

# Mailbag

... I want to share with you a musical craft which was very good for us:  
"Dial a Musical Term."

Materials: Poster boards of various colors

Scissors

Round Head Paper Fasteners (Brads) 3/4" size

Pin and Color Markers

The patterns for "Dial a Musical Term" can be easily made by tracing circles from coffee cans, lids, etc. The front cover needs to be larger than the back circle.\* The treble clef stem can be drawn free hand. Draw and cut out a large window near the center of the circle and a small window near the edge. When punching the hole for the brad, use the patterns to punch each piece separately. Assemble the "Dial a Musical Term" before drawing the terms and symbols.

We chose to draw note and rest values and dynamic markings on our "Dial a Term." Any musical terms that have a definition and a corresponding symbol can be used.

Have the children color the circle with the windows to give it their own personality and identification. Our children drew various color items of nature and music.

I gained this idea from my first grade son who made something similar for a math project. The principle of "Dial a Term" is not original, but I felt it could be effectively used in children's music.

"Dial a Musical Term" has a variety of uses. However you use it, it will help children learn to identify and name note values and dynamics while having fun working with musical crafts.

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\*The back circle rotates, allowing the musical terms and their symbols to appear in the two windows shown in the drawing.

