

Recommended string chart for Egan wire-strung Irish harp  
Simon Chadwick September 2023 (revised May 2024)



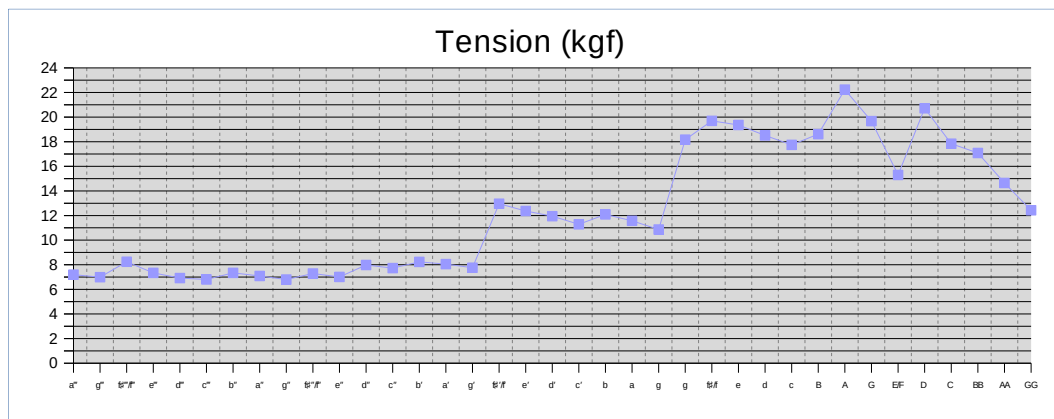
Patrick Byrne's string list written down in 1849 by John Bell (Glasgow University Library MS Farmer 332), and published by H.G. Farmer, 'Some Notes on the Irish Harp', Music & Letters vol XXIV, April 1943.

string	freq	note	Length (cm)	Length (in)	Gauge (mm)	Gauge (in)	Tension	Metal
1	1760	a <sup>'''</sup>	6.6	2.6	0.44	0.017	7	yellow brass
2	1568	g <sup>'''</sup>	7.3	2.9	0.44	0.017	7	yellow brass
3	1480	f <sup>'''</sup> /f <sup>'''</sup>	8.4	3.3	0.44	0.017	8	yellow brass
4	1318	e <sup>'''</sup>	8.9	3.5	0.44	0.017	7	yellow brass
5	1174	d <sup>'''</sup>	9.7	3.8	0.44	0.017	7	yellow brass
6	1046	c <sup>'''</sup>	10.8	4.3	0.44	0.017	7	yellow brass
7	986	b <sup>'''</sup>	11.9	4.7	0.44	0.017	7	yellow brass
8	880	a <sup>''</sup>	13.1	5.2	0.44	0.017	7	yellow brass
9	784	g <sup>''</sup>	14.4	5.7	0.44	0.017	7	yellow brass
10	740	f <sup>''</sup> /f <sup>''</sup>	15.8	6.2	0.44	0.017	7	yellow brass
11	659	e <sup>''</sup>	17.4	6.9	0.44	0.017	7	yellow brass
12	587	d <sup>''</sup>	19.1	7.5	0.48	0.019	8	yellow brass
13	523	c <sup>''</sup>	21.1	8.3	0.48	0.019	8	yellow brass
14	493	b <sup>'</sup>	23.1	9.1	0.48	0.019	8	yellow brass
15	440	a <sup>'</sup>	25.6	10.1	0.48	0.019	8	yellow brass
16	392	g <sup>'</sup>	28.2	11.1	0.48	0.019	8	yellow brass
17	370	f <sup>'</sup> /f <sup>'</sup>	30.9	12.2	0.6	0.024	13	yellow brass
18	329.5	e <sup>'</sup>	33.9	13.4	0.6	0.024	12	yellow brass
19	293.5	d <sup>'</sup>	37.4	14.7	0.6	0.024	12	yellow brass
20	261.5	c <sup>'</sup>	40.8	16.1	0.6	0.024	11	yellow brass
21	246.5	b	44.8	17.7	0.6	0.024	12	yellow brass
22	220	a	49.1	19.3	0.6	0.024	12	yellow brass
23	196	g	53.4	21.0	0.6	0.024	11	yellow brass
24	196	g	59.2	23.3	0.7	0.028	18	yellow brass
25	185	f <sup>#</sup> /f	65.3	25.7	0.7	0.028	20	yellow brass
26	164.75	e	72.7	28.6	0.7	0.028	19	yellow brass
27	146.75	d	79.8	31.4	0.7	0.028	19	yellow brass
28	130.75	c	87.7	34.6	0.7	0.028	18	yellow brass
29	123.25	B	95.3	37.5	0.7	0.028	19	yellow brass
30	110	A	102.1	40.2	0.8	0.032	22	yellow brass
31	98	G	107.8	42.5	0.8	0.032	20	yellow brass
32	82.375	E/F	113.1	44.6	0.8	0.032	15	yellow brass
33	73.375	D	118.2	46.6	1	0.039	21	yellow brass
34	65.375	C	123.1	48.5	1	0.039	18	yellow brass
35	61.625	BB	127.8	50.4	1	0.039	17	yellow brass
36	55	AA	132.6	52.2	1	0.039	15	yellow brass
37	49	GG	137.1	54.0	1	0.039	12	yellow brass

TOTAL 454

(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 my full sized drawings, straightened and restored from a 3D scan of John Egan no.1933 (National Museum of Ireland, DF:1913.381) made in the 1820s for the Belfast Irish Harp Society