



# Marimba

**#7060, 7061**

*(formerly #3912, 5590)*

## Assembly and Installation Instructions

***Please open and inspect all items upon receipt. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us immediately.***



### Quality Commitment

Thank you for your shared commitment to connecting children with nature and your support of children's life-long learning. Nature Explore is dedicated to providing quality, research-based educational materials for your outdoor spaces, as well as outdoor classroom design services and educator workshops.

Our natural products are field-tested by trained educators who observe children using them in play—focusing on safety, educational-value and versatility—prior to being offered in the Resource Guide. Our natural products, such as wooden instruments, tables or balance beams, are hand-crafted by trusted professionals who support our shared mission. All natural products are constructed of materials carefully selected for functionality, safety and durability.

We encourage you to contact us with questions or for more information on our natural products and services. If inquiring about a past or existing order, please have your order number handy (Ex: SO90001234) so we may answer your questions and provide additional information as needed. **All of our warranty, return and exchange policies can be found online or sent by request. Please contact us at [service@natureexplore.org](mailto:service@natureexplore.org) or 1-888-908-8733.**

*All items created by and manufactured exclusively for Nature Explore are done so in accordance with all relevant and applicable safety standards and recommendations as set forth by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and ASTM International. Be sure to consider additional regulations that may be unique to your site.*

## How to Assemble and Install a Marimba

**Recommended Ages: 2-12**

**Recommended Crew: 2 people**

### Inspection:

Inspect marimba each time before it is used.

- Inspect to make sure it is stable in the ground.
- Mallets should be in one piece.
- Make sure the wood is smooth and splinter free.
- Sailing line should be tight.
- All keys should be attached.

### Maintenance:

General maintenance should be performed every few months. This maintenance will help reduce injuries and extend the life of your marimba:

- Tighten bolts
- Compact dirt around legs

Bi-annual maintenance performed every other year:

- Replace the sailing line

### Tools Needed:

1. Hammer
2. Wrench
3. Screwdriver

### Parts List:

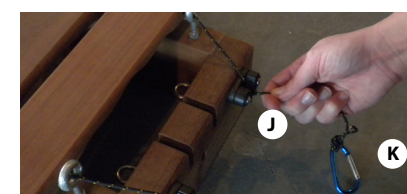
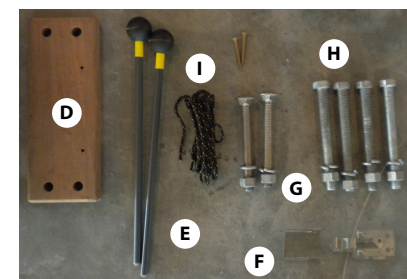
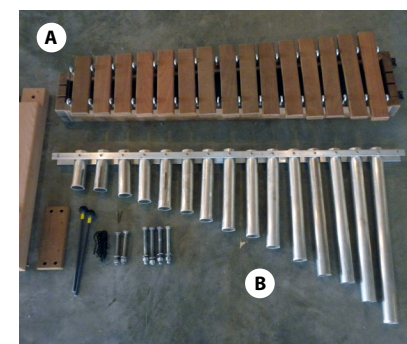
- 1 - Ipe Frame & 15-Keys (A)
- 1 - Resonators (B)
- 2 - Cedar Legs (C)
- 1 - Ipe Mallet Holder (D)
- 1 - Pair Mallets (E)
- 2 - 4x4 Post Bases (F)
- 2 - Stainless Steel 4-1/2" Carriage Bolts, Washers, & Locknuts (G)
- 4 - Galvanized 5" Hex Bolts, Washers & Nuts (H)
- 2 - 11 ft 1/8" sailing line Vectran Core (I)
- 2 - Cam Cleats on frame (J)
- 2 - Carabiners on frame (K)



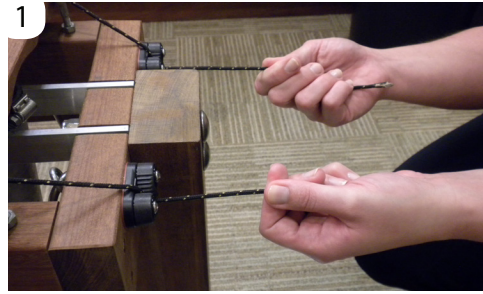
**When using volunteer labor, make sure that the person assembling the winged chime has the necessary skill level.**



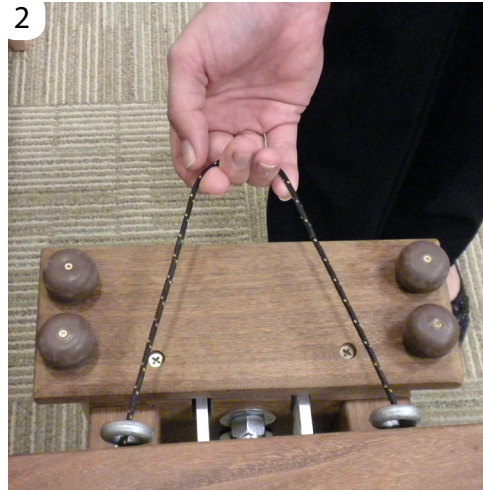
**Do not allow children to play on or near equipment which is in need of repair or replacement, is incomplete or is otherwise considered unsafe as serious injury may occur.**



**1** Pull up to release line from cleat at long end of frame.

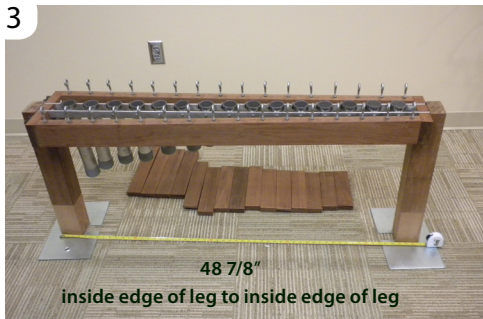


**2** Pull line from short end to release keys. Remove keys in order.

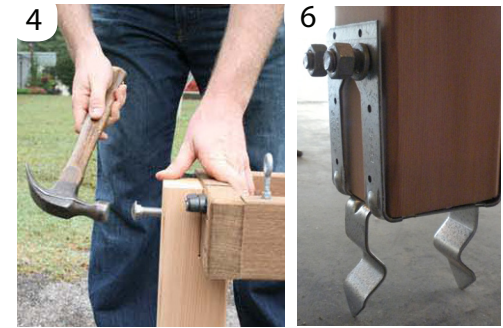


**Note:** Numbers located on frame and bottom of keys (See Step 9).

**3** Align frame and legs to pre-drilled holes. Allow two people to assure stability.



**4** Insert 4-1/2" carriage bolts and washers into pre-drilled holes at each end. Tighten lock nuts with a wrench, but be sure not to over-tighten as this will crack and/or split the wood.



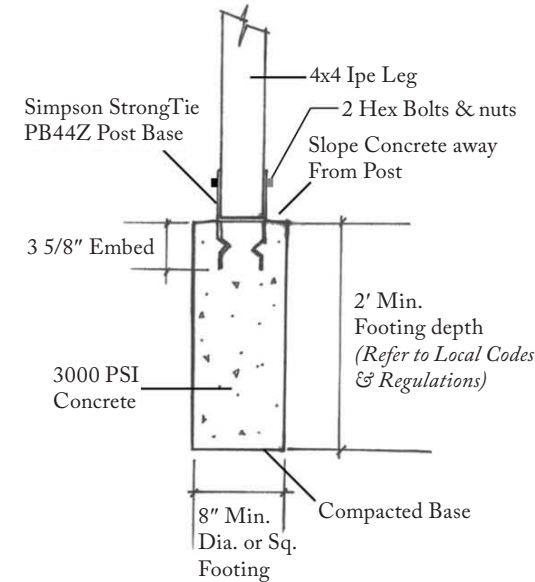
**!** **Over-tightening screws & bolts will cause the wood to crack and/or split.**

**Note:** Marimba is now ready for permanent installation by a licensed and bonded contractor.

Marimba must be installed without keys and resonators.

**5** Site marimba in permanent location marking location of legs on ground.

**6** Match labels and attach 4x4 post bases onto legs using provided 4-1/2" Hex Bolts and Locknuts. Each leg and post base is labeled "short" or "long" and inside (I) or outside (O) designation.

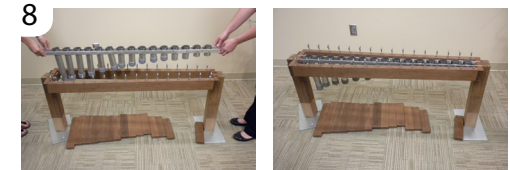


**7** DO NOT PLACE MARIMBA UPSIDE DOWN ON PREMOUNTED EYEBOLTS!

Install as per detail. Top of marimba frame must be level so keys are playable.

**Note:** Continue assembly after permanent installation.

**8** Install resonators, long resonators to long end, short resonators to short end.

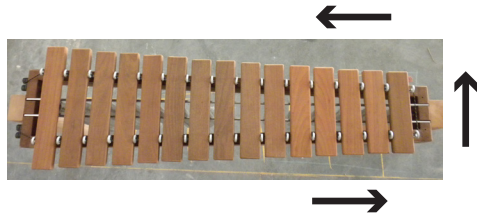


**9** Replace keys (smooth side up) on frame in numerical order. Match key and frame numbers.

**Note:** Numbers are located on frame and bottom of keys.

- 10** String keys to frame, starting at long end on one side. Turn at short end and continue stringing toward long end.

To string: insert line through eyebolt, through key, eyebolt, key, etc.



- 11** Create tension in the lines by pulling them towards you. Then slide lines into cam cleats as shown.

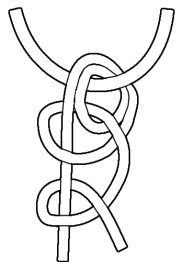


- 12** Check the tightness of the line by applying gentle downward pressure on the line located on the short end of marimba. The line should move less than 1".

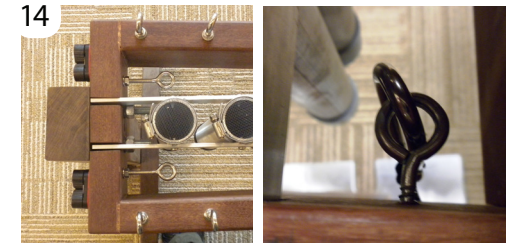
**Note:** Line will have to be tightened periodically.



- 13** Tie anchor hitch knot to each carabiner.



- 14** Clip carabiners to eyehooks inside long end of frame.



- 15** Attach the mallet holder with provided screws to the pre-drilled holes on the short end of the marimba.

Again, be sure not to over-tighten as this will crack and/or split the wood.

**!** Over-tightening screws & bolts will cause the wood to crack and/or split.



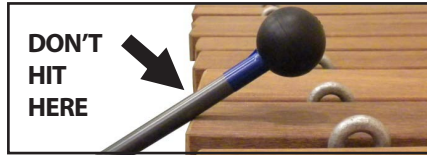
- 16** Play your marimba!



**Helpful Tip:** CAUTION! Improper use will result in damage and/or breakage of your mallets. Use proper supervision when mallets are in use.



**Correct:** Only the head of the mallet is to be used to strike the keys. Strike the center of the key for the best sound.



**Incorrect:** Striking the shaft of the mallet on the edge of the keys will result in damage and/or breakage.

### Important Facts About Natural Wood Products

Nature Explore field-tested components are made of natural materials that bring children in close contact with the beautiful patterns and colors of nature. Due to the nature of raw and untreated wood, you will notice graining, knots, checking (a natural cracking process that occurs as wood releases moisture across the annual growth rings), and in rare instances, insects. This is not a defect in the product, but a natural process that should be expected. Additionally, unfinished wood will naturally develop a beautiful silvery-gray patina over time.

Below are some examples of what you may encounter and can expect with your order:

#### Natural Cracking and Checking



#### Knots, Branches, Etc.



Nature Explore items such as Tree Cookies, Natural Balance Beams, Marimbas, At-Ease Benches, etc. are natural, untreated wood products that require regularly scheduled, routine maintenance in order to maintain safety and extend the life of the item. Some items will arrive with an initial coat of sealant while others are left untreated (please refer to product overview & specifications). It is our recommendation that you apply an initial sealant and maintain a schedule of reapplication annually to biannually to extend the life of your product. When considering treatment options we advise seeking the expertise of local wood workers, lumber yards, general contractors, etc. to understand which options are most effective and safe for your area. Routine sanding of the tops, sides and interior (if applicable) surfaces of the item will minimize splinters, reduce the chance of mildew and extend the life of your product. As your natural wood product becomes acclimated to your local environment, and sometimes even occurring in the transit process, a mildew discoloration will appear. You can reduce the risk of continued mildewing by making sure your item is installed on a surface with adequate drainage such as mulch or gravel. Installing or placement directly on grass surfaces is not recommended as it allows moisture to be trapped underneath.

**Nature Explore Classroom** resources are designed to bring children closer to nature and help them develop life-long learning skills. To ensure safety and effectiveness, please be sure to follow the instructions for installation, building codes, warnings, and maintenance. Failure to follow all of the instructions will void any warranty offer. Furthermore, even Nature Explore Classroom resources installed and maintained in accordance with the instructions can present hazards to children in the absence of adequate supervision.

Depending on the location and nature of the outdoor classroom, the supervisors may be paid professionals (full-time park or school/child care facility staff), paid seasonal workers (college or high school students), volunteers (PTA members), or the parents of the children playing in the outdoor classroom. The quality of the supervision depends on the quality of the supervisor's knowledge of safe play behavior. Therefore, supervisors should understand the basics of safety in an outdoor classroom.

Outdoor classroom supervisors should be aware that not all equipment and items are appropriate for all children who may use the outdoor classroom. Posted signs or labels indicating the appropriate age of the users should be checked before play begins, and supervisors should direct children to equipment appropriate for their age. It is also very important to recognize that preschool-age children require more attentive supervision than older children do.

### Building Codes:

Variations in building codes, specific local development covenants, or site conditions may require modification to the installation of the product. Outdoor classroom owners are ultimately responsible for complying with all applicable permits, building codes and other regulatory requirements, and should review their outdoor classroom with local building inspectors. All appropriate building permits should be obtained prior to starting installation.

### Liability:

Nature Explore shall have no liability or responsibility for actions or inaction in connection with any Nature Explore item or any damage or liability that arises during the construction and/or use. Always read and observe all safety precautions provided by the Consumer Product Safety Council regarding toy safety, playground safety, and any other applicable programs. Likewise, always read and observe all safety precautions provided by any tool or equipment manufacturer consulted during installation.