

Making a Friction Call

* Sand The Pot

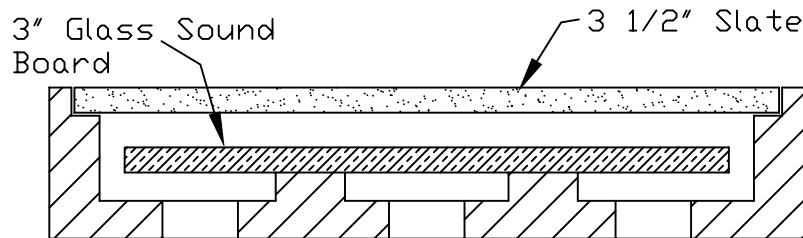
Our friction call pots are rough machined. We try to keep the surfaces as smooth as possible, but it will be necessary to sand the outside of the pot. This can be done by hand. To speed up the sanding process, you can chuck the pot into a lathe or drill using a 3/8" mandrel through the 3/8" center hole. Sand with coarse paper first then move to a finer grit. We recommend applying a coat of polyurethane to the inside of the call at this time, to seal and protect it from moisture.

* Assemble and Glue the Call Pieces

To make a slate over glass call, glue a 3" diameter glass "Sound Board" to the pedestal in the bottom of the pot. Clamp the glass to the pot until the glue dries. Finally glue the top 3 1/2" slate into the groove cut for it in the pot and clamp until dry. Plastic spring clamps work well for clamping the slate or glass in place. Be careful not to place a spring clamp in the center of the slate or glass, as the pressure can cause a break. The clamps should only be placed along the edge of the slate or glass.

There should be a slight gap between the pot and the edge of the slate or glass that will be filled with glue. This will allow a little bit of room for expansion and contraction. If the slate or glass fits too tightly, you will need to sand the inside edge of the pot until the slate or glass fits as desired.

Any good water proof glue can be used to assemble the call. We prefer Liquid Nails or clear silicone. Silicone looks better with glass calls, but takes much longer to dry.

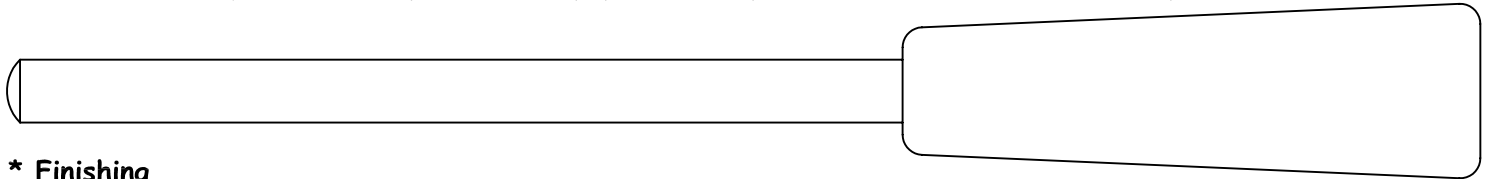


* Sand The Striking Surface

After the glue has dried, sand the top of the pot and the slate until all of the slate has the same surface finish. Do this by placing a piece of medium grit sandpaper on a flat surface, then sand the top face of the call against the flat surface and sandpaper. Be careful if using a power sander. It can get the glass hot, causing it to crack.

* Make the Striker

Most strikers are made from 5/16" hickory. If you prefer, you can quickly sand the surface of the striker dowel using a drill to spin the dowel while you sand. Our striker tops are pre-drilled for 5/16" dowels. Glue the striker rod into the handle using wood glue. Liquid Nails will also work for this. After the glue sets up you can again, chuck the striker dowel in a drill to expedite sanding the striker top. Now cut the striker to about 6" in length and slightly round the tip using sand paper. The tip should look something like the picture below.



* Finishing

We recommend finishing the call with clear polyurethane, both inside and out. This protects the call from moisture, which can cause the pot to warp, resulting in possible glass or slate breakage. Avoid oil finishes, as your hands can transfer the oil from the finish to the striking surface.

* Adjusting The Call

The surface of the call, whether slate or glass must be sanded with a medium grit paper. After a little use or if the call surface gets oily from your hands, you just need to slightly sand it again to restore the sound. You can also adjust the length of the striker rod to get the desired pitch. The shorter you cut it the higher the pitch will be.