



# Handbell Musicians O F A M E R I C A

## “Cold Bells, Warm Hands” by Kathleen Wissinger

Christmas, Salvation Army Kettles and Bell Ringing – the trifecta of Holiday giving. Oh, and one more ingredient: Cold Weather!! My ringers ring at the iconic red kettles and other outdoor venues, so we often deal with that frosty fourth element. We also use a lot of 4iH ringing, which makes any kind of mitten useless. So I finally designed and made some “bell muffs” – double-layered polar fleece gauntlets with elasticized cuffs to keep hands warm when ringing in the frigid air---picture Captain Hook with a bell instead of a hook.



You can see the bell muffs and matching neck gators in the picture above. Sewing a bell muff is very simple. I suggest you make a prototype and adjust as needed for different sizes and fitting over heavier coats.

Directions and my pattern are on the following pages. If you make these for your group, be sure to post pictures on the Handbell Musicians of America Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/HandbellMusicians](http://www.facebook.com/HandbellMusicians)



# Handbell Musicians

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## O F A M E R I C A

### Directions:

1. Take a large piece of polar fleece. Try to find the kind that is stretchy in both directions, has the pattern on both sides and has a high loft for its weight. For a medium sized muff: cut a 16" x 24" piece, fold it in half lengthwise to 16" x 12" and sew a 3/4" "rod pocket" along the fold for the elastic.
2. Thread a piece of 1/2" elastic through the rod pocket using a large safety pin attached to the elastic end to snake it through. Pin elastic securely to one end.
3. Optional: On one thickness of fleece about 6" down from the rod pocket, sew a small 3" x 4" patch pocket (opening facing the rod pocket) to hold a disposable hand-warmer packet.
4. Match raw ends of rod pocket and the double thicknesses along the short side. With wrong sides together (and patch pocket now facing outwards) sew through all four thicknesses of polar fleece up to, but not over, the rod pocket, leaving the elastic free to move.
5. Pull the loose end of the elastic to adjust it so you can easily slip your hand through the opening – allowing just enough ease for a clutch of bells in your hand to pass through. Pin, sew or knot the ends of the elastic to secure in place. Sew over the remaining seam if necessary.
6. Turn right side out. There is no need to baste the open hem together as the edges won't fray. Extra fabric can be made easily into neck gaters and hats.

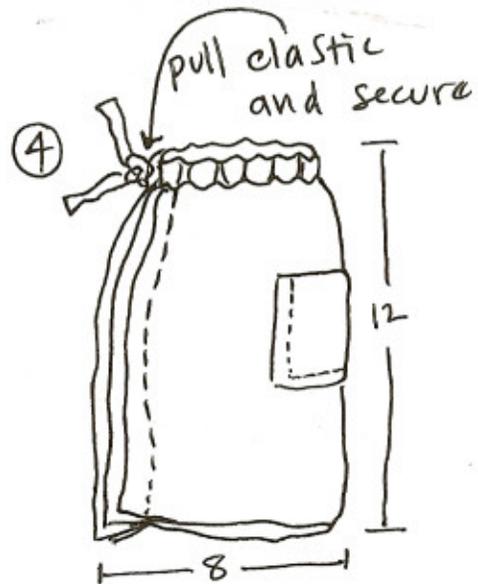
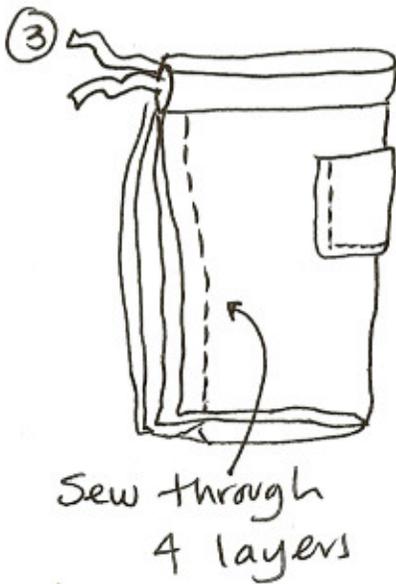
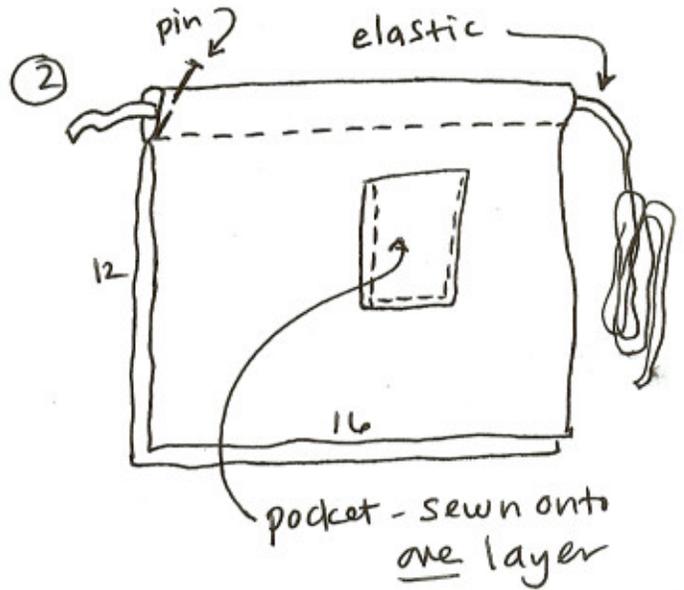
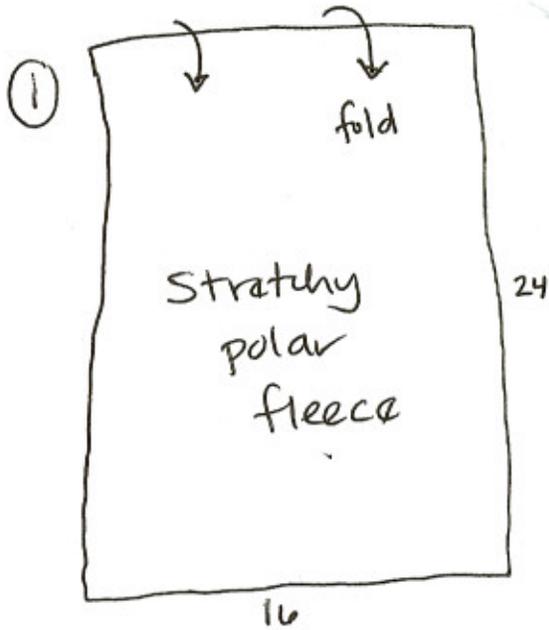
### To Use:

Place an activated hand warmer in the patch pocket if desired. Wear polar fleece gloves for extra warmth. Pull a bell muff over each arm to the wrist. Pick up your bells and pull your hand and bell handle(s) back into the muff's protection. Only the bells stick out. You might need some help to get the second muff on, especially if you are using 4iH and have a heavy coat on.

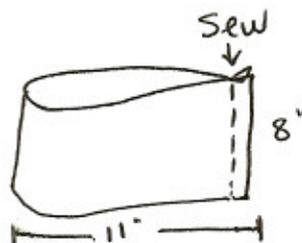
*Be sure to check out all the other benefits of the  
Handbell Musicians of America community at  
[www.handbellmusicians.org](http://www.handbellmusicians.org)*

# Bell Muffs – a Pattern

Designed by Kathleen Wissinger



Neck Gater  
8" x 22" piece





## ...is an investment in Education, Community & Communication

Membership in Handbell Musicians of America now offers more benefits, more resources, more value, and more opportunities to grow and improve your skills as a handbell musician. As of October 1, 2012, a brand new set of online and interactive resources is available to our members. In addition, we've added the My Membership Rewards program which provides periodic specials and discounts for Guild events, music, and merchandise.

**You may join or renew right now at [www.HandbellMusicians.org](http://www.HandbellMusicians.org)**

Member number if renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Member / Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Is this an **individual** or **organizational** membership?  
(Please circle one)

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Organization / Business name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization / Business phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Organization mailing address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed payment type: **Visa** **MasterCard** **Check**  
(please circle one)

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

3 digit security number on back of card \_\_\_\_\_

Card holder signature \_\_\_\_\_

Credit card address same as Home or Business address?  
(please circle one)

Mail completed form to:

Handbell Musicians of America  
1055 E Centerville Station Rd  
Centerville, Ohio 45459

Or fax to: 937.438.0434

\*Membership opportunities please circle one:

Handbell Musician	\$85.00
Sterling Handbell Musician	\$170.00
Bronze Handbell Musician	\$300.00
Gold Handbell Musician	\$500.00

This membership is for either an individual or an organization. If for an individual, that person may identify ONE organization that may also receive the benefits of the membership. If for an organization, that organization must identify one individual as the primary contact for the membership. The Sterling, Bronze and Gold levels are for those individuals/organizations who wish to include a tax-deductible donation.

Handbell Industry Council	\$170.00
Sterling Handbell Industry Council	\$255.00
Bronze Handbell Industry Council	\$385.00
Gold Handbell Industry Council	\$530.00

This membership is for businesses and organizations that provide products and services to the handbell/handchime community and wish to exhibit and/or market these products and services to the community. The Sterling, Bronze and Gold levels are for those businesses or organizations that wish to include a tax-deductible donation.

Retired Handbell Musician	\$65.00
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This membership is for the handbell musician, aged 65 years or older, who is no longer actively directing or leading an ensemble or program.

Full-time student	\$30.00
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This is an individual membership and is for the full-time college or high school student.

Sub-membership	\$10.00
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This membership is for an individual member of an organization that has an existing Handbell Musician Membership. It is basically an on-line membership only. LIST "PARENT" Handbell Musician Membership # here: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*Canadian Members: Please add \$15.00 USD to all memberships.

All other International Members: Please add \$30.00 USD to all memberships.  
Note: All dues are payable in U.S. dollars. All returned checks will incur a \$25.00 processing fee.

# Which membership type best suits YOUR needs?

Whether you are a director, educator, or member of an ensemble or you compose music, own a handbell related business or an enthusiast, there is a Handbell Musicians of America membership for you.

	Handbell Musician Membership - \$85	Sub-Membership* \$10	HIC Membership† \$170	Retired Handbell Musician Membership‡	Full-Time Student Membership - \$30
Voting Privileges	X		X	X	
Print Copy of Overtones	X		X	X	
Online Only Overtones	X	X	X	X	X
Access to online Resources	X	X	X	X	X
Take a choir or choirs from your organization to events at member discount pricing	X		X		
Attend Individual Focused Events at member discount (i.e. Distinctly Bronze, Master Series)	X		X	X	X
Exhibit at Guild Events			X		
For 65+ Not Actively Directing or Leading a Handbell/Handchime program				X	
Access to Special "My Membership Rewards"	X			X	X
Access to Scholarships & Grants	X		X	X	X
Access to Chime Loan Programs	X		X	X	X
Access to Mentoring Programs	X		X	X	X
Access to Priority Music Club	X		X	X	X
Return \$10 Rebate to Your Area	X		X	X	
Return \$5 Rebate to Your Area					X
E-Notes	X	X	X	X	X
RingEr-Notes	X	X	X	X	X
Own Login & Password to Access On-line Resources	X	X	X	X	X

Canadian Members add \$15USD and Other Internationals add \$30USD to all except Sub-Membership

\*The Sub-Membership must be linked to a Handbell Musician Membership. Sub-member may attend events with the group associated with the Handbell Musician Membership only.

†HIC Members may only apply for grants and scholarships, event endorsement, and have access chime-loan programs if they are recognized as a non-profit 501-C3 organization.

‡If you are 65 years of age or older and ACTIVELY directing or leading a handbell/handchime program, then the Handbell Musician Membership is for you. However, if you 65 years or older and NOT actively directing or leading, then the Retired Handbell Musician Membership is your best option.