

WORKSHOP: "WIND CHIMES"



Summary: Participants learn to create wind chimes using driftwood, scrap metal, beads, shells, found objects and colourful wire. They can either string them on fishing line or work individual jump rings for each element. We practice balancing our creations as we go and participants can add more levels to make it as simple or complex as they like.

Materials and Equipment:

driftwood	colourful wire scraps
beads	clear fishing line, about 8 lb weight strength
buttons	10-12 small eye hooks
shells	drill with bit matching eye hook shanks or pre-drill holes
scrap pieces of metal	safety glasses
file	work gloves
pliers – round nose, needle nose	ruler or tape measure
scissors	masking tape
wire cutters	pencil, eraser, sharpener
jump rings	small piece of metal rod or a strong skewer
scrap paper or card	beading needle
pop cans and tabs	tin snips
pencil, eraser, sharpener	bottle caps
hammer	2 nails approx. 2" size
wood block (for hammering on)	artwork sample
instructions/ideas sheet	

Class Plan:

1. Choose a piece of driftwood for your main support.
2. Find the centre of your driftwood with a ruler. Hold your wood lightly at that point to see if it balances. If it doesn't and you want it to, shift the centre mark in the direction that is lower. Check balance again.



3. Chimes can be attached to the driftwood in a few ways:
 - a. Tied on using fishing line for an easier project.



- b. Using eyehooks screwed into the driftwood.



4. Drill a small hole in the centre balance point and screw in an eye hook.



- a. Mark how deep to drill your hole by comparing your drill bit to the eyehook you are using. Mark the drill bit with masking tape.



- b. Choose small eyehooks, shorter than the width of your driftwood but sturdy enough to not break off when screwed into the wood.



- c. Inserting a thin metal rod or strong skewer into the eyehook hole to help twist can make it easier to screw them in.



- d. Tie a length of fishing line to your eyehook for hanging up your wind chime. Fold the fishing line in half and make a slip knot over the eyehook (below left). Then tie the two ends together (below right).



- e. Test the balance of your hanger by holding it up. If it is off balance and you want the driftwood straight, you can add slightly heavier elements to the side that sits higher.



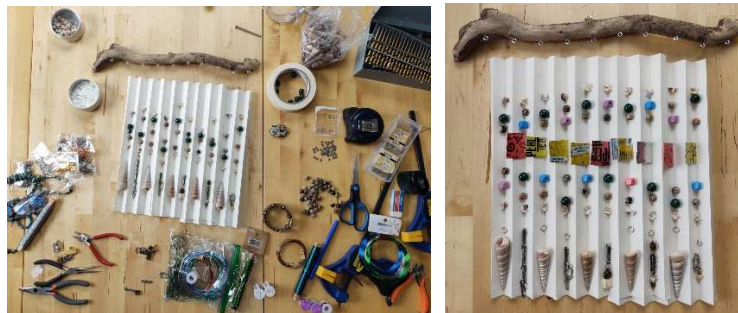
5. Mark holes on the opposite, underside of your driftwood, spaced about 1.1/2" apart.



6. Drill small holes at each marked spot, just deep enough to accommodate the length of the eyehooks. Screw a small eye hook into each hole.
7. Fold two few binder size papers or cards in a zig zag concertina to make trays to plan your wind chime. Fold so you have a line for each eyehook attachment.



8. Line up items to hang from each strand. Try using beads, buttons, shells, old jewelry and found objects that jingle when clanked together. Other elements can be used, even fabric items if you don't need sound from it.



9. Old jewelry can be taken apart to use the pieces in the chimes. Salvaging broken items and reusing the pieces to make something wonderful is a big part of the fun.



10. Attach elements together for each line using either fishing line to tie them or jump rings and links.
 - a. For fishing line attachments, tie knots around each element about ½-1" apart along the line.





- b. For jump ring attachments feed a jump ring through the holes in adjacent elements and twist it closed with pliers.



11. When each chime strand is assembled, attach them to your driftwood either by tying (left) or using a jump ring (right).



12. To open jump rings pull one side of the jump ring forward, instead of pulling both sides outwards. Pulling forward avoids distorting the circular shape of the ring.



13. To make a link for a bead or element that doesn't have one, use round nose pliers and a piece of wire about 18 gauge.
- a. Make a loop at one end of the wire by twisting it around the end of one side of your round nose pliers.



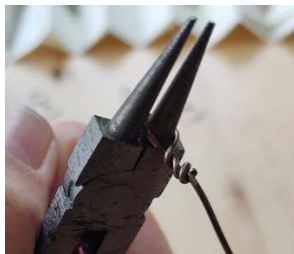
- b. Thread the wire through your bead or item, right up to the loop you just made. Trim the wire leaving about $\frac{1}{2}$ " to $\frac{3}{4}$ " of wire.



- c. Wrap the other end of the wire around one side of your round nosed pliers to form the second loop.



- d. For chimes that have heavier items on them, add a twist to the end of each loop to make the links stronger.



14. IDEA: try making colourful pieces to hang from your wind chime out of pop cans:

- a. Cut the top of a pop can off with tin snips. Wear leather gloves to protect your hands from the sharp edges and safety glasses.



- b. Cut out the side flat part of the pop can into square or rectangular sections.



- c. Fold this section over, encasing the sharp edges (left). Needle nose pliers can help with the folding (right).



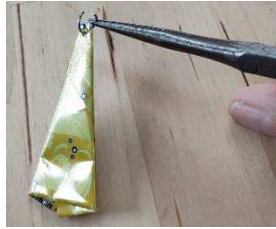
- d. Hammer a nail through one end, working on a scrap block of wood to protect your surface. Make one hole on the edge if you're hanging this as the last element (left), or two holes on opposite edges to make it an element in the centre of a line (right).



- e. Hammer the folded pop can flat.



- f. Add a jump ring to your pop can piece or use fishing line to tie it on.



15. Happy creating, and please share pictures with us if you feel comfortable.

Useful Information/Adaptions/Variations:

- Hanging elements don't have to be evenly spaced. They could be grouped or concentrated on one side so the driftwood top doesn't hang level.
- Try taking a long narrow rectangle of flexible metal and bending it in a circle to use as the top of your wind chime instead of driftwood. The ends can be joined with pop rivets, and attachment holes made with a hammer and nail.
- For a more complex project, trying adding additional pieces of driftwood at different heights.
- Try painting your driftwood.
- Try using a found object instead of driftwood for hanging chimes.
- Working in teams or groups of two is fun too.

Trouble Shooting:

- If drilling holes and screwing in eye hooks is too difficult, tie fishing line around your driftwood instead.
- If it is difficult to see while threading, try using a desk mounted magnifying glass with a light.
- Use a beading needle to thread your beads onto fishing line if needed.