

# Tam Tam Mini

## About Tam Tam Mini

Welcome to **Tam Tam Mini**! This chapter of the Users manual is about Tam Tam Mini which is part of a suite of four musical Activities for use on the XO computer. Each of the four Activities is a bit different. In general they require increasingly higher levels of musical skill to use.

**Tam Tam Mini** is the simplest of the four Tam Tam Activities but it offers a surprising variety of sophisticated features. It is simple enough to have fun with and suitable for ages 2 -92! Yet, it is complex enough to let you experiment. It can be used by a single XO laptop or more but does not utilize the mesh network.

You can begin by choosing an instrument or sound and experimenting with playing simple scales and songs using the XO's QWERTY keyboard. This manual will help you learn to do that.

For more about Tam Tam Mini, including how to use the Drum Machine and Loops, see the "Fun With Tam Tam Mini FLOSS manual.

**Tam Tam Jam** is more complex than Tam Tam Mini, but still suitable for school age children and adults. It has a different main screen but the same instruments and is designed for performance. You can record small melodic phrases and can combine several customizable loops. You can also share the beat with other XOs through the mesh network.

**Tam Tam Edit** is the basic Tam Tam Activity and must be installed in order to run any of the other Tam Tam Activities. It has much more sophisticated loops where you can choose instruments, pitches and the duration of notes on five different tracks. It offers almost 100 different musical sounds and a limitless variety of musical styles.

**Tam Tam Synth Lab** is a highly sophisticated synthesizer program suitable for advanced work in both music and physics.

## Starting Tam Tam Mini

Select the Tam Tam Mini icon (little drum with drumsticks) from the Favorites View. If you aren't sure you have the right Activity, hover your cursor over the icon for a few seconds and, a little label that says "Tam Tam Mini" will appear.



To select List View, click here



Find the Tam Tam Mini icon in the Favorites View



If you cannot find Tam Tam Mini, change to the List View

Search		Home	Menu
☆	<b>HelloWorld</b>	Version 3	4 years, 3 months ago
★	<b>Finance</b>	Version 6	4 years, 3 months ago
★	<b>FotoToon</b>	Version 10	4 years, 3 months ago
★	<b>Help</b>	Version 13	2 months, 1 week ago
★	<b>Browse</b>	Version 129.1	2 months, 1 week ago
★	<b>TamTamMini</b>	Version 60	2 months, 1 week ago
★	<b>Turtle Art</b>	Version 114	2 months, 1 week ago
★	<b>TamTamJam</b>	Version 60	1 month, 3 weeks ago
★	<b>Measure</b>	Version 34	1 month, 1 week ago
★	<b>Maze</b>	Version 14	1 month, 1 week ago

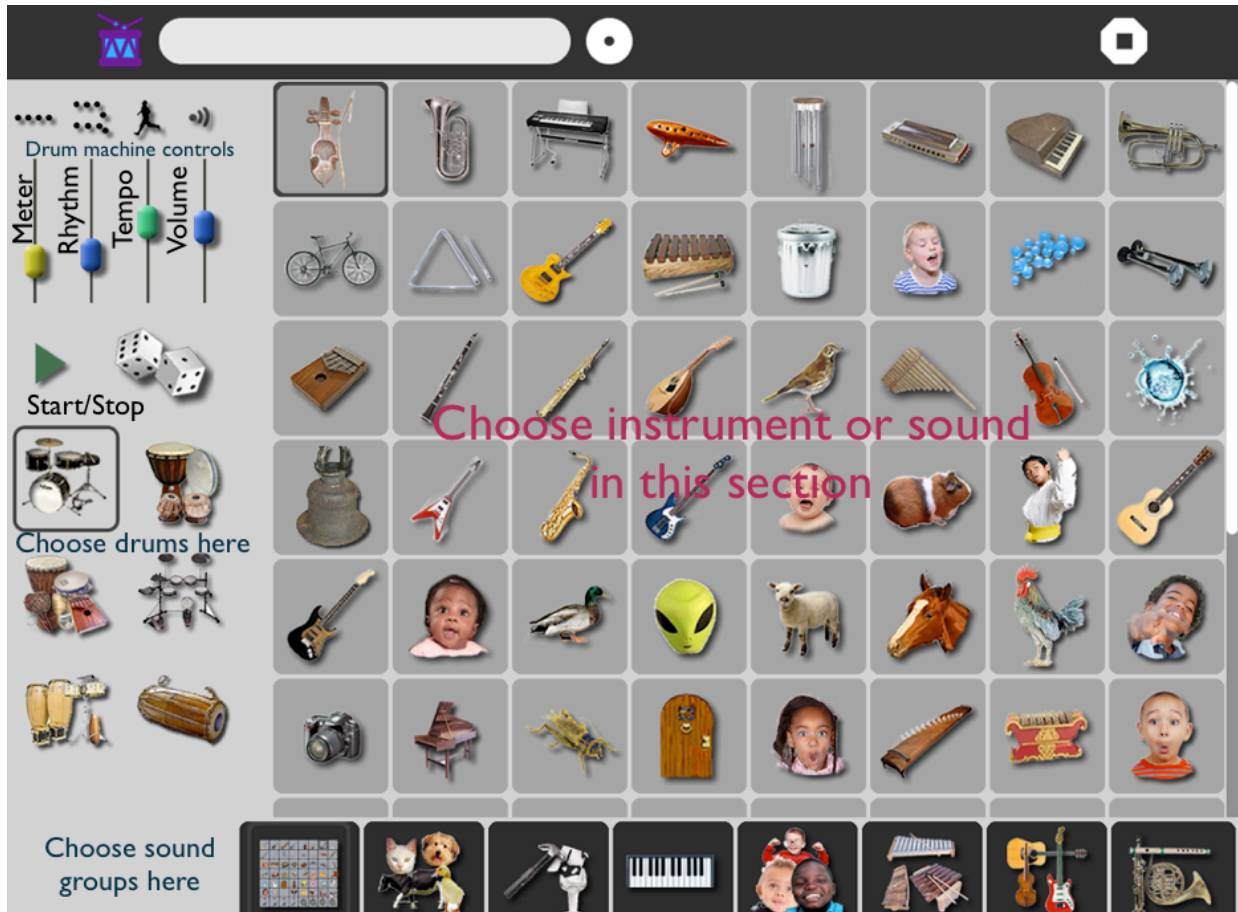
Find the Tam Tam Mini icon in List View

When you find it in List View first check the little star next to the name of the Activity. If it is not filled in, click on the star so you can move it to the Favorites View. In either view, when you find the icon, click on it to open Tam Tam Mini.

## Learning With Tam Tam Mini

### Choosing An Instrument

Tam Tam Mini Main Screen Explained



Tam Tam Mini offers a wide variety of instruments and sounds. Before choosing the instrument you will use in these explorations, take time to try all of the sounds. If you hover your cursor over one of the pictures, the name of the instrument or sound will appear. Click on the picture and you will hear the sound. Clicking again repeats the sound.

After trying all of the sounds, choose the instrument you will use. Please choose a wind instrument or a bowed string instrument to get a sustained sound as you work. Later, after you understand how Tam Tam Mini works, you can play with all of the other sounds. Some instruments that work well for this include the trumpet, flute, violin, or cello. Other wind and bowed instruments will also work fine.

## Introduction To The Keyboard

Tam Tam Mini utilizes the regular keyboard to play the musical notes. This can be confusing to people who have studied music before as the traditional names of the notes will not match the letters, numbers and symbols on the keys. For this reason, we suggest you use a "movable Do" where a major scale becomes Do-Re-Mi-Fa-Sol-La-Ti-Do. Note: Some countries replace the "Ti" with "Si."

## Playing A Major Scale

In most western music a 7 note scale is used and then the names of the notes start over on the eighth note. We call this an octave. Interestingly the eighth note, which has the same name as the first one has exactly twice as many vibrations per second as the first note.

Use the instrument you have chosen to try playing a 2 octave major scale using these keys on the XO keyboard. We have included the Do-Re-Mi syllables for you as well.

(First Octave)

Do Re Mi Fa Sol La Ti Do  
Z X C V B N M ,

(Second Octave)

Do Re Mi Fa Sol La Ti Do

Q W E R T Y U I

Note: "Do" is repeated in the second line. Leave one out if you like. You may also want to practice the scale a bit until you feel comfortable with it.



## Playing A Simple Song

When you feel comfortable playing the 2 octave major scale, try this simple song. We think you may recognize it. The little line added to some of the Do-Re-Mi syllables indicates you hold that note twice as long as the other notes. (Example: Mi\_\_)

Mi Re Do Re Mi Mi Mi\_\_

C X Z X C C C\_\_

Re Re Re\_\_ Mi Sol Sol\_\_

X X X\_\_ C B B\_\_

Mi Re Do Re Mi Mi Mi Mi

C X Z X C C C C

Re Re Mi Re Do\_\_

X X C X Z\_\_

**Challenge:** Play this same song using QWERT for the notes.

**Challenge:** If you have more than one XO player, try with the same instrument but one using the ZXCVB keys and the other using QWERT. Experiment with other combinations of instruments to see how they sound together.

**Challenge:** Chords are formed when 3 or more different notes are played at the same time. This happens when you strum on a guitar, ukulele, or similar instrument. Three or more wind or string instruments can combine to play chords together too. Here are 3 simple chords you can play using the notes you already know. In music these chords also have names based on the steps of the scale the main note is on, this is not always the lowest note. For example, a note with Do as the main note will be called a **I** (Roman numeral one) chord and a chord based on Sol will be called a **V** (Roman numeral five) chord.

Try these:

Sol B La N Ti M Sol T

Mi C Fa V Fa B Mi E

Do Z Do Z Re X Do Q

I IV V I

## Doing More With Tam Tam Mini

### Playing Other Songs

Here is another song already figured out for you to try. It is an old European children's folk song. It was so popular that two famous composers, Mozart and Haydn, both it to use in their music.

**Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star**

Do Do Sol Sol La La Sol\_\_\_\_

Z Z B B N N B\_\_\_\_\_

1 2 3 4 1 2 3\_\_\_\_4

Fa Fa Mi Mi Re Re Do\_\_\_\_

V V C C X X Z\_\_\_\_\_

1 2 3 4 1 2 3\_\_\_\_4

Sol Sol Fa Fa Mi Mi Re\_\_\_\_

B B V V C C X\_\_\_\_\_

1 2 3 4 1 2 3\_\_\_\_4

Sol Sol Fa Fa Mi Mi Re\_\_\_\_

B B V V C C X\_\_\_\_\_

1 2 3 4 1 2 3\_\_\_\_4

Do Do Sol Sol La La Sol\_\_\_\_

Z Z B B N N B\_\_\_\_\_

1 2 3 4 1 2 3\_\_\_\_ 4

Fa Fa Mi Mi Re Re Do\_\_\_\_

V V C C X X Z\_\_\_\_\_

1 2 3 4 1 2 3\_\_\_\_ 4

## Challenges

Try to figure out other simple songs on the XO. Write them down to help you remember the notes and to share them with other people.

If you have enjoyed working with Tam Tam Mini, you can find more information and ideas in the FLOSS manual, "Fun With Tam Tam Mini" which will be available soon.

**Note:** This introduction to Tam Tam Mini has focused on the Major Scale which is commonly used in music with a European heritage. To learn about the Pentatonic Scale, which is used in folk music of almost all cultures worldwide see the FLOSS Manual, "Fun With Tam Tam Mini," where it is included.