

Toys & Games of the Past

Baleros (Cup & Ball Game)

This is a simple, yet surprisingly challenging game, in which the goal is to get the ball into the attached cup.

The game, traditionally referred to as a *balero* in Mexico, consists of a cup attached to a wooden dowel. The cups can range in varying sizes depending on the challenge level of the game. Attached is a piece of string or yarn with a bead or ball attached at one end.



The object of the game is for the player to swing the string or yarn with the attached bead or ball and get the ball to land in the cup. The smaller the cup opening is, the more challenging the objective will be.

**Baleros* are available online.

Materials Needed:

- *Baleros*
- Yogurt cups or small bathroom cups
- 12" bamboo skewers
- Large, round wood beads and a few small beads
- Yarn
- Scissors
- Hot glue
- Colorful duct tape or markers

Make your own *balero* –

Making your own cup-and-ball game can be done easily at home using a small cup or washed paper container, yarn, and some beads.

1. Decorate the outside of your cup with colorful duct tape or markers.
 - a. Duct tape may help to stabilize the cup for game longevity.
2. Pierce the bottom of the cup with the skewer.
3. Cut a 12" piece of yarn and thread it through the bottom hole in your cup. Tie a small bead to the end of the inside of the cup so the thread doesn't fall through the hole.
4. Tie the large wooden bead to the other end of the yarn on the outside of the cup.
5. Pierce both sides of the cup with the skewer and thread it through.
6. (For adults only) Cut the sharp end of the skewer off and hot glue the end so the skewer stays in place.
7. You are now ready to play with your homemade *balero*!