

A quick and simple way to silence a bell (do not do this with the bell up)



An old bike inner tube (bike shops will usually give you a few) with two lengths of redundant bellrope is all you need. Two knots in the tube will help stop it shifting when in use. Make the loops on the rope first and then hook the inner tube over the headstock. To calculate the amount of rope wanted put the loops round the flight of the clapper and then tie the other ends of the rope to the tube, adjusting the length so that you get a reasonably secure fit, and the clapper is central. It doesn't need to be all that tight, since friction plays a part in keeping the thing in place.

The silencer in position. Make sure that it's parallel to the wheel and fixed centrally, or it may slip sideways. To remove the silencer simply slip the two "nooses" off the clapper and it's ready for next time. You don't need beautiful knots (see photo on left!) – but check them each time you use the gadget, just in case. The kit in these photos has been in use for over three years and the inner tubes are still all intact, but again it's worth keeping an eye on them.