

## 6 inch x .128 Inch wall, aluminum wind chimes by Craig Hewison, UK, Nov, 2012

[Additional pictures here](#)

Overall, I'm extremely happy with the chimes, they sure are a talking point with friends and family. There's also a footpath leading to a nature reserve that runs behind our garden: I've caught a few people taking photos of them..!

A quick rundown: We don't (yet) have a tree mature enough to hang the chimes from, hence the wall bracket (the kind used to hang a punch-bag, rated up to 200 kg). I don't think hanging from the house is ideal but it may be 4 - 5 years before any of the trees are tall enough. I do intend to use a tree long-term.

The pipes are 6-inch aluminum, 10 swg, .128-Inch wall, bought from a factory as a 6-meter length. I actually brought it home on my cars roof rack...!



After many hours of thought, calculation and time on your website I'd decided on a 5 pipe arrangement (pentatonic (C5) scale C, D, E, G and A). Working of your charts, I cut the pipe to 1346, 1270, 1199, 1099 and 1038 mm accordingly. These lengths totaled 5952 mm leaving only 48 mm of waste from the 6 m pipe.

I opted for the hidden way ([the 1/2 wrap method 4 shown on the web site](#)) of suspending each pipe using 1.5 mm stainless steel cable tied to 6 mm stainless steel chain.

I hung the individual pipes in my garage to measure each chain length to achieve a bottom aligned set (which I thought might look the best). The optimum strike zone therefore, was at the bottom of each pipe.

After your guidance upon the spacing measurements (which suggested a pentagon arrangement with the chimes hung off 285 mm centers) I opted to make the top hanger out of aluminum plate, fashioned into a regular pentagon. To eliminate some flexing, I built a 2-tier hanger using 10 lengths of aluminum bar. A sort of integrated double pentagon if you see what I mean (see pictures).

After marking up and drilling the hanging points in each corner I used M6 stainless steel bolts with a washer and a 2 link piece of chain (to act as a suspension point) with a similar chain loop on the top surface to attach to the wall bracket.

I used stainless steel carabines to join the pipes to the top bracket and the top bracket to the wall hanger. This means I can remove them easily if need be.

Next I made the 10-inch diameter striker out of a piece of English Oak from a local woodyard. I inserted a 6mm threaded tube through the center to help keep it horizontal.

The striker was hung using the same stainless steel cable as the pipes. I've used some slide fixings with allen bolt grommets that I can adjust the height of the striker if needed.

The sail was hung at a length to ensure that the striker would act at its most resonant providing maximum strike from minimal sail movement.

I'm still not sure about the sail itself. It's made from a sheet of 3mm aluminum and bent to try and maximize its wind-catching capabilities. I've used two threaded bars making the sail ergonomics fairly adjustable. The sail is hung from another carbine so I can remove it on (very) windy days as it hits the house. Another reason why a tree would be better.

I may yet change the sail as it just looks too ugly and clunky. On the positive side though, it is the right size, shape and weight to activate the striker in even the slightest of breezes.

In general I'm delighted with the outcome.

I did put a couple of small brackets on the house, one to tie the striker out of the way to the side if I need to silence the chimes overnight (the striker alone generates enough movement to play the chimes on most days without the sail attached) the second bracket allows me to tie the tubes to the wall tightly with a bungee cord when we have extreme winds.

These 2 brackets are in consideration of our neighbor etc. as the chimes can get very loud, especially in a storm.

Total materials cost me £250 (\$400 US dollars) although I did order brand new pipe from a factory. The pipe alone was about 60% of the total cost. Total weight about 35 Kg, 77 Lb.

Your site made the difference to me Lee. I looked on the internet for a set of large or extreme wind chimes and couldn't find any apart from one or two guys offering to custom make them. Your site gave me the confidence to have a go myself. I don't have any engineering or manufacturing background.

Craig Hewison

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