



NSBA Bell Cover Sewing Instructions

This document will be updated after we have production images of a bell cover.

At least 18" of elastic cord/twine/shoe lace- This is used for a bell cover.

For larger instruments, you will need more. In order to determine how much you need for your instrument simple measure the diameter of your bell and add a minimum of 2 ½".

Take your instrument and trace the shape of the bell opening onto a piece of paper. For a larger instrument you should tape pieces of paper together – or use a sheet of newspaper – to achieve the proper shape.

Cut out your circle.

Lay your fabric with the wrong side facing you.

Place your paper circle on the WS of your fabric and pin it in place. Leaving room around the edges.

Using a ruler or protractor, add 2" all the way around your circle. (Here you will be adding a total of 4" to the diameter of the circle.)

Cut out the new, larger circle.

Using a pencil/pen/fabric marker, place markings around the circle, between the cut edge of the fabric and the paper, at every inch. These markings should be ½" to 1" in from the cut edge.

Using scissors. cut small slits in your fabric where you placed your markings from the previous step. It is helpful to arrange your markings so that you have an EVEN number of points. This way the cord will tie on the same side of the fabric.

Un-pin the paper cut-out from your fabric and continue with just your fabric.

French horn players should first complete these special steps to make a hand hole in their bell covers:

Take your circle of fabric and fold it in half, making a half circle.

Fold the half circle in half, making a quarter circle.

Using your pencil/pen/fabric marker, mark the tip of the corner. This marks the middle point of your circle.

Open your fabric so that you have a half circle again. From the middle marking you just made, measure 2" to the left and 1½" to the right of the point. Mark these points on your fabric. (These measurements will change depending on the size of your hand; we suggest making the slit as tight as possible.)

Cut a slit from one point to the other.

You have successfully finished your hand hole. Continue following the instructions below.

Feed your elastic cord/twine/shoe lace from the top to the bottom of the first slit. Then, feed the cord from bottom to top on the next slit. Repeat this process all the way around the bell cover.

Leave a long tail (approximately 2-3") of cord at the beginning and the end of the circle.

You are now ready to use your bell cover! Pull both tails so that there is a small amount of tension on the cord. The perimeter of the cover will pucker. Place this around the bell of your instrument and pull tighter. Tie the tails to create a tighter seal around the bell.

If you used an elastic or elastic cord, you can slip the bell cover off and on without untying it. If you used a non-elastic cord, you must un-tie and re-tie for each use.

Like your face mask, bell covers should be washed after each use.