



# Malmark Handbells

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Care and  
Maintenance  
Instructions

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## Introduction

Thank you for selecting our handbells. We appreciate the privilege of serving you and share your pride in the ownership of a fine musical instrument. So that you may obtain the maximum



benefit from the craftsmanship and care that we have placed in them, and so that they may retain their visual and musical beauty for many generations to come, we urge you to carefully observe the guidelines outlined in this manual for the best care and maintenance of your handbells.

If your purchase included a full set of handbells (2 octaves or more), you will find enclosed a copy of our recommended methods book "Mastering Musicianship in Handbells"\* by Donald

Allured; a tube of Malmark Handbell Polishing Cream; and a polishing cloth with jeweler's rouge. An owner's registration form is attached to the guarantee and we ask that you return it immediately. A hex key wrench is included for bearing screw adjustment (see page 10 of this manual).

Since 1974, Malmark has manufactured high quality, precision tuned handbells. Thank you for joining our family.

Sincerely,  
Malmark, Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. H. Malta". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

J. H. Malta  
President

\*"Mastering Musicianship in Handbells" by Donald Allured enclosed with handbells sold after July 1, 1992. Published by Broadman Press. Additional copies available from Malmark, Inc.

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## General Information

We recommend that you carefully observe the following rules for handling these beautiful instruments.

**A** Always treat handbells as the fine musical instruments which they are. Much care and craftsmanship has gone into making them, so do not risk damage through careless handling.

**B** The bell castings are made of bronze, carefully lathe turned and tuned and then polished to a jeweler's finish. The bells are not lacquered to protect the finish, for the application of lacquer would diminish the musical quality of the bell; therefore, touching the bell casting with the bare hands will cause stains and tarnish due to the acids and salts from the skin. Although tarnish will not affect the tone of the bell, the removal of the tarnish, if not done properly, can affect the tuning.

**C** We recommend that you wear gloves when handling or ringing handbells in order to prevent contact with the metal by the hands. Cotton gloves are not slippery, absorb moisture, are inexpensive and are most frequently used by handbell ringers.

**D** Any fingerprints or stains should be removed promptly. The longer they are allowed to remain, the more difficult they will be to remove.

**E** The bells should not be allowed to come into contact with any rough or hard surface which will scratch or mark them. If carrying cases are not used for storing or transporting the handbells, they should be carried in bags of soft materials such as flannel or velvet with each bell in a separate bag.



**F** In handling or playing the bells, be certain not to strike them against each other or against any hard object. It is not practical or satisfactory to repair or mend a bell casting once it has become cracked or chipped. The only good solution is to replace it.

**G** NOTE THAT, AS RECEIVED, SOME CASTINGS MAY HAVE MINUTE SURFACE IMPERFECTIONS EITHER ON THE INSIDE OR THE OUTSIDE WHICH DO NOT AFFECT TONAL QUALITY. Small pinhole sized defects from loose grains of sand are common to sand castings and are most frequently encountered in larger bells because of their larger surface areas. Malmark rejects those with objectionable defects and, to avoid **considerably increased costs** to the customer, uses those with minimal but acceptable surface defects which are visible only under close inspection. Before ringing We suggest that you take the time to examine your handbells to make certain that you are familiar with their many features and how they can add to your enjoyment and use of the bells. Although all Malmark handbells incorporate similar features and construction, one of the larger bells (such as a G4) offers good visibility of the internal parts and their function. If you are not already familiar with the Malmark handbell, we suggest that you have a bell in front of you as we go over it together.

As you hold and observe the bell, you will see that it is composed of five basic parts:

- 1) The handle
- 2) The handguard
- 3) The tuned bronze bell casting
- 4) The yoke and restraining mechanism
- 5) The instantly adjustable clapper



## The Handle

The Handle is of extruded, clear transparent plastic and has smooth, rounded edges which are comfortable to the hands. The material is tough, impervious to perspiration and will not break down after many years of proper use. The clear material has a hollow center into which has been inserted another plastic note designation strip which imparts added rigidity for a firmer grip and better control of the bell while ringing. Since the note designation is enclosed by the clear plastic handle, through which it is clearly visible, it is completely protected against abrasion and wear.

You will note that the clear plastic handle is fastened to a block by four Phillips head screws, two to each side. This block is then fastened to the yoke/handle coupler by means of the main assembly screw. It is important that the ends of the handle fit into the recess in the handguard so that the ends of the block and the ends of the handle rest on the bottom of the recess when the main assembly screw is tightened (see page 18). If this is not done, there may be a tendency for this screw to loosen during ringing.

Malmark handles are made of a very tough and durable material, and will have an almost unlimited life span with proper use and care. Learning the proper method of holding and ringing the bells is an important factor in extended hand life. The hand should encircle the handle like a fist with the thumb and the first finger resting firmly against the handguard. The thumb should be in direct line with the arm, pointed directly away from the body during the ringing motion. The proper grip is described clearly on page 22 of *"Mastering Musicianship in Handbells"* by Donald Allured. Holding the bell by the end of the handle or inserting one or more fingers in the loop of the handle is not recommended and may cause premature failure of the handle.



















