



Making their own music

PRAGYA NANDAN AND ROHIT MISHRA

COLLEGE: IIT, Gandhinagar

MADE: Replica of Rama Matya's Veena

DURATION: Two months

PROJECT COST: Rs 1,000

One look at a musical instrument designed by students of IIT-Gn, and anyone would mistake it for a guitar-in-the-making. But it is not a guitar. It is the ancient musical instrument – Veena.

Pragya and Rohit claim the musical instrument is an improved version of Rama Matya's Veena from the 15th century. Pragya said, "The frets in the instrument are flexible. The adjustments are not based on mathematical calculations which rule most string instruments of current times."

They were inspired to create the

instrument by their professor. "Prof Srinivas Reddy studies ancient literature on music. He asked if we can develop Veena based on a concept given by Rama Matya. In this 15th century concept, one has to adjust frets to get accurate note (sur). This allows musician to develop the ear to correctly position and reposition frets and correctly understand the notes by listening," Rohit said. They used spokes from a wheel, metal door hinges, guitar strings and a piece of plywood to make the indigenous instrument. The duo intend to test the instrument and write a research paper on it. "We are checking feasibility of mass production before launching it in the market," said Rohit.

