

Singing Bowls



Nowadays there is almost no one who has not heard of a singing bowl. And those who have heard them are enthusiastic, fascinated and charmed. Singing bowls are magical sounding objects whose history is as secret, as mysterious as their sound. But this is where their magic comes from. There are books like "Song of silence" by David Lindner or "Singing Bowls" by E.R. Jansen where the authors sincerely and extensively tried to illumine us on the origin of singing bowls, and to collect all the information. However it is still buried in oblivion how and when and for what purpose the bowls were made. Only a few monks of Tibet really know about them and even they rarely give explanations. Anyway, Tibet is considered to be the country of origin of the singing bowl and from there they spread to India, Nepal, China and Japan.

Nevertheless singing bowls have taken a triumphant advance around the (musical) globe. You will find the fascinating singing bowls everywhere – be it in New Age trade, music therapy, world music or in kindergartens and schools. As the demand is much higher than the supply, singing bowls nowadays are produced in factories. This is done in a traditional extensive way based on the old skills, especially in countries like Nepal and India. But the hope of getting a really old singing bowl is almost next to nothing. Fortunately the quality of new made singing bowls meets high demands. Manufacturers in this line always try to make a good choice and invest a lot of time and energy in it. Some of them even run their own factories in Asia in order to fulfil the increasing demand.

Tuned singing bowls are a speciality amongst the bowls that are not tuned while being produced but carefully measured and chosen by the dealer. Generally singing bowls can be subdivided in following groups:

- Old Tibetan bowls (rarely found)
- New bowls from India, Nepal and Assam (handmade or mechanically produced)
- Mechanically made singing bowls from Japan (with an amazingly pure sound and a high aesthetic value)
- Crystal bowls (made from Quartz crystal, actually a by-product of the computer industry)
- Planet singing bowls (the tuning of handmade singing bowls is measured exactly)
- Singing bowls in the form of Temple Bells (a newly developed type)

Singing bowls can be played by striking them with a suitable striker or by rubbing the rim. The latter needs a bit of practice in order to create a sustained tone and without creating disturbing sounds. The strikers are made from wood, some of them are wrapped with rubber or leather at one end which enables different grades of sound. For aesthetic purposes, people like to place their singing bowl on a beautifully decorated cushion. For playing the bowl is placed on the flat palm. Let yourself be attracted by the great variety of this melodious magic. With patience and lots of feeling you will find the singing bowl that suits you best.



KSMA100
Mani

small bowl with plain brass-coloured surface, low budget



KSDS100
Dharmsala

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flat open bowl, black with golden characters, thin sides, deep tone, low budget



KSUP100
Upana

small and flat; polished black surface and a very pure sound



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KSN1100
Nilima

tall even bowl with golden polished surface, very clear tone



KSLU100
Lumbini

tall rounded bowl with a broad rim, brown colour with engraved ornaments, clear sound



KSD1100
Dibya

high rim, polished copper surface; clear sound



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KSTI100

Handmade in the Tibetan style

Handmade bowls from India are made from an alloy of different metals; they have a high rim, thin sides, a living sound rich in overtones.



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KSQN100

Qin

noble looking Chinese model with antique ornaments; light greenish patina on the surface, subtle long lasting sound.



KSGS100

Singing Bowl gift sets

small polished bowl with a colourful cushion and a turned wooden striker in a corresponding gift box



Taiho KSTA100

noble black Japanese bowl with a dragon design; thin sides but quite heavy, pure harmonious sound.



Dharma KSDH100

little Japanese bowl with silver-golden surface; very delicate singing sound, low in price.



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KSKK100
Crystal Singing Bowls