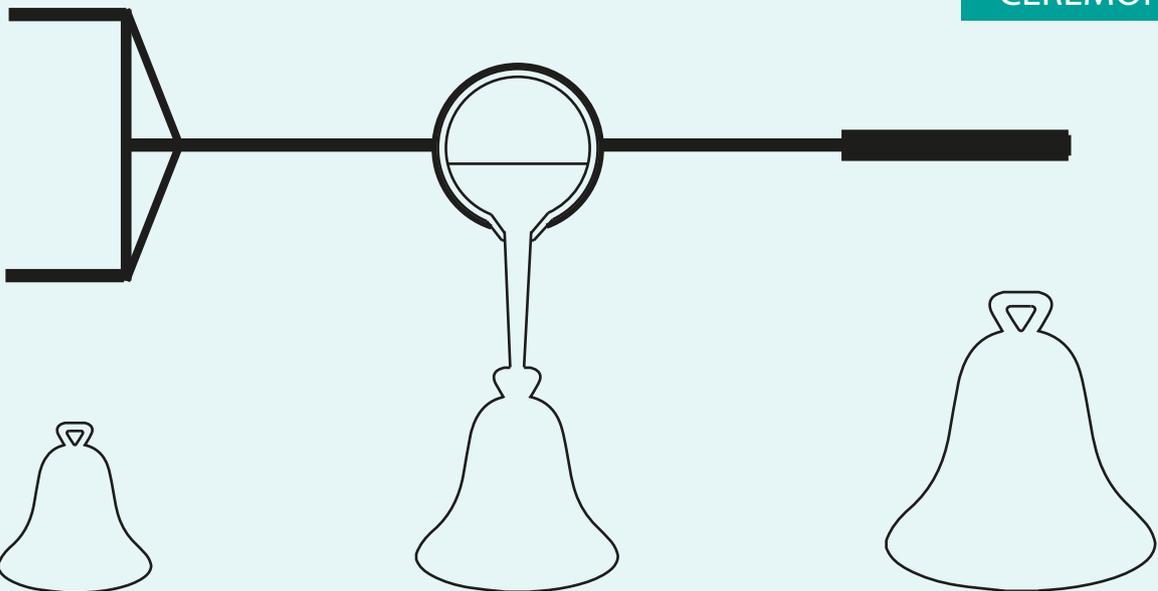




## Bespoke wedding bells crafted with our unique Travelling Foundry.

The options below involve the Travelling Foundry coming to your wedding, melting the bronze in our custom-made furnace and pouring the bell in a special ceremony before you and your guests. We will work with you to create a spectacular and memorable moment using the tools of molten metal and theatre.

### CEREMONY + BELL



#### PARVUS

1.5kg  
£2100

*The Parvus bell, suited to being a handbell or can be hung.*

#### MEDIO

3kg  
£2400

*Classic portions, about the same size as public house last orders bell.*

#### MAGNA

8.5kg  
£2900

*The largest bell on offer, will ring loud and clear whether hung at height or down low.*

**Super early bird special offer for 2017 summer and winter.**

**Bells in Parvus or Medio size - £1900**



Each bell casting ceremony is unique and tailored specifically for you. Get in contact to understand the optional extras that we could intertwine within the service.

In the past we have worked with storytellers to add personal narratives to the performance. We have devised a giving ceremony where members of the congregation have added organic or metal tokens to the furnace to symbolise their support for the newly weds. We have even had one couple that decided to add their silver engagement rings into the molten mix to symbolise the beginning of their new life together.

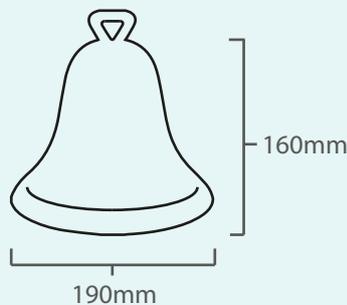
All bells come with a clapper, hanging hook and a unique, individually designed logo - this can be the couple's initials intertwined, an image or a simple symbol. It is also possible to have a wooden handle (where applicable) for your bell, all included in the set price. Just get in contact with us to see what is possible. For a full understanding of the process please have a look at our 'How Does it Work?' section.

If you don't have the means to house the Travelling Foundry at your wedding we can also send your own unique bell ready for the day.

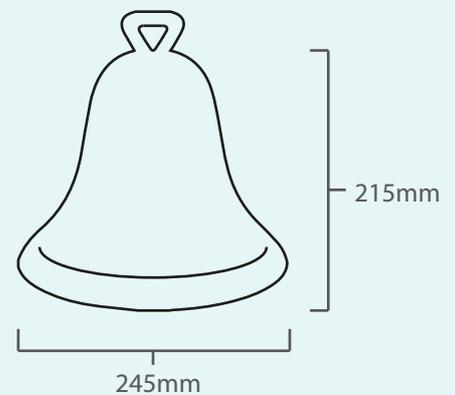
## PRE-CAST BELL



**PARVUS**  
1.5kg  
£650



**MEDIUM**  
3kg  
£850



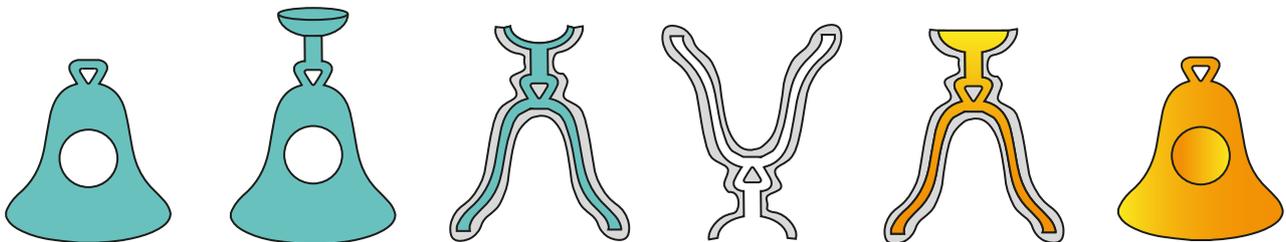
**MAGNA**  
8.5kg  
£1200

*The prices stated on this PDF are dependent on a 3 month lead-time, a deposit and the event being in the UK. In some circumstances it may be possible to do it quicker than 3 months and in different countries for an additional fee.*



# How does it work?

Making a bell is a long process - around 30 hours of preparation and craftsmanship. Here at Bespoke Wedding Bells we use the 'lost wax technique' to achieve high levels of detail on the insingers.



- 1** The first stage is to fabricate a wax positive. After you have chosen your size and design we spin a wax model of a bell on a bespoke machine similar to a potter's wheel. Next we carve a relief on the side of the bell. If a design is particularly dear to you we will work to make this a reality.
- 2** The next stage is to sprue and cup the bell so it is possible to pour the molten metal in. This is again done in wax. The sprue and cup act like a funnel to receive the bronze later in the process.
- 3** The third step is the investment part of the process. This requires the whole bell, sprues and cup to be dipped in a refractory material that sticks to the wax and is left to air dry. The mould is built up layer by layer, like the skin of an onion, over a period of several days until a whole shell covers the bell.
- 4** Next is the 'burnout' stage - this is the first time any heat has been introduced to the bell. The refractory material is heated, which causes the material to bond and results in a strong but brittle mould (like a ceramic vessel). At the same time, all of the wax is melted out from the mould, leaving a void which is ready to receive the bronze.
- 5** Now everything is ready to heat up an ingot of bronze and melt it down inside the crucible, which sits inside the furnace. Once the metal is molten, the bronze is poured from the crucible into the mould and left to cool overnight.
- 6** The last stage is to break off the refractory material to reveal the solid bronze bell underneath. Then the bell will be brought back to our workshop for finishing work. This involves cleaning the bronze and installing a clapper and hanging hook, or a handle - depending on your wishes. The bell will then be delivered to you in a bespoke carrying case within 5 days of the casting.



### **How long does the bell casting ceremony take?**

The entire 'on stage' process takes around 30 minutes, depending upon the details of the ceremony. We recommend that you organise the ceremony in the evening so that you can experience the spectacular molten bronze at its brightest!

### **We want to put a special something (like a ring or other object) into the crucible. Is this possible?**

Yes, we encourage it! The whole process is about emotionally engaging with the bell, and with what it symbolises.

### **We want to surprise the couple. Can a friend or family member design the bell?**

Of course! We will help you work with us to realize something special.

### **We want to really surprise them, and invite you to the wedding without them knowing. Is this possible?**

Yes. If you want this to be a total surprise on the couple's wedding day, we need to liaise with someone from the couple's inner circle and organising team, to ensure that everything goes smoothly.

### **We would really like a bell, but don't know if the wedding venue will be comfortable with some of the health and safety implications of a travelling foundry. Isn't there a lot of molten metal?!**

We are a fully insured company with experience of working with a wide range of venues and organisations, from the National Trust to the University of the West of England. We are used to coordinating with health and safety teams to provide full and authoritative risk assessments and method statements. Don't worry!

### **We want to get married in a fireworks factory. Can you do a performance there?**

Unfortunately some places are not suitable for us to cast a bell in! We can, however, make a unique bell and post it to you.

### **Can we see the bell before we buy it?**

Each bell is individually made and crafted for you. We can send you drawings and photographs of the wax version of the bell so you have an idea of what it is going to be like before it is cast.



### **How does the payment and deposit work?**

We send an invoice asking you to pay for 50% of the cost at point of booking 3 months prior to the event. Because of the labour-intensive nature of what we do, we need a significant lead-time to organise making the bell. We require the rest of the payment one month before the day.

### **What is the early bird deal?**

For 2017 summer and winter bookings we are offering Parvus and Medio bells for the special reduced price of £1900. Please quote 'early bird' when booking.

### **I really want a bell in one month's time. Is this possible?**

Get in touch and we'll see if we can do it. It's likely to cost a little more for the tighter turnaround time.

