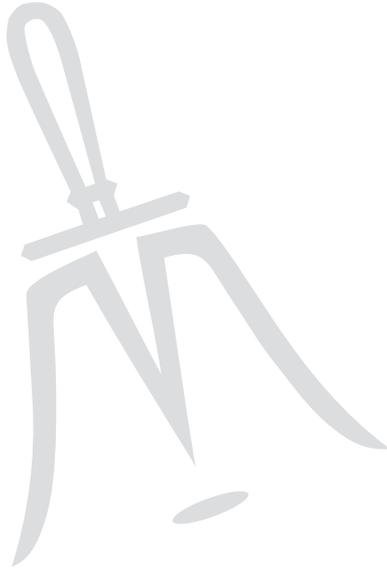




Malmark
BELLCRAFTSMEN

MALMARK BASS CHOIRCHIME[®] INSTRUMENTS

Lower 5th Octave on Rack
(6th and 7th Octaves also available)



6th Octave on Rack



7th Octave on Rack

Bass Choirchimes are available in ranges from C2 through F#3 (3 chromatic octaves).

The lower 5th octave, C3 though F#3, is pictured on the front cover.

MALMARK BASS CHOIRCHIME® INSTRUMENTS

Thank you for choosing Malmark Choirchimes®. We appreciate the privilege of serving you and share your pride in the ownership of another fine musical instrument crafted by Malmark Inc., Bellcraftsmen. So that you may obtain the maximum benefit from the craftsmanship and retain the musical beauty, we urge you to observe the guidelines offered here on your bass Choirchime® instruments.

OVERVIEW: ABOUT YOUR BASS CHOIRCHIMES®

The pure tones of six chromatic octaves of Malmark Choirchimes® are completed by the lower 5th, 6th and 7th octave bass chimes ranging from C2 through F#3. These bass instruments have the same distinctive tonal purity as all Malmark Choirchimes®, achieved through the use of squared extruded aluminum thus allowing four 90-degree points of vibration. These right angles minimize undesirable overtones and create full, rich, and expressive sound.

Bass chimes, like their higher pitched relatives, are created on the same principles of air flow. Precise tuning is achieved by varying the size and length of the tuning slots on two non-adjacent sides of the chime tubes enabling pitch-perfect vibration of the tines. A press-fitted plug strategically placed inside each tube creates a resonating chamber. Plug position should never be changed.

If you received a lower 5th octave or a lower 6th octave with optional clapper assemblies, we have included a hex key wrench for bearing screw adjustment (see Figure A in this guidebook).

If any Malmark Choirchime® develops a buzz, flat-pitched sound, has a volume change or does not sound “full,” contact Malmark for assistance.

OVERVIEW: BASS CHOIRCHIME® RACKS

Malmark Choirchime® racks are available for the lower 5th, 6th and 7th octaves of Choirchimes®. Supporting the chimes in an angled upright position allows proper malleting (via **non** stopped-sound technique) and projection of sound while saving table space. When there are not enough ringers to cover this lower octave, position the racks close to the bass ringer for easy reach. Their mobility is advantageous for easy adaptability to different configurations of ringing tables and varied venues. They fold easily for storage.

PROTECT AGAINST DAMAGE

- **Allow your Choirchimes® (in all ranges) to acclimate to normal room temperatures before playing them.** Striking a chime left in freezing temperatures may induce cracking of the tube.
- Foam tine protectors are inserted in between the tines when they are shipped from the factory. It is recommended to keep these and re-insert in Choirchime® tubes B3 and lower **AT THE END OF EACH USE**. If you travel with your bass chimes, it is imperative to have these foam protectors in place due to rough handling by most shipping providers.
- Never pluck or martellate your bass Choirchimes®.
- Ring or mallet as if you are playing *pianissimo*.

Should you need replacement tine protectors, call Malmark and ask for customer service. If you have trouble fitting the protector in between the tines, do not force them. You most likely have bent tines and by forcing the foam you are adding to the stress on the metal and premature failure is likely.

USING BASS CHOIRCHIME INSTRUMENTS

Bass Choirchime® Instruments are designed and engineered just like treble Choirchimes®, but they do require a slightly different approach to ringing. With the increased size of the tuning slot, these chimes are more vulnerable to metal fatigue caused by over-ringing or forcefully striking the chime tube. In other words,

the biggest hazard to Choirchime® Instruments, especially bass Choirchime®s, is over-ringing or striking too hard!

The true sound quality of these bass chimes is heard from five to ten feet out from the choir. Bass Chime ringers often think they are not loud enough because they tend to hear the partials above the low fundamental. As a result, they start striking the chime with more force to generate more sound. In reality however, they end up creating less fundamental tone and more audible overtones. The most damaging effect of forceful ringing is bent tines. This may be a precursor to a crack.

- **Lower 5th Octave:**

- As with the upper octaves, the beauty of lower 5th octave Choirchimes® is best heard when they are rung with an easy full stroke of the arm. They are not designed nor intended to be a loud instrument. Ringing too forcefully in an attempt to make them loud destroys their tonal quality and can cause damage to the tines.
- The lower 5th octave Choirchime® Instruments (C3-F#3) comes standard with a clapper assembly. Malmark also offers a 5th octave rack to help in saving table space or if there are not enough ringers to cover this lower octave. If using a rack, Malmark recommends its MH8 (large yellow knit) mallet.

- **Lower 6th Octave**

- G2 through B2 are now available with clapper assemblies upon request. With or without clapper assemblies this octave can be used with its respective rack. Recommended is the Malmark MH5 (lambswool) mallet, or ringing pianissimo, the MH8 (large yellow knit).
- When ringing (not malleting) this range of chimes, it is recommended to use two hands – be careful not to over-ring!

- **Lower 7th Octave**

- The lower 7th octave (C2 – F#2) should be used with its respective rack, only.
- Malmark recommends its MH5 (lambswool) mallet for these chimes.

USING THE MALLET

- Strike the chime approximately 2" below the top of the bass tube. You want to mallet the tube in the same area the clapper hits (or would hit if one were assembled on it), much closer to the top of the tine than the bottom.
- A softer strike of the mallet will result in better tonal response and sustain!
- Refer to the paragraphs above for the mallets suggested for use on a particular range of chimes. There is a complete list on our website and in our printed literature for easy referral.

THE DAMP

Damping racked Choirchimes® can be achieved by placing a hand on the top tine, or by using another mallet. It is acceptable to damp a bit early because the sound continues from the tube slightly after the chime is damped due to the long sound wave.

Note: Do not put any labels or stickers on the top of the chime tube tine. This can dampen vibrations which results in shorter sustain.

APPROACHING THE MUSIC WITH BASS CHOIRCHIMES

Adding 6th – 7th octave bass Choirchimes® to your repertoire requires more than just “adding the octave.” When the music allows, add the 5th above the bass fundamental you are doubling. The 5th works together with the fundamental to create a fuller harmonic series from the bass chime resulting in a much fuller and “louder” sound. You may need an extra ringer to accomplish this and sometimes the notes will go into the 5th octave.

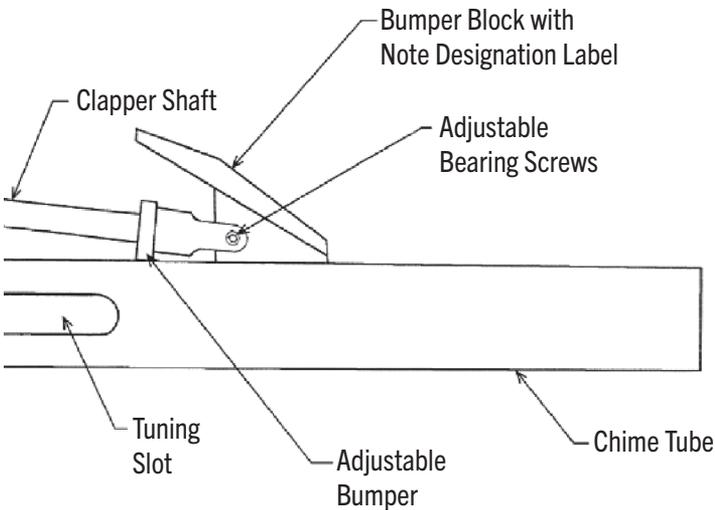
Always augment the sound of your lowest chime by playing an octave above on a chime. If you are supplementing a five-octave handbell choir with low chimes, make sure you have a C3 Choirchime® playing with your double downed C2 Chime, and don't forget the 5th. This may require an extra ringer, but the outcome is more than worth it.

Approach the lower bass notes as half notes and whole notes. On shorter note values the Choirchime® loses itself and does not sound. A bass Choirchime® needs time to rebuild itself after being malletted. The sound can't develop fast enough and you are asking for a crack! **No quick or repeated notes!**

Let the bass Choirchime® sustain until the harmony changes.

Finally, start with an easier level of repertoire with the new bass chimes and experiment with repertoire using bells and chimes in different combinations.

FIGURE A: Clapper assemblies with adjustable bearing screws on lower 5th and (optional on) lower 6th octave Choirchimes®



LIMITED WARRANTY

Purchases in the lower 5th octave of Malmark Choirchimes include a Limited 5 Year Warranty. Purchases in the lower 6th and 7th octaves include a Limited 2 Year Warranty. Warranties insure the products are free from inherent defects and/or defective craftsmanship. Warranties will not cover damage from external forces such as, but not limited to, impact with another object (neither accidental nor intentional), nor impact as a result of dropping, exposure to water or fire, nor mishandling.

You may return your purchase for full credit within 90 days from the invoice date. Credits issued for returns during the first year of purchase are based upon results of our evaluation and may be subject to a restocking fee.

CONTACT Us

Malmark Inc., Bellcraftsmen is located in
Central Bucks County in Southeastern Pennsylvania.

Our office is open from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM weekdays.
You may leave a voicemail at any time.

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