



BĀLĀBĀN

BĀLĀBĀN, a cylindrical-bore, double-reed wind instrument about 35 cm long with seven finger holes and one thumb hole, played in eastern Azarbaijan in Iran and in the Republic of Azarbaijan [the former Soviet Azarbaijan] (where it is also called *dūdük*). This instrument can be made of mulberry or other harder woods, such as walnut. The bore through the instrument is about one and a half cm in diameter. The double reed is made out of a single tube of cane about six cm long and pressed flat at one end. The performer uses air stored in his cheeks to keep playing the *bālābān* while he inhales air into his lungs. This “circular” breathing technique is commonly used with all the double-reed instruments in the Middle East.

For a music sample, see [Armenian Šuštari](#).

For a music sample, see [Tajnis](#).