

vuvuzela

The vuvuzela (English pronunciation: /vu?vu?'ze?l?/) , sometimes called a "lepatata" (its Tswana name) or a stadium horn, is a blowing horn up to

approximately 1 m (3 ft 3 in) in length. It is commonly blown by fans at football matches in South Africa. The instrument is played using a simple brass

instrument technique of blowing through compressed lips to create a buzz, and emits (from the standard shorter horn of about 60–65 cm) a loud

monotone (B?3). A similar instrument (known as corneta in Brazil and other Latin American countries) is used by football fans in South America. Very

similar plastic horns have also been a tradition at the Quebec Winter Carnival for many years

Vuvuzelas have been controversial. They have been associated with permanent noise-induced hearing loss, cited as a possible safety risk when

spectators cannot hear evacuation announcements, and potentially spread colds and flu viruses on a greater scale than coughing or shouting. Vuvuzelas

have also been blamed for drowning the sound and atmosphere of football games. Commentators have described the sound as "annoying" and "satanic"

and compared it with "a stampede of noisy elephants", "a deafening swarm of locusts", "a goat on the way to slaughter", and "a giant hive full of very angry

bees".

The sound level of the instrument has been measured at 127 decibels contributing to football matches with dangerously high sound pressure levels for

unprotected ears. A new model, however, announced on 14 June 2010, has a modified mouthpiece which is claimed to reduce the volume by 20 dB.

Origin

This type of plastic horn or trumpet has been used in Mexican stadiums since the 1970s. Originally made out of tin, the vuvuzela became popular in South

Africa in the 1990s. Well-known Kaizer Chiefs F.C. fan Freddie "Saddam" Maake claims to have invented the vuvuzela by adapting an aluminium version

as early as 1965 from a bicycle horn after removing the black rubber to blow with his mouth. He later found it to be too short and joined a pipe to make it

longer. Maake has photos of him in the 1970s and 1980s at local South African games and international games in 1992 and 1996 and at the 1998 World

Cup in France, holding the aluminium vuvuzela. He says the instrument was banned as authorities ruled it a dangerous weapon, which prompted him to

find a plastic company that could manufacture it.

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In 2001, South Africa-based company Masincedane Sport began to mass-produce a plastic version. Neil van Schalkwyk, the co-owner of Masincedane

Sport, won the SAB KickStart Award in 2001.

Vuvuzelas have been said to be based on kudu horn instruments and thus rooted in African history, but this is disputed. During the entire match,

supporters blow vuvuzelas frantically in an attempt to "kill off" their opponents.

In 2005, prominent black South African columnist and former sportswriter, Jon Qwelane described the vuvuzela as "an instrument from hell" that had

caused him to abandon watching live games, and urged that it be banned before the 2010 World Cup.

Origin of the term

The origin of the name vuvuzela is disputed. It may have originated from Zulu for "making a vuvu noise," directly translated "vuvu-ing" because of the "vuvu"

sound it makes, or from township slang related to the word for "shower"

Legal challenge

In early 2010 members of the Nazareth Baptist Church claimed that the vuvuzela belonged to their church, and threatened to pursue legal action to stop

fans playing the vuvuzela at the World Cup.

2009 FIFA Confederations Cup

The vuvuzela came to international attention during the run-up to the 2009 FIFA Confederations Cup and 2010 FIFA World Cup, both hosted in South

Africa. The world football governing body, FIFA, expressed concerns that hooligans could use the instrument as a weapon and that businesses could

place advertisements on vuvuzelas. However the South African Football Association (SAFA) made a presentation that vuvuzelas were essential for an

authentic South African football experience, and FIFA decided in July 2008 to allow vuvuzelas at Confederations Cup. President of FIFA Sepp Blatter

opposed banning the vuvuzela, saying "We should not try to Europeanise an African World Cup." FIFA ultimately decided to allow the instrument for the

2010 World Cup as well, except for vuvuzelas longer than one metre.

Some football commentators, players, and international audiences argued against the vuvuzela during the 2009 FIFA Confederations Cup. During the

match between United States and Italy, BBC Sport commentator Lee Dixon referred to the sounds as

vuvuzela

"quite irritating".

2010 FIFA World Cup

During the 2010 FIFA World Cup, Hyundai and a local South African advertising agency called Jupiter Drawing Room created the largest working vuvuzela

in the world—114 feet (35 m) long—on an unfinished flyover road in Cape Town. The vuvuzela is powered by several air horns attached at the

"mouthpiece" end, and it will be blown at the beginning of each of the World Cup matches.

Controversy

As an annoyance during matches

After the Confederations Cup FIFA received complaints from multiple European broadcasters who wanted it banned for the 2010 FIFA World Cup because

the sound drowns out the commentators. Prior to the event Netherlands coach Bert van Marwijk and Spanish midfielder Xabi Alonso also called for a ban,

the latter saying the horns make it hard for players to communicate and concentrate while adding nothing to the atmosphere.

On 13 June 2010, the BBC reported that the South African organising chief Danny Jordaan was considering a ban of the vuvuzela during matches.

Jordaan noted that "if there are grounds to do so, yes [they will be gotten rid of]" and that "if any land on the pitch in anger we will take action."

During the event many competitors have criticised and complained about the noise caused by the vuvuzela horns, including France's Patrice Evra who

blamed the horns for the team's poor performance. He also claimed that the sound of the vuvuzelas away from the stadiums hampered the ability of the

players to get their rest.[33] Other critics include Lionel Messi who complained that the sound of the vuvuzelas hampered communication among players

on the pitch. and broadcasting companies, who complained that commentators' voices were being drowned out by the sound. Portugal's Cristiano

Ronaldo went on record to state that the sound of the vuvuzelas disturbed the teams' concentration.

Others watching on television have complained that the ambient audio feed from the stadium only contains the sounds of the vuvuzelas and the natural

sounds of people in the stands are drowned out. A spokesperson for the ESPN network said it was taking steps to minimize the noise of the vuvuzelas on

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its broadcasts. There are some that see their use during the performance of the national anthems as disrespectful. Other critics have also noted that it is

seen as disrespectful to be "dismissive of the cultures of the guest team supporters".

During the opening ceremony the announcer had to ask fans using vuvuzelas to be quiet as he could not be heard.

Television viewers in UK are being offered 45 minute mp3 download clips to cancel out the noise of the vuvuzelas during broadcast television matches by

means of "active noise control".In support of the vuvuzela

However other commentators have defended the vuvuzela as being an integral and unique part of South African football culture and say it adds to the

atmosphere of the game. BBC sports commentator Farayi Mungazi said the sound of the horn was the "recognised sound of football in South Africa" and

is "absolutely essential for an authentic South African footballing experience". He also said there was no point in taking the world cup to Africa and then

"trying to give it a European feel". The Daily Telegraph's chief sports reporter Paul Kelso described critics of the vuvuzela as "killjoys" and said they should

"stop moaning".

In response to the criticism, President of FIFA Sepp Blatter commented, "I have always said that Africa has a different rhythm, a different sound. I don't

see banning the music traditions of fans in their own country. Would you want to see a ban on the fan traditions in your country?

Use outside football games

Vuvuzelas also began to be blown at other locations, leading to a ban by some shopping centres. Some World Cup football players complained that they

were being awoken in their hotel rooms by the instruments.[49] Demand for earplugs to protect from hearing loss during the World Cup outstripped

supply, with many pharmacies running out of stock. Neil van Schalkwyk, manufacturer of the plastic vuvuzela, began selling earplugs to fans.

Adapted from information from www.wikipedia.org

www.staidenshomeschool.com 2010