



I restore the ring in your handbells!

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CARE AND MAINTENANCE TIPS FOR YOUR SCHULMERICH HANDBELLS

Ringings Restorations provides the following additional information to maintain the functionality, safeguard the service and protect the integrity of your Schulmerich instrument.

TENSION ADJUSTMENTS: Optimum Ringing Response

When adjusting tensions, be sure the stop nut driver only turns the stop nut and does not push the neoprene bumpers and anti-friction washers down the yoke stud. The anti-friction washer, neoprene bumper and stop nut are designed to work together. Periodically check that these three components are still “working” as a unit and there are not any gaps between the stop nuts and the bumpers/anti-friction washers.

During your recent servicing, the tension adjustments were set in every handbell to obtain an optimum ringing response throughout the entire range of your set. The only adjustments necessary from this point forward should be *minor, incremental adjustments* to restore the best ringing response. Those adjustments are restored by simply turning the stop nut/bumper/anti-friction washer unit only by a degree or two.

CLAPPER SETTINGS: Voicing for Balance and Blend

The clapper heads on the handbells are set to give the best tonal balance and blend throughout the inclusive range of the handbells. To achieve this optimum balance, Select-A-Strike clapper heads can be set at various settings, S, M or H or something in-between. Once the set has been blended and balanced, I strongly discourage moving these clapper settings. Doing so will offset the best tonal blend and balance achieved in your set. In Quick-Adjust assemblies, settings can only be set to S, M or H. Every effort has been made to provide a unified balance and blend in your handbell set.

POLISHING CLOTHS AND CLEANING

Ringings Restorations recommends the use of **Sunshine Cloths** for regular, weekly use. Complimentary Sunshine Cloths have been included as a part of your recent servicing. To retain the shine and lustre of the cleaning and polishing of your castings during this recent refurbishment, I recommend wiping down the castings after every rehearsal and ringing presentation (worship, concert and other performances). It is the recommended practice in the industry to replace polishing cloths once a year.

Another type of polishing cloth on the market are Shine-On Cloths. These cloths should not be laundered because of the embedded rouge contained in the inner cloth. If you chose to use Shine-On Cloths, the following usage is strongly encouraged. **It is only necessary to use the chamois colored side of the cloths to remove most prints and marks that appear during the course of your rehearsal year.** To prevent the rouge from getting on handbell parts such as the handguard, handles, clapper heads and springs, your gloves and table coverings, **keep the Shine-On Cloth closed so that only the chamois portion of the cloth is used for wiping the castings.** The rouge part of the cloth is to be used for those spots, mars or marks which prove a bit more numerous or difficult to remove with the chamois colored (outside) portion of the cloth. Be sure to remove any rouge residue from the castings and handbell parts before returning your handbells to their storage case(s)/location.

It is advisable to have an end-of-the-year polishing party before the bells are put into storage at the end of your ringing season. When polishing your handbells, apply polish only to the castings, from the shoulder to the lip of the casting, and take care to keep any polish from the interior of the castings, on other handbell parts and especially under the handguards (Guardian Discs or MasterTouch Discs).

RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL CLEANING

Brush out assemblies to remove lint, dust and dander. A soft, round artists brush works well. Wipe the interior of castings with a dry, lint-free cloth to remove lint and dander.

STORAGE

You are encouraged, as much as possible, to store your handbells in a climate-controlled room, with adequate ventilation and humidity control. It is highly recommended that handbells be stored against interior, not exterior, walls. Your handbells cases should be aired out at least once per year by simply propping the lids of the cases open for a few days in a dry environment. Due to the construction of the cases, the materials in the case lids can retain ambient humidity that can cause unwanted and accelerated tarnishing of the castings while in storage.

EVERY FIVE YEARS

- Have an authorized handbell technician inspect and adjust your handbells. Your handbell technician can help you establish a recommended service schedule for your Schulmerich instrument.

Note: Oil, lubrication fluids and graphite tend to attract and hold dirt, causing friction and binding problems. Their use is **not recommended** for the moving parts of handbells.

