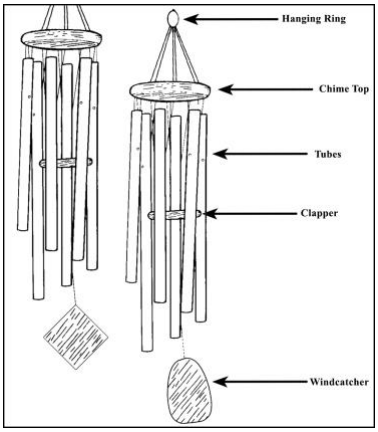
How to String Your Encore or Classic-Style Signature Woodstock Chime
In Three Easy Steps

These instructions are for Woodstock Chimes that have a round top & clapper and a wood paddle shape windcatcher (Signature chimes) or a wood diamond shape windcatcher (Encore chimes).

Materials



Most Woodstock Chimes are strung with braided nylon string, commonly used for fishing line. This line is usually available in tan and black and in various weights. You can find braided nylon fishing line in most sporting goods stores. The weight of the string you'll want varies with the size of the chime:

- Use 80 lb string for tubes that are 7/8" or less in diameter.
- Use 130 lb string for tubes that are 1" or more in diameter.

Attach the string to the wood with staples. If necessary, you can also use nails, but the nails must have a head. Wrap the string around the nail before hammering it into the wood; the nail head will hold the wrapped string securely against the wood.

- Use 3/8" staples (or nails) for chimes with tubes that are 1/2" – 7/8" in diameter
- Use 1/2" staples (or nails) for chimes with tubes that are 1" or more in diameter

You will need tweezers or needle-nose pliers and scissors. You may also want to use a large needle for threading the string through the tubes (upholstery needles work well for this). Don't forget your safety glasses!

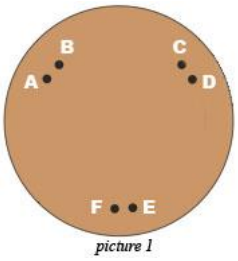
String Lengths

Our chime string comes in 20' lengths. You will want to cut a length of this for the chime top (Step 1) and another for the center string (Step 3). Use the chart at right to determine the string length needed for these two steps. You'll use the remaining string for attaching the tubes to the chime top (Step 2). There's no way to state how much string is needed for Step 2, as it's dependent upon several things, including and most especially, the number of tubes! It's expected that you will have string leftover once you have finished restringing your chime.

Size of Chime Top	Chime Top String Length (Step 1)	Center String Length (Step 3)
3.75"	25"	25"
5.25"	35"	36"
7"	46"	49"
8.25"	50"	65"

Video! Click here to watch the accompanying video showing how to restring a Woodstock Chime.

Step 1: Stringing the Top Wood and Hanging Ring



picture 1

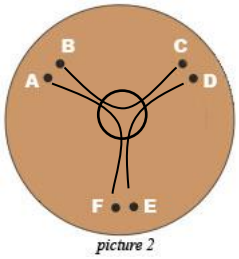
The chime top has 6 holes. On one side, one set of two holes is wider than the others. Place the side with the larger holes face down, with those two holes closest to you. (*Note: Some older Woodstock Chimes also have holes for stringing the tubes – the 6 holes closer to the center of the top are the ones used for stringing the hanging ring.*)

Thread your string down Hole B and back up Hole A, then put both strings through the ring.

Put the left-hand string (coming out of Hole A) aside.

Take the right-hand string (coming out of Hole B and through the ring) and thread it down Hole C and back up Hole D.

Lift the ring from the front and put the string through from front to back.



picture 2

Thread the string down Hole E.

Take the string you set aside earlier, making sure it is still going through the ring, now thread it through Hole F.

If you pull the strings taut, the ring will look like the center of an intersection where 3 roads meet (*see picture 2*).

Tie the two ends of the string together and pull one side so the knot slips into one of the larger holes. Holding the chime top securely, pull the ring to adjust the string.

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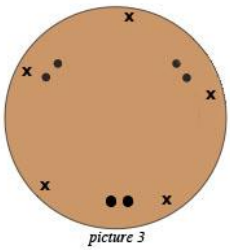
Step 2: Attaching the Tubes to the Chime Top

Thread the string through a large needle.

Lay the chime top on the table, making sure you have the side with the 2 larger holes facing up (the hanging ring should be under the chime top). Looking at the chime top, locate the attachment points for the tube strings. The template to mark the attachment points can be found on our website – go to www.chimes.com/repair and click on "Restringing your Woodstock Chime." If you cannot see where the string used to be attached, use a marker to indicate where you want to staple the tube strings. You should have the same number of attachment points as you have tubes (5 tubes = 5 attachment points). The string should be stapled to the chime top approximately ¼" in from the edge and the attachment points should be evenly spaced around the chime top (as indicated by the x's in picture 3).



picture 3

Note: *Some older Woodstock Chimes have holes for the tube strings. In this case, there are a pair of holes for each attachment point. Follow instructions below with one variation – you will thread one tube at a time, feeding the string up through one hole and back down through the other in the pair, and stapling the string on the chime top to hold it securely in place.*

Place your chime tubes on the table, organizing them in order from longest to shortest.

Check to see if your tubes have marks where the clapper hit them. If so, lay the tubes with that mark facing up (so they will end up facing the center of the chime).

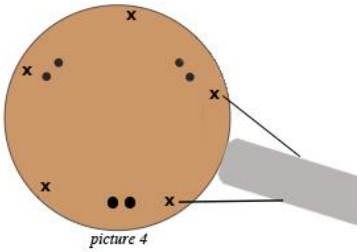
Run the string through the chime holes until all the tubes are strung on the nylon string.

Leaving a 1.5" tail on the string, staple the end of the string to the chime top at one of the attachment points you marked earlier.

With the chime top laying flat on the table, position the first tube on the table so the top of the tube is halfway between the stapled point and the next attachment point (see picture 4).

Positioning the top of the tube so it's touching the edge of the chime top and making sure the string going through the tube is taut, staple the string to the next attachment point on the chime top (do not staple through the string or directly on top of an existing staple, as that may break either the string or the staple).

Rotate the chime top and line up the next tube so the top of the tube is touching the chime top and halfway between the last staple and the next attachment point. Pull the string through the chime and, holding it taut, staple it to the next attachment point on the chime top.



picture 4

Continue this way, working your way around the chime top, until you have a staple between all of your chime tubes attaching the tube string to the chime top.

You should now be back where you started on the chime top, having come full circle.

Cut the string, leaving at least a 1.5" tail of string. Twist this tail with the 1.5" tail that you left free when you started, then staple this to the chime top, putting one staple above the twist and a second staple below the twist – so the twist is contained between the staples.

Cut the string with a ¾" tail (do not cut it right at the staple).

Step 3: Attaching the Windcatcher and Clapper

The windcatcher is the piece of wood at the bottom of the chime that catches the wind and moves the clapper against the tubes.

The windcatcher either has a hole for the string that goes straight through or that makes a 90-degree turn (feeds down through the top and out the side).

For windcatchers with holes that go straight through:

> Thread the string through the hole and either tie a knot on the top of the windcatcher or pull the string through and tie a knot where you want the clapper to sit (*more information on this below*). The second method hides the cut end of the string within the clapper.

For windcatchers with a 90-degree turn:

> Feed your string down through the hole at the top of the windcatcher.
>
> Use tweezers or needle-nose pliers to pull the string out through the hole on the side of the windcatcher.
>
> Tie a knot – make it a three-loop knot (make a circle with the string, then feed the string end through the circle three times).
>
> Use the tweezers to push the knot back into the side hole in the windcatcher (loose string end first), then pull the string from the top to wedge the knot (and the loose string end) in the hole.

Position the chime on the table so the longest tube is closest to you.

Place the windcatcher where you want it to hang (this is personal preference, usually 1-3" below the longest tube) and pull the string up to the chime top to determine the appropriate string length. Cut the string, making it a couple inches longer than you think you need, just in case.

Lay out the string from the windcatcher up to the chime top and determine where you want the clapper to sit – this should be where there were marks on your tubes from the clapper hitting the tubes. If there are no marks on your tubes, it should be in the middle of the longest tube. Put 2 knots (one on top of the other) in the string at the point where you want the clapper to sit. (*Note: if you have a windcatcher with a straight-through hole and prefer to feed the string back up to hide the cut end in the clapper, you'll knot both strings together*).

Note that the string hole in the center of the clapper is larger on one side of the clapper than the other. Feed the string into the larger hole and pull it through the clapper. Give the clapper a tug to secure the knot inside the hole, which hides it from view.

Hold the chime up and double check the string length to make sure the clapper and windcatcher will hang correctly. Once you are happy with the placement of the clapper and windcatcher, staple the end of the string to the center of the chime top.

Fold the string over itself and staple again, taking care not to put the second staple directly on top of the first. Cut the string, leaving a ¾" tail.