

## Basic Audio Theater Sound Effects:

CRASH BOX --made from a metal Christmas popcorn container. This is the single most useful device I have. See my "How to Make SFX" page for details on this and several other items on this list.

OLD DIAL TELEPHONE - and ringer bell box -- the kind companies use for delivery doorbells. Don't bother trying to make the old phone ring--it'll cost for a step down transformer to deliver the 84 volts necessary to engage the phone ring circuit. Just build a \$10 ringer box. (See my "advanced SFX" listing below).

THUNDER SHEET - 2x4 foot 16th inch high-impact polystyrene. Look in your local yellow pages for "Plastics" and call around. It'll cost about \$10.

WALKBOARD - 2x3 foot doubled 3/4 inch plywood for footsteps. Put tile on one side to get a different sound.

SMALL DOOR - Ideally, cut a regular door just after the latch and make a door frame to fit. I'll try to add a "how to make a door" tutorial for a much smaller unit to this site. Check back.

GRAVEL BOX - Wooden drawer-type box with gravel--for horses/dirt. Also, coconuts and short 2x4s as "boots"--with spurs!

CAVEMAN CLUBS -- Large hollow caveman style toy clubs--great for fights and bodies dropping to the floor. Contact Hollywood Toys & Costumes (800) 554-3444. If you call, they can ship them to you. (\$10 each--get two!) Their website doesn't list lots of small items, like phone toys and the clubs

STIFF PLASTIC BAGS - For fire, static, even marching feet.

CLIP BOARDS - For gun shots--but they need a resonator box under them to sound "bigger". I think a metal trash can might be the ticket.

TOY RATCHET - Plastic New Year's noisemaker. Good for handcuffs, winches, drawbridges... ratchets.

VIBRO PEN - A "Dizzy Doodler" pen that writes wobbly--for planes/jackhammers. Turn it on and apply the top (not the pen) to a cardboard box for a convincing airplane. Do the same on a stack of

saucers and you'll have a great jack-hammer. The KB Toy liquidator chain sells them for \$4.

**TOY CELL-PHONE** - For radars, space beeps, even cell-phones! Lately, these have been really hard to find. Contact Hollywood Toys & Costumes (800) 554-3444. If you call, they can ship them to you. Their website doesn't list lots of small items, like clubs and phone toys They also sell toy beepers.

**SLIDE WHISTLE** - Besides eeeeeYOOOP, it can also be quickly slid back and forth for radars and space sounds.

**PLASTIC EGG MARACAS** - for jungles, rattlesnakes, weirdness. You could make some with plastic Easter eggs and rice, but many music stores sell them for \$2 each and those have a finer gravel that sounds very good.

**WIND MACHINE** - also useful for other mechanical sounds--machine guns, cars, rotors. See my "How to Make SFX" page for details on this and several other items on this list.

**TEACUP SAUCERS** - Good "dishes" sound. Apply vibro-pen to two stacked saucers for a great jack-hammer.

**METAL SPOONS/SPATULAS** -- Get a really big pancake flipping spatula and some large metal cooking spoons for great sword fights.

**PLASTIC TUMBLER** - For pouring water. Drop AA batteries in empty tumblers for ice cubes.

**CIRCUIT BREAKER** - A home circuit breaker (the kind that go in electrical panels) gives you that old fashioned, LOUD click of a light switch.

**GLASS SCRATCH** -- A box with a 6x6 inch plate of 1/4 inch thick glass. It has a spring loaded X-brace with spikes in it. You rotate a crank and it scratches the glass. Sounds like a train brake or fingernails on a chalkboard. Yikes!

**DOORBELLS/BUZZER/BELL** -- A wooden box with the typical ding-dong (and single "ding"--for hospital pages) and an office door latch buzzer, and a ringing bell to simulate an old style telephone--4 seconds on, two seconds off.

**CREAKER BOX** - Cotton clothesline wrapped around a dowel rubbed with violin rosin--sounds like a creaking door or thumbscrews. It's rigged in a wooden shoe-box sized thing. Wow!

CREAKER DOWEL -- A 1/2 inch dowel wrapped by a rubber hose with a hose clamp. It's a different kind of creak.

BOING STICK -- A box with a plywood bow that has a banjo string on it. You pluck the string and bend the bow for the famous "Road Runner" cartoon "beeeeyooooooooo" boing sound.

SCREEN DOOR SLAMMER -- a hinged door with a long screen door spring.