

The Zen Doorbell™



The Zen Doorbell™



By

Now & Zen®

quality of thought, stillness of being

All Now & Zen products are the creation of Steve McIntosh
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I. INTRODUCTION

Your Zen Doorbell is designed to add elegance and aesthetic sophistication to your environment, both visually and audibly. Visually, the Zen Doorbell's wood platform and brass bowl make a beautiful decorative accessory that looks good in any room. However, the Zen Doorbell's greatest beauty is in its sound. Once you take a moment to adjust the strike force and position of the bowl/gong (as described below) to your liking, your ears will be treated to the lovely tones of the bowl's long-resonating ring every time you press its wireless button.

Your Zen Doorbell's distinctive sound can be used in a variety of ways: its primary use, of course, is as a doorbell for your home. But it also serves as a paging device (so you can summon your butler, or more likely your kids to the dinner table); and it's great for retail environments for use as a front counter bell. Your Zen Doorbell can also be used to call meetings to order, or as a way to signal an accomplishment or

Introduction

the scoring of points. But no matter how you use it, we trust you will enjoy the beauty of its distinctive sound. Thank you for bringing this unique creation into your life.

II. OPERATION INSTRUCTIONS

Install Batteries

Using a Phillips head screwdriver, remove the battery door on the bottom of the wood platform and install four new “C” size alkaline batteries. Be sure to install the batteries as shown on the inside of the battery case, and make sure both ends of the batteries are making contact with the terminals. The Doorbell’s wireless button also uses a battery (A23 size), but this has been pre-installed in your product and should last for over a year of normal use.

The life of the batteries in the Doorbell’s platform should also last for over a year of normal use, but battery life will, of course, vary depending on how often it is used. Once the “C” batteries are installed, replace the battery door using the screws.

Testing and Adjusting the Sound of the Strike

Your Zen Doorbell is like a musical instrument and can be adjusted to produce a wide variety of loud and soft sounds. Start by testing the sound of the bowl strike. We recommend you set the Doorbell so that the bowl is sounded in the lower end of its volume range, because this is where it sounds the sweetest. However, it can be set to strike quite loudly if high volume is required.

Using the Wireless Remote Control Button

Place the brass bowl on the platform near the striker tip and press the wireless button until you hear the bowl strike. A small red LED in the wireless button's housing tells you when its signal is being sent. There is always a 2 second delay from the time you press the wireless button until you hear the bowl strike. Pushing the wireless button multiple times in quick succession will not result in multiple bowl strikes, you must wait at least 3 seconds between each button push for the signal to have an effect. Also, the wireless button works best when it is held in the vertical position with the button's back plate facing toward the base platform. If the wireless button's

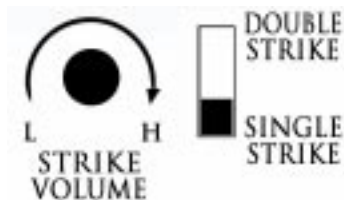
signal is not striking the bowl, try holding it with the red LED up. Once you get the hang of the wireless button so that you hear the bowl strike consistently whenever the button is pushed, you are ready to adjust the power of the strike force and the position of the bowl.

Adjusting Strike Force Power

The Zen Doorbell is designed so that its sound can be customized for your needs; it just takes a minute of experimentation to find the volume and timber that sounds best to you. As illustrated on the next page, the power of the striking mechanism can be adjusted by using the black knob on the wood platform under the pyramid. Adjust the knob as you press the wireless button to hear the variance in the strike force. Turning the knob clockwise (left) increases the strike power. Please note that if the power knob is turned all the way to the right, there may not be enough power to move the striker. The best "low" settings are achieved close to the extreme end of the low range, but not all the way. Once you find a strike force setting you like, the sound of the bowl can then be "micro-adjusted" even further by moving the position

Operation

of the bowl back and forth relative to the striker's tip while listening to repeated strikes.

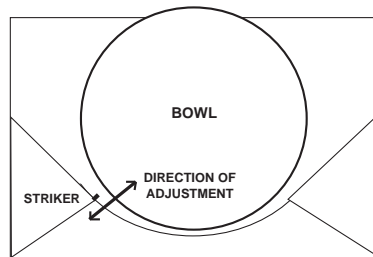


Adjusting the Position of the Bowl

Once you have adjusted the strike force power, move the bowl back and forth relative to the tip of the striker to find the “sweet spot,” as shown in the diagram on the right. For maximum volume, keep the bowl at least a centimeter from the striker tip. For a softer strike, position the bowl within a millimeter or so from the tip. Overall, the most beautiful sounds are achieved in the low end of the Doorbell’s power range.

Operation

TOP VIEW



Double Strike or Single Strike

Your Zen Doorbell can be set to make a single gong strike or a double gong strike. As illustrated in the diagram on the previous page, the small toggle switch on the platform under the pyramid next to the strike volume knob controls this function. When the switch is in the forward position (toward the bowl), the Doorbell will strike once each time the wireless button is pushed (subject to the 3 second delay between each push of the button as described above). When the switch is toggled to the rear position, the Doorbell will strike twice each

time the wireless button is pushed. Some people prefer the double strike, and this feature is particularly useful if you have another Now & Zen product that uses a similar bowl (such as our Tibetan Phone Bell), because in such cases the double strike allows you to distinguish your Doorbell from your telephone.

Mounting the Wireless Button

Once you have adjusted the sound of the Doorbell and placed it in its desired location, the next step is to attach the wireless button to its desired location and make sure the wireless button will cause the Doorbell to strike from this location. The radio-controlled wireless remote button has an optimal range of between 40 and 50 feet. A small red LED in the wireless button's housing tells you when its signal is being sent. However, every location is different and you need to make sure that the Doorbell and the wireless button are communicating before you install the wireless button in its permanent location.

Once you are sure that the wireless button will consistently

strike the Doorbell when both items are in their desired locations, you are ready to attach the wireless button to the threshold of your door, or any location within the range of the Doorbell's platform. Hold the wireless button in the desired location, and using a pencil or felt-tip pen, mark the position of the screw holes. Then make starter holes for the screws using a small drill bit or nail. Make sure that the diameter of the starter holes are smaller than the diameter of the wood screws that come with your wireless button. Once you have made the starter holes, screw the wireless button into place. Drive the screws so that they are flush with the wireless button's back plate, but be careful not to over-tighten the screws as this may crack the wooden back plate.

If your threshold or the intended location of your wireless button will not accommodate the wood screws that are supplied, you might find that double stick tape will do a good job of permanently attaching the wireless button to a non-wood surface. If the screws will not work, we recommend 3M brand double stick tape. However, please note that when it is time to change the wireless button's battery (as described

below), the use of double stick tape may make this operation somewhat difficult, so we thus recommend using screws to attach the wireless button if at all possible.

Changing the Wireless Button's Battery

The Zen Doorbell's wireless button comes pre-installed with a small A23 type battery, which requires occasional replacement (approximately once a year with regular use). The red LED light just above the wireless button's push button indicates whether the wireless button is sending its signal. If the red light does not come on when you press the button, the battery needs to be replaced. To replace the wireless button's battery, remove the screws that are holding the wireless button in place. On the reverse side of the button assembly are two small Phillips head screws that secure the back plate to the button assembly. Remove those screws to access the wireless button's battery. When you have replaced the battery and tested the function of the wireless button to make sure it is working with the new battery, replace the back plate and reattach the wireless button to its location.

Possible Interference with Other Radio Controlled Devices

Although it is unlikely, it is possible that your Doorbell's wireless button might be set to the same frequency as your garage door opener or other radio-controlled device. If you experience any interference problems, please call Now & Zen weekdays and we will either instruct you as to how to change the Doorbell's frequency, or instruct you how to return the product in exchange for one with a different radio frequency.

Care of Your Zen Doorbell

The Zen Doorbell's platform and bowl are designed for indoor use only, but the wireless button assembly has been finished to be weather resistant. Keep the platform out of prolonged direct sunlight and free from excessive dust, dirt or moisture. Clean the Doorbell's platform and wireless button with a dry cloth. Never use detergents, furniture polishes, or oils on your Doorbell's wood parts as these liquids may come into contact with the Doorbell's internal circuitry and cause a malfunction. The Zen Doorbell's brass bowl may be cleaned with any commercially-available metal cleaner. However, the bowl naturally develops an antique patina over time, which you may prefer to the polished look.

III. THE TRADITION OF BELLS, GONGS, AND SINGING BOWLS

Bells, gongs, and chimes are used prominently in both Eastern and Western spiritual traditions. The use of metal alloy bowls for devotional purposes can be traced back to the beginnings of metallurgy in China prior to 1,000 B.C. The bowl that comes with your Zen Doorbell is modeled after a Japanese “rin gong,” or *Keisu*, that is periodically struck with a stick to punctuate sutra-reading in Buddhist temples.

The Himalayan peoples have been using metal bowls in their rituals and as offerings to Deities since at least 560 B.C. These hand-hammered Himalayan alloy bowls have come to be known as “Tibetan Singing Bowls” because of the unique way they are sounded by rubbing a mallet over the rim so as to produce harmonic resonances and overtones. Although the bowl that comes with your Zen Doorbell is not technically a

Tibetan Singing Bowl, it will produce harmonic effects if a mallet or striking stick is rubbed around its edge in a circular motion.

The bowl that comes with your Zen Doorbell is made from the following five metals: copper, zinc, lead, iron, and tin. It has been formed using the same forging techniques that have been used in Asia for two thousand years. Unlike hand-hammered Himalayan-style bowls, your Zen Doorbell's rin gong bowl is made using methods which first appeared in Japan in the first century. Following these traditions, your bowl's long-resonating tone has been carefully selected to bring beauty and harmony to your environment.

Mindfulness

In addition to the conventional uses described in the introduction, the Zen Doorbell may also be used for the practice of "mindfulness." Mindfulness is the spiritual practice of being aware of your present moment; and a bowl/gong is often used in this practice as a signal to be mindful. World famous Zen monk Thich Nhat Hanh uses a bowl/gong in his

version of this practice, which he calls the "mindfulness bell." When you hear the sound of the mindfulness bell, you are invited to take a moment to breathe in and out and center yourself in the present. This practice allows the sound of the bowl/gong to connect you to the peace and tranquility that resides inside you right now. The beautiful tones of your Zen Doorbell's bowl/gong lend themselves to the practice of mindfulness. When you hear the Zen Doorbell ring, we invite you to try this delightful practice and take a moment before responding to the ring to relish a moment of stillness as you hear the bowl reverberating.

IV. NOW & ZEN'S GUARANTEE AND LIMITED WARRANTY

Your Zen Doorbell is guaranteed against mechanical defect for a period of 12 months from the date of purchase provided the Doorbell has not been misused. Now & Zen will repair or replace free of charge any part or workmanship found to be defective within the warranty period. If your Doorbell breaks during the warranty period, please call or write us for a return authorization number (RA#) and return instructions. It is your responsibility to ensure it is properly packaged for return, as any damage suffered in return shipment is not covered by this warranty. This warranty does not include damage due to dirt, moisture, or negligent handling. This warranty is only valid when accompanied by a dated proof of purchase.

Your Zen Doorbell's wood platform is designed for indoor use only. The Doorbell's wireless button has been treated to be weather resistant, but will not withstand direct and sustained contact with water. To clean the Doorbell's wood platform or wireless button, wipe off with a damp cloth. Never use oils or polishes on the wood platform or wireless button, and NEVER ADD LUBRICANT OF ANY KIND TO THE STRIKING MECHANISM. Your brass bowl may be cleaned with any commercially-available metal cleaner. If you have any questions or problems with the operation of your Zen Doorbell, please call us weekdays at (800) 779-6383 (or (303) 530-9028 if you are outside the U.S.) and we will be happy to assist you.

REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT AS PROVIDED UNDER THIS LIMITED WARRANTY IS YOUR EXCLUSIVE REMEDY. NOW & ZEN SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR ANY INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES NOR FOR ANY DAMAGES FOR BREACH OF ANY EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTY ON THIS PRODUCT.

Warranty

For Warranty claims contact: Now & Zen, Inc.:
(303) 530-9028, e-mail: orders@now-zen.com

PLEASE NOTE: NO RETURNS WILL BE
ACCEPTED WITHOUT AN RA#.

V. ABOUT NOW & ZEN

Founded in Boulder, Colorado in 1995, Now & Zen's mission is to create natural lifestyle products that make a real difference in people's lives. The growing preference for natural foods and natural fibers is carried forward by Now & Zen in the natural acoustic sounds and natural hardwood materials featured in every Now & Zen product. Our way of describing the essence of a natural lifestyle is: *quality of thought, stillness of being*.

As a result of cultural evolution, we're becoming more discerning about the real nature of quality. Quality thinking is concerned with the welfare of the greatest relevant whole — our whole selves, our whole environment, and our whole society. Now & Zen products embody *quality of thought* through their use as tools that improve your life, in the esoteric principles they embody, and in their originality.

About Now & Zen

Stillness of being is also an integral part of a natural lifestyle. The practices of prayer, meditation, and yoga all contribute to a stillness of being. Now & Zen products serve as accoutrements to these practices; and they also help create a sense of stillness through the beauty of their designs.

Please visit our website (www.now-zen.com) which gives further information on our products and mission. For a catalog of current Now & Zen products, please call us at: (800) 779-6383 or (303) 530-9028, or send us an e-mail at: orders@now-zen.com

And when you're in Boulder, Colorado please visit our headquarters store near the Pearl Street Mall:

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