

Jerry's quick guide to making an Acopian Panel

1. Purchase and preshrink it - remove paper but do not unroll. In a large pan, cover the cord with water and boil for a few minutes. *(This is an **important** step. If not done the cord will shrink once it's exposed to weather.)*



2. When cool, drain water and unroll the cords to dry in a sunny location.



3. Measure and cut cords to fit your window. **Add at least 5"** to the length of each cord to accommodate tying the end knots. *(I marked a line on my garage floor at a distance away from my doorway. This way I could just pull the cord to the line. It is best cut with some high quality scissors. Try to measure and cut the cord in its relaxed state. If you pull it tight to measure and cut, it will be stretched and possibly be too short when you assemble it.)*



4. Burn ends of each cord to prevent unraveling.

5. Mark your Aluminum J channel (steel also works) every 4" and drill holes using a 3/16th bit (it can help to pre punch the holes with a hammer and nail).



6. Thread cords through each hole and tie a stopper knot. Your top bar is now done. If you decide to let the cord ends hang free the ends should still be knotted to prevent tattering. Or you can repeat the process with the free ends and attach them to a bottom frame piece to keep them neat. *(I used a figure 8 knot to prevent the cord from pulling back through the holes. For the bottom piece I used just another piece of J channel. I found if I let the ends hang free they often became tangled in the wind. If you use a bottom J channel it can be left unattached to hang free and sway in the breeze. Additionally (not shown) I have used foam pipe insulation to slip over the bottom J channel and hold it in place by wrapping with a few pieces of wire. This helps stabilize it in the breeze and reduces noise if the swinging bottom clicks on the side of the house. Another option is to screw the bottom piece onto the side of the house as you did the top piece. Then you have a non-swinging barrier that is just as effective.)*



Get more detailed instructions here: <https://www.birdsavers.com/using-vinyl-j-channel/>