



What is Tabla?

- The tabla (pronounced tah-bla) is a pair of drums played with the fingers and the palms of both hands.
- A skin is fixed onto the tops of the drums with leather braces and there is a large black spot on each of the playing surfaces.
- The black spots are called siyahi (pronounced see-hi) and are created adding a paste made out of gum, soot, and iron filings. The siyahi give the tabla a bell-like sound when played.

The larger left-hand drum can be made of metal or clay. This drum is called the bayan (pronounced bye-an).



Tabla in action at the Palmerstone Park Bandstand, Southampton

The smaller right-hand drum is usually made of wood. It is called dayan (pronounced die-an) or simply tabla.

If you would like to learn tabla, please contact Lucy at Art Asia on 023 8022 6212 or lucy.jenner@artasia.org.uk