

Recommended string chart for Egan wire-strung Irish harp
Simon Chadwick April 2023



Patrick Byrne's string list

Glasgow University Library MS Farmer 332
Dictated to John Bell, 1849, and published in
H.G. Farmer, 'Some Notes on the Irish Harp'
in *Music & Letters* vol XXIV, April 1943.
read from the bass to the treble

string	freq	Note	Length (cm)	Length (in)	Gauge (mm)	Gauge (in)	Tension	Metal	
1	1972	b ^{'''}	6.8	2.7	0.44	0.017	9.6	yellow brass	
2	1760	a ^{'''}	7.1	2.8	0.44	0.017	8.3	yellow brass	
3	1568	g ^{'''}	8.1	3.2	0.44	0.017	8.6	yellow brass	
4	1396	f ^{'''}	8.9	3.5	0.44	0.017	8.2	yellow brass	
5	1318	e ^{'''}	9.8	3.9	0.44	0.017	8.9	yellow brass	
6	1174	d ^{'''}	10.5	4.1	0.44	0.017	8.1	yellow brass	
7	1046	c ^{'''}	11.8	4.6	0.44	0.017	8.1	yellow brass	
8	986	b ^{''}	12.9	5.1	0.44	0.017	8.6	yellow brass	
9	880	a ^{''}	13.9	5.5	0.44	0.017	8.0	yellow brass	
10	784	g ^{''}	15.4	6.1	0.44	0.017	7.8	yellow brass	
11	698	f ^{''}	16.9	6.7	0.48	0.019	8.8	yellow brass	
12	659	e ^{''}	18.6	7.3	0.48	0.019	9.5	yellow brass	
13	587	d ^{''}	20.2	8.0	0.48	0.019	8.9	yellow brass	
14	523	c ^{''}	22.5	8.9	0.48	0.019	8.8	yellow brass	
15	493	b [']	25	9.9	0.48	0.019	9.6	yellow brass	
16	440	a [']	27.9	11.0	0.48	0.019	9.6	yellow brass	
17	392	g [']	30.6	12.1	0.48	0.019	9.1	yellow brass	
18	349	f [']	33.5	13.2	0.6	0.024	13.6	yellow brass	
19	329.5	e [']	36.9	14.5	0.6	0.024	14.7	yellow brass	
20	293.5	d [']	40.7	16.0	0.6	0.024	14.1	yellow brass	
21	261.5	c [']	44.3	17.5	0.6	0.024	13.3	yellow brass	
22	246.5	b	48.5	19.1	0.6	0.024	14.2	yellow brass	
23	220	a	52.7	20.8	0.6	0.024	13.3	yellow brass	
24	196	g	58.3	23.0	0.6	0.024	12.9	yellow brass	
25	196	g	64.8	25.5	0.7	0.028	21.8	yellow brass	
26	174.5	f	72	28.4	0.7	0.028	21.3	yellow brass	
27	164.75	e	79.7	31.4	0.7	0.028	23.3	yellow brass	
28	146.75	d	87.1	34.3	0.7	0.028	22.0	yellow brass	
29	130.75	c	94.5	37.2	0.7	0.028	20.6	yellow brass	
30	123.25	B	101.7	40.1	0.7	0.028	21.2	yellow brass	
31	110	A	107	42.2	0.8	0.032	24.4	yellow brass	
32	98	G	112.5	44.3	0.8	0.032	21.4	yellow brass	
33	82.375	E/F	118	46.5	0.8	0.032	16.7	yellow brass	
34	73.375	D	123	48.5	1	0.039	22.4	yellow brass	
35	65.375	C	127.5	50.2	1	0.039	19.1	yellow brass	
36	55	AA	132.5	52.2	1	0.039	14.6	yellow brass	
37	49	GG	137	54.0	1	0.039	12.4	yellow brass	
							TOTAL	506	

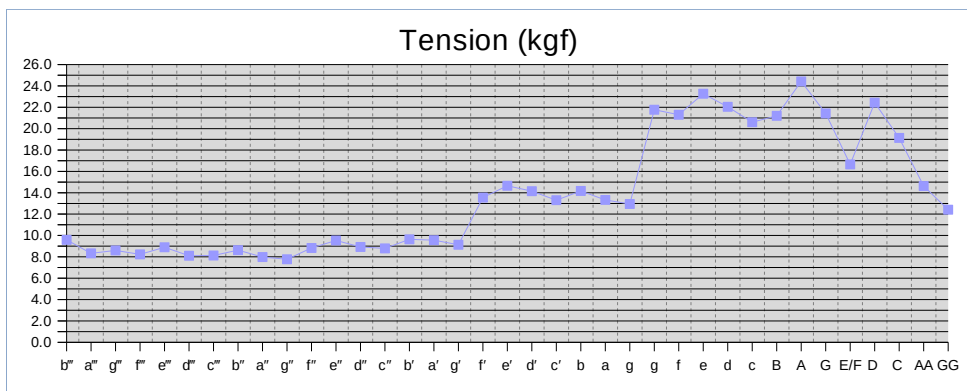
(f1v) (f89v)
34 in all
78 of the next say 8
Then there are
2 oz of course &
2 oz of fine treble
wire.
This constitutes
the whole wire
56 of the next say 5

67 of the next say 7 1/4lb of next
which will
string the tenor.

6 of the next 1/2 lib each of
the 3 first
numbers of
brass wire.

3 wires of
the next size

Longest wire /
5 wires of this /
to be got in Flower
the wire drawers
Church St Dublin.



Note letters in box (1-21) are
scratched on soundboard of
Egan No.1933 made for the
Belfast Irish Harp Society
early 1820s (National Museum
of Ireland DF:1913.381)

Note names 22-37 are from
Edward Bunting's live transcription
of a traditional tuning sequence,
c.1790s. (Queen's University Belfast
MS4.29 page 150/147/156/f73r)

*String lengths are measured from John Egan no.1933,
made for the Irish Harp Society in Belfast, early 1820s (National Museum of Ireland, DF:1913.381).
Measured by Simon Chadwick and Brenda Malloy, March 2023. Measurements are perhaps ±5mm*