

How to make Acopian Bird Savers



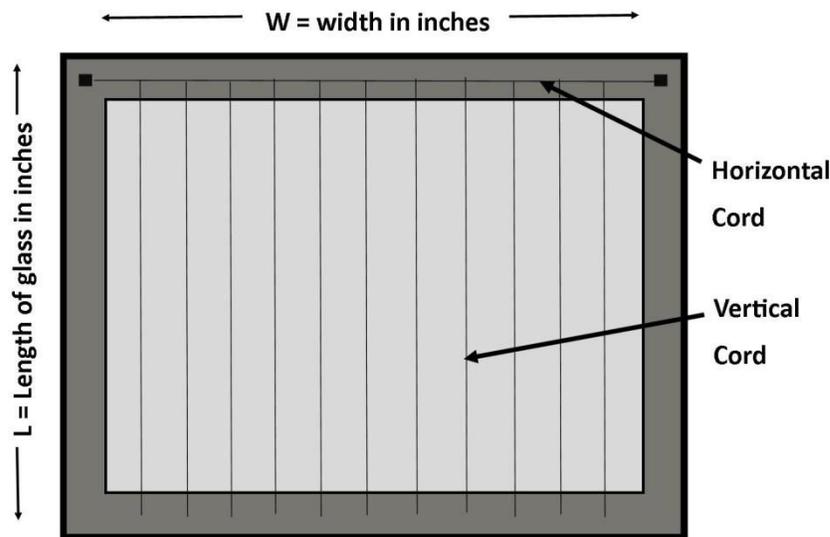
Thank you for saving birds!

When mounted on the outside of a window, Bird Savers are very effective in reducing bird collisions with glass.

Required Tools: Hammer, scissors, tape measure, pencil, lighter or candle (to seal the ends to keep them from fraying).

Supplies Needed: Paracord, 6 D (or similar) nails, 1x3 wood board at least 18 inches long.

1. Measure the glass height and width of the window. When you measure the width, measure the glass only. When you measure the length include the top and bottom of the frame, from where you will attach the horizontal cord above the top of the glass to just below the glass on the bottom. This will allow for the cord to hang below the glass and also account for the extra cord needed to attach at the top. A little extra can always be shortened later, if it ends up too long.



2. Calculate how many vertical cords you need with the following formula, where W = width in inches and V = the number of vertical cords rounded up to the nearest whole number.

$$(W-4) / 4 = V$$

3. Calculate how many inches to make the horizontal cord,* with the following formula:

$$W + 24 + V = \text{_____ inches}$$

4. Calculate how many inches to make your vertical cords,* with the following formula,

- a. $L + 2 = \text{_____ inches}$ each vertical cord.

5. Make your knotting template:

- a. Mark dots down the middle of the 1x3 board spaced $3 \frac{3}{4}$ inches apart.
- b. Hammer 6D nails (or similar nails without heads) partially into the wood on the dots. The nails will be sticking up. (see picture below)

6. Cut your cords to the lengths specified in steps 2 & 3. The cut ends of paracord must be heat sealed to prevent fraying. An open flame from a candle or lighter will seal the end. Hold the cord end near the flame until the end melts and appears rounded. NOTE: This must be done outside to prevent the fumes from contaminating your indoor space.



7. Using the horizontal cord from step 2, measure 16 inches from the end and start at that point. Make an overhand knot and slide this knot over the first nail (as shown above). Continue to make knots on the rest of the nails careful to not leave slack between the nails. After completing all the knots, slide them off the top and put the last knot over the first nail. Continue this process until the number of knots equals V (calculated in step 1). TIP: For consistency, try to tie the knots all in the same direction.
8. Take your horizontal cord with knots and lay it flat. Feed the end of each vertical cord through each knot and tie another knot at the top to prevent it from dropping through (as in picture below). Tighten the horizontal cord to secure the vertical cord in place as you go.



E: Some paracord material will shrink when exposed to water. Rates of shrinkage will vary, but may be up to 12%. Do a home test to see if your paracord shrinks can by cutting a 5 ft length and soaking it in hot water for an hour, letting it dry and re-measuring to see if there is a difference. You will have to consider this rate of shrinkage when cutting the cords for your project. You can cut your cords longer, or alternatively, you can preshrink all your cords before measuring and cutting.

9. Attaching to the outside of your window can be done in many ways. This will depend on the type and structure of the window. Hardware alternatives include: $\frac{1}{4}$ inch cable clamps, Command brand hooks (rated for outdoors), or even simple screws or hooks.

Learn more: <https://safeskiesmaryland.org/> and <https://www.birdsavers.com/>

Send us a picture of your completed project! beth@safeskiesmaryland.org