

HANDPAN



Handpan is a shell-like metal musical instrument which consists of two half shells, bound together and is considered as the category of Idiophones. The general idea of a Handpan is derived from a Caribbean steelpan. Basically, Felix Rohner and Sabina Scharer in Bern-Switzerland made this shape of steelpan and called it Hang or Hang drum. So, Hang Drum is the brand name of PanArt from Switzerland, while Handpan is the general name of this instrument. Handpan has a central note - which is called **Ding** (Which makes the lowest note), plus 8 notes around the central note. The bottom opening of the pan is called Gu. Handpans are made of different metals, such as Steel and Stainless Steel, different heat treatments, such as nitriding and different patterns and shapes.

- Stainless steel handpans typically have a stronger structure, resulting in higher volume and a more sustained sound (4–6 seconds). This makes them an ideal instrument for meditative music, Zen sessions, and music therapy.
- Nitrided steel (hardened steel) handpans produce lower volume and less sustain (echo), making them a better choice for playing faster pieces.
- The most popular scale of Handpan is D minor, whereas the Ding is D3. It has an East-West mystic, meditative taste and can accompany main scales.
- Tuning: Tuning Handpans is not easy and only handpan makers can tune it. Therefore Extra care should be considered not to hurt it. This is another reason we always recommend Stainless Steel Handpans for higher durability.
- Maintenance: Handpans should not be kept in humid or hot temperatures in your vehicle or in their case. The best is to keep them in dry and balanced weather and clean it after every use. In fact, a risk factor is when your fingers' sweat is transferred to the Handpan which makes it vulnerable to rust. You can use special rust preventive oils to treat your Handpan.

