

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



Patrick Byrne's string list written down in 1849 by John Bell (Glasgow University Library MS Farmer 332), and published by H.G. Farmer, 'Some Notes on the Irish Harp', *Music & Letters* vol XXIV, April 1943.

string	freq	note	Length (cm)	Length (in)	Gauge (mm)	Gauge (in)	Tension	Metal	
1	1760	a ^m	6.8	2.7	0.44	0.017	8	yellow brass	
2	1568	g ^m	7.1	2.8	0.44	0.017	7	yellow brass	
3	1396	f ^m	8.1	3.2	0.44	0.017	7	yellow brass	
4	1318	e ^m	8.9	3.5	0.44	0.017	7	yellow brass	
5	1174	d ^m	9.8	3.9	0.44	0.017	7	yellow brass	
6	1046	c ^m	10.5	4.1	0.44	0.017	6	yellow brass	
7	986	b ^m	11.8	4.6	0.44	0.017	7	yellow brass	
8	880	a ⁿ	12.9	5.1	0.44	0.017	7	yellow brass	
9	784	g ⁿ	13.9	5.5	0.44	0.017	6	yellow brass	
10	698	f ⁿ	15.4	6.1	0.44	0.017	6	yellow brass	
11	659	e ⁿ	16.9	6.7	0.44	0.017	7	yellow brass	
12	587	d ⁿ	18.6	7.3	0.48	0.019	8	yellow brass	
13	523	c ⁿ	20.2	8.0	0.48	0.019	7	yellow brass	
14	493	b ⁿ	22.5	8.9	0.48	0.019	8	yellow brass	
15	440	a ^v	25	9.9	0.48	0.019	8	yellow brass	
16	392	g ^v	27.9	11.0	0.48	0.019	8	yellow brass	
17	349	f ^v	30.6	12.1	0.6	0.024	11	yellow brass	
18	329.5	e ^v	33.5	13.2	0.6	0.024	12	yellow brass	
19	293.5	d ^v	36.9	14.5	0.6	0.024	12	yellow brass	
20	261.5	c ^v	40.7	16.0	0.6	0.024	11	yellow brass	
21	246.5	b ^v	44.3	17.5	0.6	0.024	12	yellow brass	
22	220	a ^v	48.5	19.1	0.6	0.024	11	yellow brass	
23	196	g ^v	52.7	20.8	0.6	0.024	11	yellow brass	
24	196	g ^v	58.3	23.0	0.7	0.028	18	yellow brass	
25	174.5	f ^v	64.8	25.5	0.7	0.028	17	yellow brass	
26	164.75	e ^v	72	28.4	0.7	0.028	19	yellow brass	
27	146.75	d ^v	79.7	31.4	0.7	0.028	18	yellow brass	
28	130.75	c ^v	87.1	34.3	0.7	0.028	18	yellow brass	
29	123.25	B	94.5	37.2	0.7	0.028	18	yellow brass	
30	110	A	101.7	40.1	0.8	0.032	22	yellow brass	
31	98	G	107	42.2	0.8	0.032	19	yellow brass	
32	82.375	E/F	112.5	44.3	0.8	0.032	15	yellow brass	
33	73.375	D	118	46.5	1	0.039	21	yellow brass	
34	65.375	C	123	48.5	1	0.039	18	yellow brass	
35	61.625	BB	127.5	50.2	1	0.039	17	yellow brass	
36	55	AA	132.5	52.2	1	0.039	15	yellow brass	
37	49	GG	137	54.0	1	0.039	12	yellow brass	
							TOTAL	440	

(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.

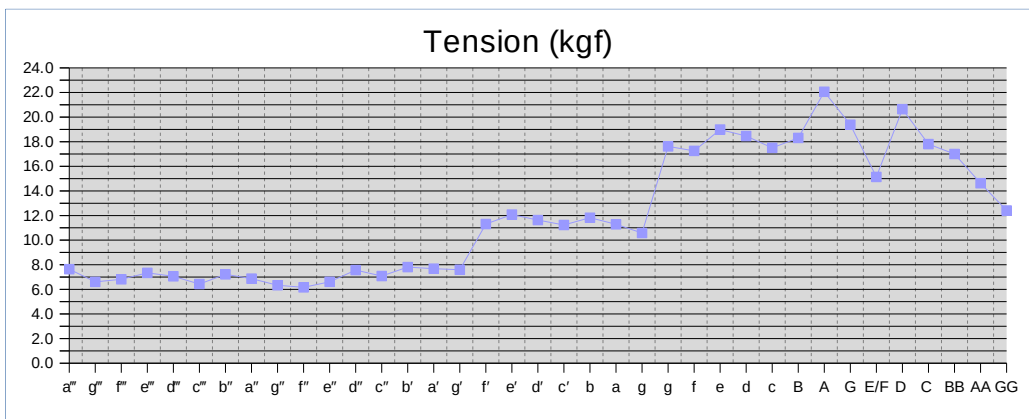
6 of the next

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.

(read from bass to treble)



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