**PURPOSE:** This badge demonstrates that the handler has taught his/her dog to play a musical instrument on cue, using shaping and operant conditioning.

**DOG REQUIREMENTS:** The Art of Shaping badge is a prerequisite for this badge. The dog must demonstrate that he can play an instrument on que using a technique that is different from the one taught to him for the Art of Shaping badge. The dog must demonstrate that he can play multiple notes with one cue and that he can play in different locations. The finished work is demonstrated in a performance of the “All Dog Band” along with at least 2 other dogs.

**HANDLER REQUIREMENTS:** Handler must demonstrate an understanding of operant conditioning and shaping. Handler helps the dog learn to play using the prescribed method. The safety and the physical/mental well-being of the dog must be a top priority. Equipment must be maintained in good condition during training and performance and is returned to the proper location when not being used. Handler must not allow the dog to damage the equipment.

**EQUIPMENT NEEDED:** Some type of “kiddie” or real musical instruments that can be played with a nose poke (like a keyboard) or a headshake (like a maraca or tambourine) is required. Any instrument that closely resembles a real instrument is acceptable. Horns where a ball is squeezed are not allowed as these appear much like a squeaky toy to the dog.

Trial and error may be required to determine the type of instrument that the dog prefers to play. Some dogs like the auditory reward provided by an electronic type instrument and others like to play simple pianos that produce less sound.

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| ALLOWED: | NOT ALLOWED: |
| * Most any type of instrument | * Luring or tapping to get the dog to play |
| * Any behavior that doesn’t use the paw | * A constant chant of, “play…play…play” |
|  | * Random notes or “one note wonders” |
|  | * Any behavior that uses the paw |
|  | * Dog damaging the instrument or showing strong potential for damaging it during play |
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