

How Indians produce fire by drilling with a firestick.

The production of fire by rotating or twirling a firestick, between the palms of the hands, or with a string — what is known as the Fire-drill — is yet common among all American Indians, but seems more specially employed in their religious rites. It prevails in spite of all other inventions of the white man, being held sacred, because brought to them by the Firegod of the underworld, who, they said, sent a firefly to the First-man to instruct him how to rotate a spindle in a notched piece of wood, when the firefly ignited the wood-dust at its point with a spark of fire.

Children in play, often roll a firestick between their palms and obtain sparks in from one to two minutes, and sometimes within less than ten seconds, all depending on the dryness and brittleness of the wood, as also on the rapidity of rotating the stick. California Indians and other Southwestern tribes prefer the bark of the redwood (sequoia), cedarwood, or the Yuka tree, being soft and brittle.

Various methods of the fire-drill are in vogue, the quickest, perhaps, being the Bow-drill — a bent staff with a cord fastened at each end and wound around the drillstick, the bow being moved swiftly forward and back. Another way, also operated by a single person, is that of leaning against the top piece covered with a bone or shell-cap, and holding the stick between the knees.

Sometimes two persons will combine to rotate a stick by a string, (called the Bow-string Drill.) In hunting or while on the tramp, Indians occasionally resort to the steel and flint, but seem to avoid the modern match, as an invention of the white demon.

In the singing of this Fire-song, the Mojave-Apache Indian from whom the record was taken, repeated the melody three times, with slight variation in each repetition, during which time he drilled and set on fire sixteen different hearths, all within three minutes, using only the Palm-drill.

No. 9791

Indian Fire-Drill Song

"URU KURU"

(As sung by the Mojave-Apaches, while revolving the Firestick.)

Recorded and transcribed
by CARLOS TROYER.

Introduction.

Allegretto. (Setting the Firestick)

The musical score is written for piano and consists of four systems. The first system is the 'Introduction' in 'Allegretto' tempo, marked '(Setting the Firestick)'. It features a right-hand melody with triplets and a left-hand accompaniment with triplets and a 'L.H.' marking. The second system continues the melody with a 'p mormoroso' marking. The third system features a 'mf' marking and a 'p mormoroso' marking. The fourth system concludes the piece with a final chord. The score includes various musical notations such as treble and bass clefs, time signatures, and dynamic markings.

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Note. The instrumental part of this song may be executed as an independent piano piece.

FIRE SONG.

1. Roll - ing, roll - ing, roll - ing, Keep the fire - stick quick - ly
 U - ru Ku - ru U - ru, U - ru Ku - ru, u - ru

echo. pp
 roll - ing, roll - ing. Roll - ing, roll - ing, roll - ing, Keep the
 Ku - ru, u - ru. U - ru Ku - ru u - ru, U - ru

echo. pp
 fire - stick quick - ly roll - ing, roll - ing. Grind - ing the
 Ku - ru, u - ru Ku - ru, u - ru. Añe - Ka bi -

wood - dust, Smoke a - ris - es, Smoke a - ris - es And the
 n'a - mo, Scũn - ta va - dā Scũn - ta va - dā Scũn - ta

smoke sweet - ly scent - ed It will rise, it will rise, it will
con - - jea ni - ma - ko, Scun-ta va, Scun-ta va, Scun-ta

rise The smoke will rise, and set a -
va, Ta - lus Ko va - da a - tsin -

blaze the sparks, and set a - blaze a -
Kā'i ta l'an - ya a - t'sin - Kā'i t'sin -

cres -

blaze The sparks the sparks a -
Kā'i Ta l'an - - - ya a - t'sin

cen *do.* *ff*

blaze. _____
Kā'i. _____

2. Roll - ing, roll - ing,
U - ru K - ru,

echo. pp

roll - ing, Keep the fire - stick quickly roll - ing, roll - ing, Roll - ing, roll - ing,
u - ru, U - ru Ku - ru, u - ru Ku - ru, u - ru U - ru Ku - ru,

echo. pp

roll - ing, Keep the fire - stick quick-ly roll - ing, roll - ing. Watch the smoke a -
u - ru, U - ru Ku - ru, U - ru Ku - ru, u - ru. Āl - gū Seūn - ta

echo. pp *echo. pp* *p*

ris - ing, ris - ing, Watch the smoke a - ris - ing, ris - ing. Fast - er, fast - er,
 va - da, va - da, Āl - gū Scūn - ta va - da, va - da. Fu - ko, fu - ko,

p

senza pedal.

fast - er, see the smoke a - ris - ing thick and fast;
 fu - ko, al - gu Scūn - ta va - da chan - ju fu.

Send - ing lit - tle Fi - re - flies to set the wood a - blaze, a - blaze at
 Ben - na it - ti Un - Ku - ri - ji a - tsin Kā' - i a - tsin, a - tsin

cresc.

Ad. * *Ad.* *

f

last. _____
 Kā' - i.

ff

Ad. *

Con fuoco.

3. Roll - ing, roll - ing, roll - ing Keep the fire - stick quick - ly roll - ing,
 U - ru Ku - ru, u - ru, U - ru Ku - ru, u - ru Ku - ru,

Roll - ing, roll - ing, roll - ing, Keep the fire - stick quick - ly roll - ing.
 U - ru Ku - ru u - ru, U - ru Ku - ru, U - ru Ku - ru.

loco.
Ott. bas.

Watch the smoke rise Thick and fast
 Al - the gu scün - ta Chan - ta fū

See the sparks They are lit - tle Fi - re - flies that set a -
 L'an - ya - gu Un - Ku - ri - ji, un - Ku - ri - ji a - tsin -

f Jubilant.

blaze the wood, and now 'tis all a - glow - ing all a - glow - ing See the
 Kâ' - i bi sank - Ka ãi - sank - Ka Wob - bång Ku - ru Wob - bång al - gũ

cresc. *mf* *ff*

il bassa ben cantando

fire-wood all a - glow - ing Keep blow - ing, Keep blow - ing, Keep
 Ku - ru; Ku - ru wob - bång tan nu - wah tan nu - wah tan

blow - ing, Keep blow - ing, Keep blow - ing, Keep blow - ing, Keep
 nu - wah tan nu - wah tan nu - wah tan nu - wah tan

loco. 2 1 2 1 5 2 1 5 2 5

Ottava bassa

blow - ing, blow - ing, blow - ing, blow - ing.
 nu - wah nu - wah nu - wah nu - wah.

short blow. 8

pp *ppp* *Fine.*

senza pedal.

Ottava bassa.

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Transcribed and Harmonized by
CARLOS TROYER

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