

Bill Phoenix's Modifications to Wooden Alphorn Stand

Bill Phoenix
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I ordered an alphorn stand from the Alphorn-Center, Germany, and assembled it as shown in Picture 1, before any modifications.

Unfortunately, it could not be placed close to walls because the pieces protruded so far out the back. The bell also protruded far into the room where it was likely to be kicked or bumped by people who were walking past it.



Picture 1: Alphorn Stand, Assembled and Before Modifications

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I could see that the stand would require only modifications and I already had good material that had been cut and delivered. Kathie had wool felt and we had a couple of hours one evening to work together to modify the stand.

We needed to make only a few minor changes for all three of the alphorn's sections to not extend beyond the rear of the renovated stand, and for the bell to remain much closer to the front of the stand. A Restraining Dowell and plastic Command Hooks ensured that the sections would be stable in the modified stand and would not fall out for all mounting conditions.

The major change was to:

- Move the bottom shelf upwards and to the rear and reducing its angle (Pictures 3 through 17);

A crucial addition was to:

- Add the 'Restraining Dowell' (Pictures 18 and 19, and 25 and 26);

In addition to the Restraining Dowell, the bottom shelf's wooden dowels were retained. Placing the upper and middle sections on the dowels then resulted in the sections extending beyond the rear of the modified stand (Pictures 40 and 41). I only use them when I pick up the stand with the upper and middle sections to move it a very short distance, for example to vacuum the floor.

If the 'Restraining Dowell' is not used, the outside lower lip of the bell will contact the ground. (Pictures 12, 14 through 16) Contact with the ground will stop the bell section from further movement and the bell section is adequately restrained by the modified stand's upper and lower shelves. Because the Restraining Dowell might not always be used, if the stand is to be located on a hard, rough surface, it should be placed on a soft piece of cloth or a rug.

The seating surfaces where the alphorn contacted the modified stand were softened by:

- adding felt or wool to surfaces that contacted the alphorn's pieces (Pictures 18-36);

A crucial step to ensure adequate ventilation of the upper and middle sections so they would dry after playing including retaining enough tilt of the lower shelf and using plastic 'Command Hooks' to ensure that an air gap formed at the bottom. (Pictures 19-21 and 27-37)

- Note the 'Command Hooks' to the lower shelf to slightly raise the middle and upper pieces for more ventilation;
- The angle of the shelf is still great enough for an air gap to develop with the wooden pegs.

Finally, for convenience, several more holes were drilled in the top shelf so I had easy access to mouthpieces, mouthpiece adapters and a trombone slide cleaning rod that I use to swab the moisture out of the upper and middle section bores. (Pictures 7, 10, 18-20, and 21-27)

The corners were also rounded by sanding. The stand was slightly raised by the addition of plastic furniture leg protectors (Pictures 3 and 8). The modified stand was repainted.

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Kathie Phoenix, my wife, shown relaxing on our patio besides our screened porch. She helped me a great deal, provided the wool to line the openings and much more. We worked like demons to finish the modifications before attending the 2021 North American Alphorn Retreat at the Solitude Ski Resort in the Wasatch Mountains to the east of Salt Lake City on 5 – 8 August 2021.



Picture 2: Kathie Phoenix at our house in Idaho Falls, Idaho

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Moving the Bottom Shelf Upwards and to the Rear

The picture below shows two round brown areas towards the front (left) side of the wood that are the screw holes for the original lower shelf position that I filled with wood filler. The lower shelf was originally at a fairly steep angle. I reduced the angle, as shown by the metal screws in their holes.



Picture 3: Moving the Bottom Shelf Upwards and to the Rear

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Picture 4: Horn Stand is now Very Useful
Note the Restraining Dowell
Front view of renovated alphorn stand

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Picture 5: With the Restraining Dowel
Front left view of renovated alphorn stand

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Picture 6: With the Restraining Dowell
Front right view of renovated alphorn stand

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Picture 7: With the Restraining Dowell
Front left view of renovated alphorn stand

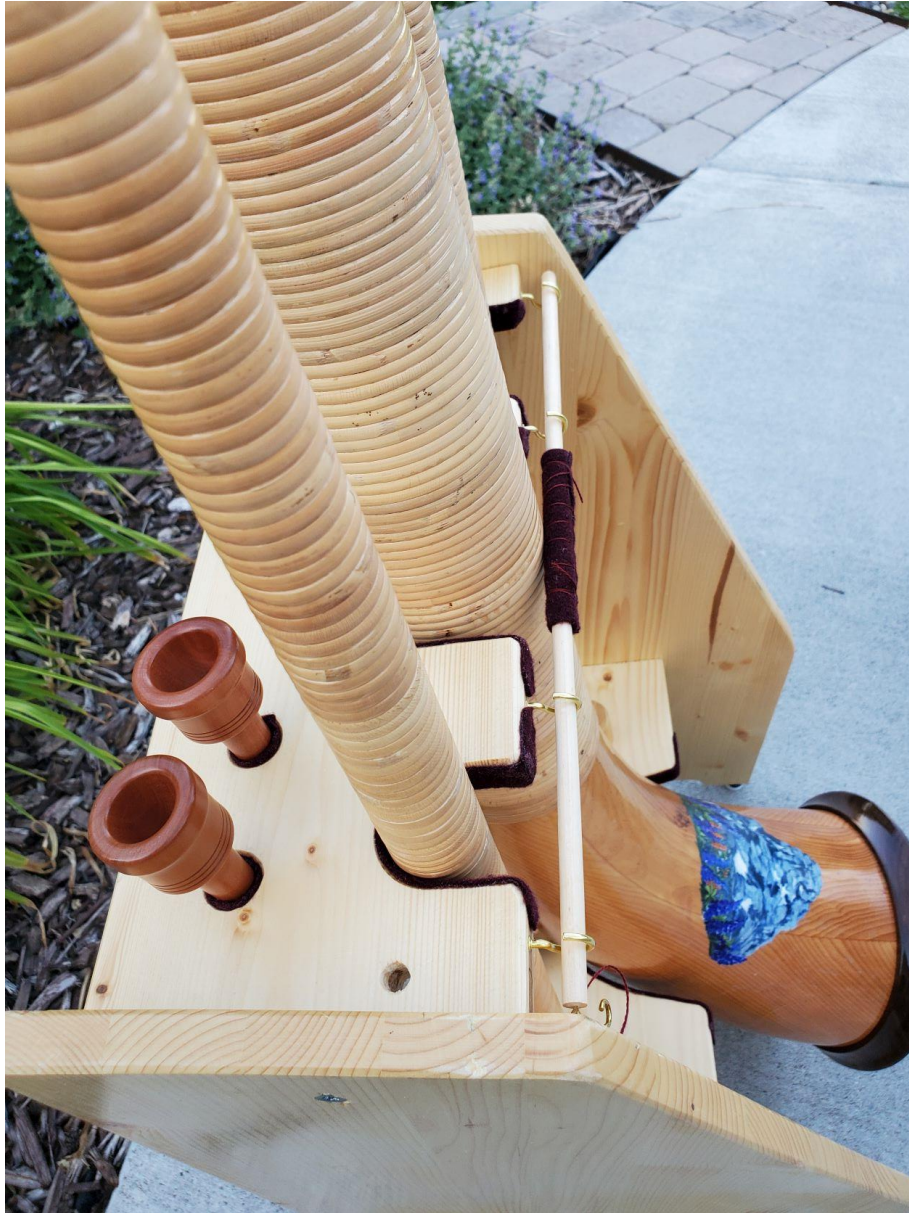
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Picture 8: With the Restraining Dowell

Bell does not touch floor when restrained by the Removable Restraint Dowell at the Top Shelf
(Contrast this with Picture 16 showing the lower lip of the bell touching the ground if the Restraining Dowell is not in place.)

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Picture 9: With the Restraining Dowell
Removable Restraint Dowell at the Top Shelf

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Picture 10: With the Restraining Dowel
Bell section rests against the Dowel and is Restrained by Sides – Right Side of Bell Cutout



Picture 11: With the Restraining Dowel

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Bell section rests against the Dowell and is Restrained by Sides – Left Side of Bell Cutout



Picture 12: Without the Restraining Dowell
With the Upper and Middle Sections on the Plastic Command Hooks,
None of the Sections Extend past the Rear of the Renovated Stand

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Picture 13: Without the Restraining Dowell
Upper and Middle Sections shown on the Plastic Command Hooks, and Bell is Touching Floor but will not fall out of the Renovated Stand

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Picture 14: Without the Restraining Dowell
Upper and Middle Sections shown on the Original Wooden Pegs where they are most stable, and Bell is Touching Floor *but will not fall out of the Renovated Stand*

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Picture 15: Without the Restraining Dowell
Upper and Middle Sections shown on the Plastic Command Hooks where they are still stable, and Bell is
Touching Floor but will not fall out of the Renovated Stand

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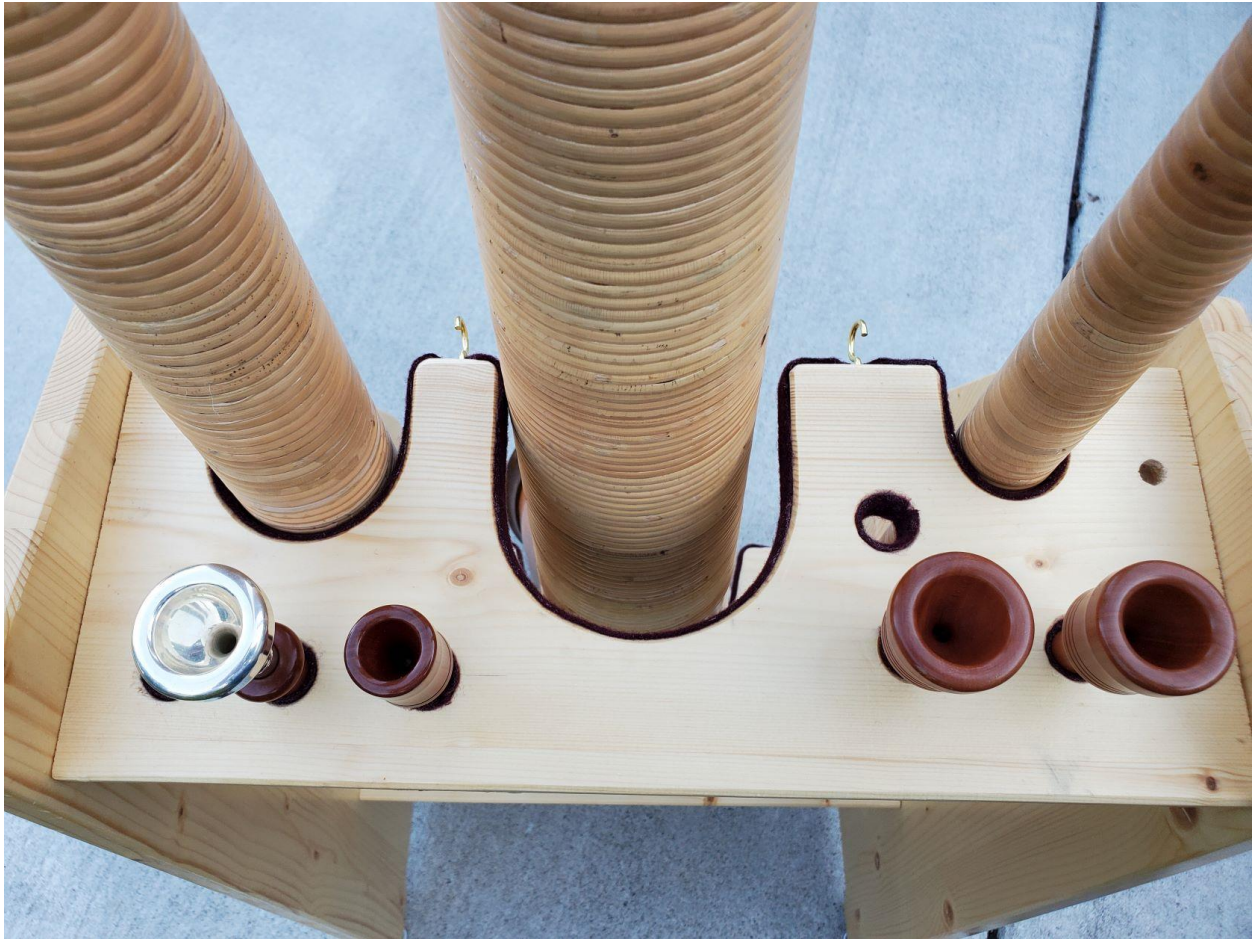
Picture 16: Without the Restraining Dowell
The Bell is Touching Floor but will not fall out of the Renovated Stand
(Place a rug under the stand if it is to be located on a rough hard surface such as concrete.)

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Picture 17: Without the Restraining Dowell
Upper and Middle Sections shown on the Plastic Command Hooks, and Bell is Touching Floor but will not
fall out of the Renovated Stand

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Picture 18: Without the Restraining Dowell
All Sections are Stable in the Renovated Stand, Regardless of Being on Plastic Command Hooks or Original Wooden Pegs

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Picture 19: Additional Holes were Drilled in the Upper Shelf and Wool Felt was added to Surfaces that Would Contact the Alphorn – Overall View Looking Down of Renovated Stand from the Front
(Also note the original wooden pegs and Command Strips.)

(We applied Elmer's Wood Furniture Glue to one side of the wool and the wood, then pressed the wool strips into place and let dry.)

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Picture 20: Additional Holes were Drilled in the Upper Shelf and Wool Felt was added to Surfaces that Would Contact the Alphorn – Another Overall View of Renovated Stand from the Front (Also note the original wooden pegs and Command Strips.)

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Picture 21: Additional Holes were Drilled in the Upper Shelf and Wool Felt was added to Surfaces that Would Contact the Alphorn – Another Overall View of Renovated Stand from the Rear (Also note the original wooden pegs and Command Strips.)

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Picture 22: Additional Holes were Drilled in the Upper Shelf and Wool Felt was added to Surfaces that Would Contact the Alphorn – Another Overall View of Renovated Stand from the Top
(Note the storage location and Restraining String of the Restraining Dowell, and the Brass Cup Hooks to Position the Restraining Dowell when it is being used)

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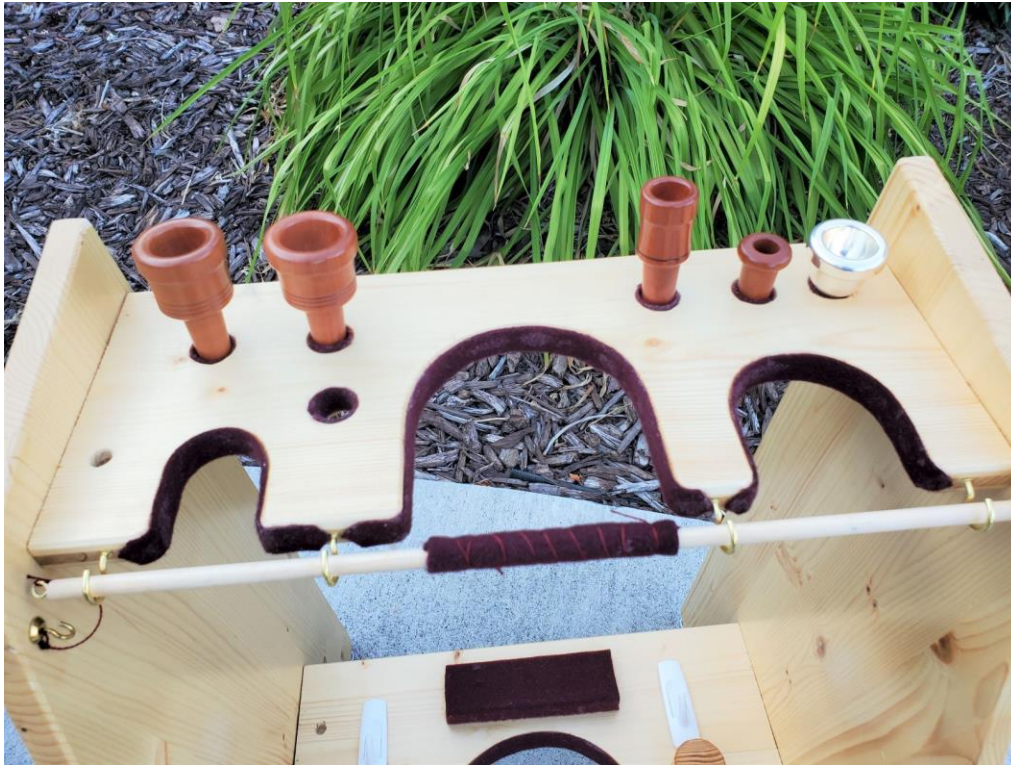
Picture 23: Additional Holes were Drilled in the Upper Shelf and Wool Felt was added to Surfaces that Would Contact the Alphorn – Another Overall View of Renovated Stand from the Right-Hand Side (Note the storage location and Restraining String of the Restraining Dowell, and the Brass Cup Hooks to Position the Restraining Dowell when it is being used)

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Picture 24: Brass Cup Hooks to Position the Restraining Dowell when it is being used.

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Picture 25: Top View of Upper Shelf with Brass Cup Hooks and the Restraining Dowell in Position.



Picture 26: Bottom View of Upper Shelf with Brass Cup Hooks and the Restraining Dowell in Position.

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Picture 27: Lower Shelf Wooden Dowel and Plastic Command Hook Upper and Middle Section Restraints
(Note the wool felt on surfaces that contact pieces of the alphorn, including mouthpieces, the additional holes in the upper shelf and Command Hooks on the lower shelf.)

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Picture 28: Command Hook abuts the Wooden Peg



Picture 29: Upper Section on the Wooden Peg.

Note how the Command Hook raises the lower end of the section to develop an air gap, regardless if the section is on the peg or Command Hook.

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Picture 30: Upper Section on the Command Hook.
Note how the Command Hook is narrow enough to develop an air gap.



Picture 31: Upper Section poised above the Command Hook.
Note how the Upper Section fits over and is restrained by the plastic hook.

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Picture 32: Wooden Peg and Command Hook on Lower Shelf for Center Section
(Note how the Command Hook touches the Wooden Peg to Ensure that the Air Gap develops.)



Picture 33: Center Section on Wooden Peg
(Note that the Command Hook raises the Center Section to develop an air gap)

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Picture 34: Center Section on Command Hook
(Note that the Command Hook raises the Center Section to develop an air gap)



Picture 35: Upper and Center Sections on Command Hooks

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Picture 36: Upper Section (right) and Middle Section (left) on Command Hooks



Picture 37: Inside of Center Section, mounted on a Command Hook, looking down to show air gap.

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Picture 38: Upper and Center Sections on Command Hooks, and Bell touching the Floor because the Restraining Dowell is not used.

(The is the least stable position for all three sections, but stability is still adequate, the sections are securely captured by the stand and the Bell Section will not fall out.)

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Picture 39: Upper and Center Sections on Command Hooks and Bell is not touching the Floor because the Restraining Dowell is in place.

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Picture 40: Upper and Center Sections on Wood Pegs

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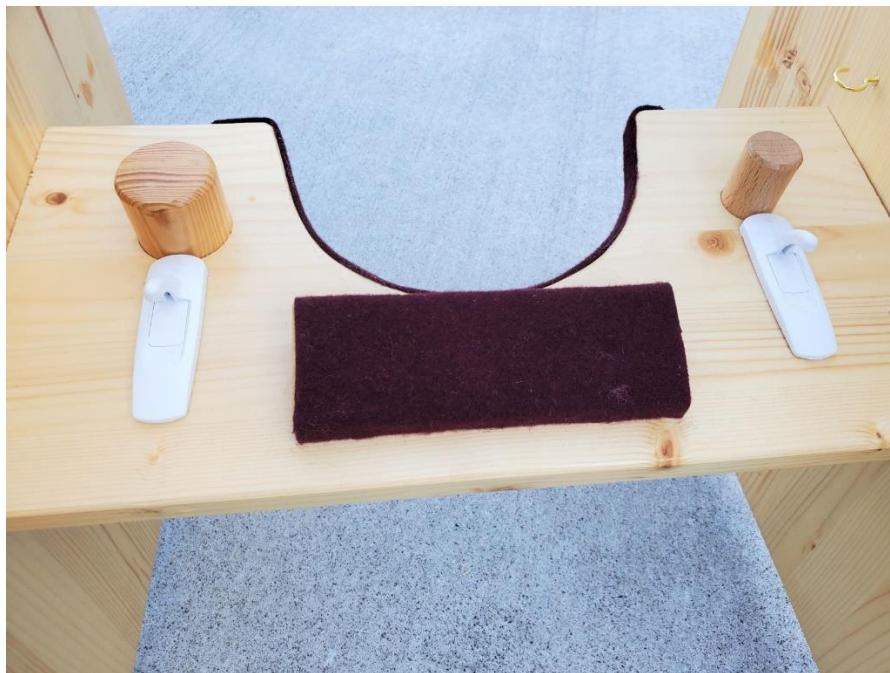


Picture 41: Upper and Center Sections on Wood Pegs
(Note their protrusion beyond the back of the stand.)

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Picture 42: Wool covering the Bell Section's Foot Rest and Contact Area



Picture 43: Lower Shelf with Wood Pegs and Command Hooks

Summary and Conclusion

Minor modifications were accomplished in a few hours to make the alphorn stand more useful for my needs.

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