

By Artist [Roger Deweese](#)

To support the tank bell chimes I welded rings on the top and bottom of the tanks and for the cylinder/chime/middle section I used SS cable and swages. Art work was attached to a few bells but did diminish the sound quality (especially the green bell with two butterflies on it). I wanted to use a painted or powder coated surface, however, from other experiences I learned that powder coating does not prevent rust. The metal must first be galvanized and then acid etched or sandblasted prior to powder coating to prevent rust. As an alternate to powder coating I selected a patina/dye made by a local company Ron Young at [Sculpt Nouveau](#).

There are about a dozen colors available and you buy a Solvent Dye Thinner to mix with the colors. A little can go a long way. As you can see the colors can be intense or very transparent. On some of the tanks I used a 60 grit rotor sander after they were sandblasted in order to get a shiny surface where I made the transparent patinas. I put about three coats of clear plastic over the colors. The inside of all of the bells have two coats of a very good rust-proof paint.

The bells made with splotches of gold or silver over the patina were accomplished by first adding the patina, then adding a watercolor rubber based "resist" on the areas that were not to be gold or silver. Next, I sprayed the bells with either gold or silver depending on the color schemes. After the paint dries rub off the paint over the resist with your hand revealing the patina underneath. The gold or silver paint sticks to the areas that did not receive the resist.

The best small strikers I have found for small bells are ice hockey pucks. For larger strikers I used ½" thick soft plastic (made from plastic cutting boards). I visited a leather shop to purchase reels of strand leather used for making the tassels. The best tassels I have seen are from an Arabian horse tack shop.









