 50-60 feet
- A lighter, matches, or something else to burn the ends of the cord when you cut it
- 2 large keychain rings or lobster clasps
- 1 luggage (or guitar) strap
- A pen
- OPTIONAL:
 - A crayon, piece of chalk, or something similar.
 - An Assistant
 - Screwdriver and pliers, or some other tool you can use to tighten the nuts and bolts.

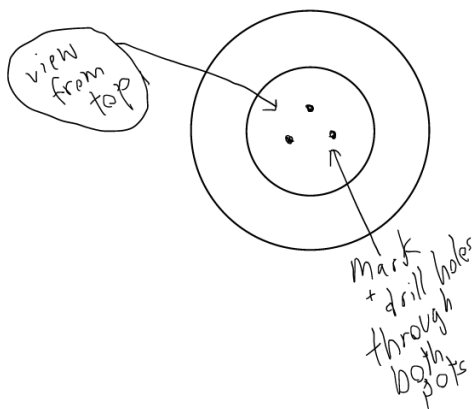
Attaching your pots

1. Turn one of your pots over, and stand the other on top of it so they form an hourglass shape, with the bottom of the pots together.
2. Use tape to secure your pots.

Put a few pieces of folded packing tape between them. Then, wrap a long piece of tape around the bottom of the top pot, slightly overlapping the bottom pot. Wrap a second long piece of tape around the top of the bottom pot slightly overlapping the top pot. Finally, wrap a third long piece of tape around the spot where the two pots touch. The third piece should overlap the first two. (You'll remove the visible tape later.)



tape wrapped around to hold the top + bottom together



3. OPTIONAL: use your chalk or crayon to draw a triangle on the inside bottom of the top pot. (Your bolts will be more precisely placed if you do this, but it's okay to not do it.)

4. Drill a hole through the bottom of the top pot, making sure it goes all the way through the bottom pot as well. If you did Step 3, place this hole at one of the points of your triangle. Note: the hole should be big enough to drive the bolts through easily.

5. Attach your first bolt.



Lay the pots carefully down on their sides, making sure they don't come apart. Prepare one bolt/washers/nut assembly bolt with the bolt-washer in your left hand and the nut-washer in your right. Lefties, switch which hand is doing which job. Put your left hand in the pot on your left and your right hand in the pot on your right. Push the bolt through the hole you drilled. Be patient, you will have to feel your way around if you are doing this on your own. Once you have pushed the bolt through the hole, fasten the washer and the nut in your right hand to the bolt. Tighten by hand as much as possible.

6. Stand your pots back up and repeat steps 4-5 until all bolts are fastened.

7. Stand the pots back up. From inside the top pot, press the bottom of the pot down and and tighten the nut more, if possible. OPTIONAL: Lay the pots on their side again. Find your Assistant. Have your assistant use the pliers to hold the bolt steady while you use the screwdriver to further tight the bolt. BOTH of you should push the bottoms of the pots together while you do this.

8. Place a small piece of tape over each bolt and nuts (a total of 6 pieces of tape).

9. Remove the 3 long pieces of tape you placed in Step 3.

Making the heads

10. Make your drumheads following the procedure on [page 3 of this document](#).

Roping

Note: Roping will make your drum look more like a real okedo, but it won't really affect the strength of your drum. Feel free to skip it. If you do, you'll need to drill holes to attach your key ring/lobster clasps.

11. Cut a piece of your rope that is two inches longer than the height of your stacked plant pots. Use your lighter or matches to burn-seal the end of the rope so it doesn't fray.

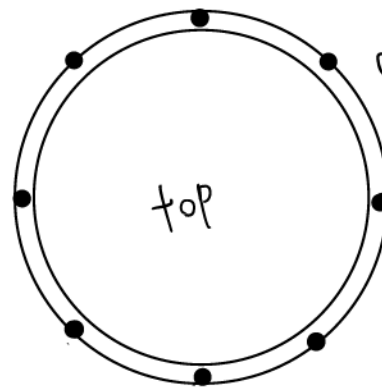
12. Use this rope to find two places on your top drumhead that are exactly opposite of each other. Mark these places with a pen.

13. Drill a hole at each of these marked places.

14. Use your rope to find and mark two more holes that are exactly opposite each other and 90 degrees from the first two holes you drilled.

15. Drill those two holes.

16. Continue measuring and drilling holes until you have 8, 10, or 12 evenly spaced holes on the top drum. (12 will look more like a real okedo, 8 is less work. Your call.)

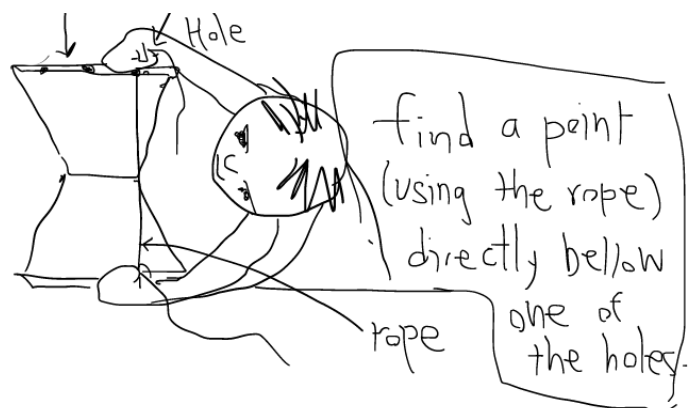


8 hole placement
(if your pots are large you could do 10 or 12)

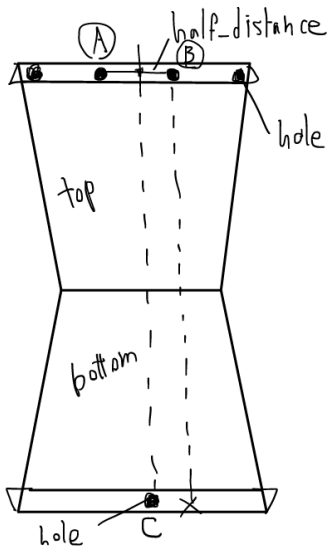
If you follow the next steps correctly, the holes on the top head WILL NOT line up exactly with the holes on the bottom head. That is correct!

17. Use your rope to measure the distance between any 2 holes. Make a small mark on your rope that is HALF of that distance.

18. Flip your drum over or on its side, and place one end of your rope so it is in line with one of the holes you drilled (which are now on the bottom of the drum). Pinch the rope to that hole with one hand so it doesn't slip around. Pull the



rest of the rope up vertically to the undrilled head to a spot that is directly below that hole. Mark that spot with your finger, a pen, or a piece of tape.



19. Find the “half distance” mark you made on your rope in Step 17 and go that distance to the right or left of the spot you marked in Step 18. Drill a hole at this spot. (See diagram.)

20. Use your rope to find a spot exactly opposite of the hole you just drilled. Make a mark, and drill a hole. (This is the same process you followed on the other side.)

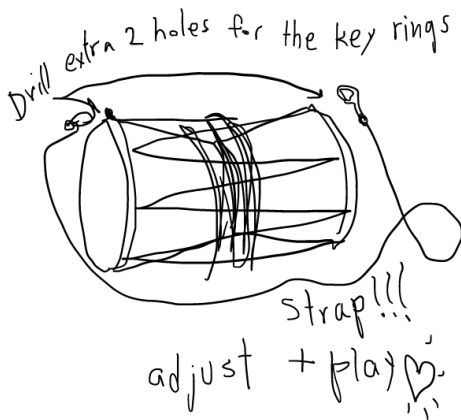
21. Continue marking and drilling holes as you did with the other head until you have 8 or 12 holes drilled.

22. Thread your rope through the holes, mimicking the rope pattern on a typical katsugi okedo. You can stop once you have the zig-zags, since you aren't

actually using the rope to tension the heads. (If you don't know how to do the zig zags, [here's a tutorial](#). If you follow this method, don't pull the ropes tight. You're not using the ropes to tension the head, so they don't have to be tight, and your plant pots probably won't stand up to you pulling the rope very tight.) Once you have gone through all of the holes and tied off one end, wrap the remaining rope horizontally around the body of the drum and tie it off.



Attaching the strap



23. Place the drum on its side. Thread one of your key rings or lobster clasps into one of the rope holes. Follow the rope down and thread the second key ring or clasp through the offset hole on the other side. (You may need to adjust these later)

24. Attach your strap to the rings/clasps.

25. Put on your okedo so the strap is on your right shoulder and the drum is on your left. Adjust the height. The correct height is such that, when you are holding an okedo bachi in your right hand and standing in okedo stance, the bachi naturally lays at the center of the drum (ish).

- by Andrea Malum
2023