

Congratulations on owning an Amadinda!

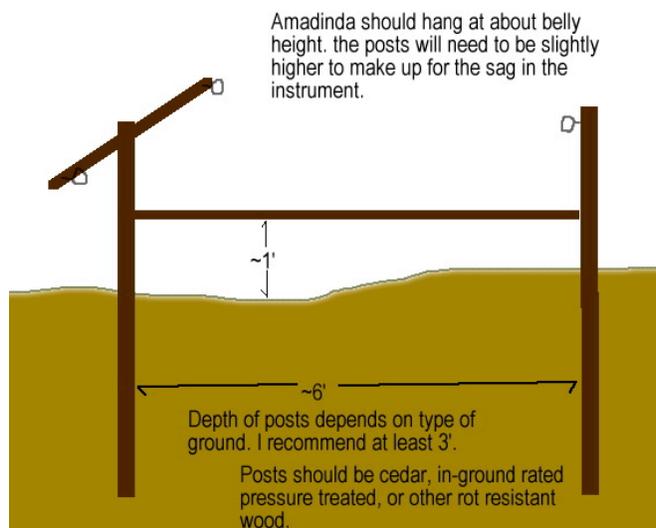
If this is to be outside for use with lots of young musicians, I recommend installing posts about 6' apart and a little over 3' high (lower for very young children) for it to hang from (will hang just like a hammock; should hang higher than you'd normally think as it's played on the ends and not the middle). Unless the posts are very well planted, you may want to put a cross support between them about 18" off the ground. To prevent the possibility of it swinging from enthusiastic players, I recommend that the post supporting the wider end of the instrument have a "T" bar, about 2' long and well attached to the top. The support rope on the wide end of the Amadinda can be cut in the middle (if it's not already); the cut ends should be lightly burned to prevent fraying, and then attached to the ends of the "T" bar. The other end should then be pulled taught, and then relaxed slightly so that there is a small sag in the instrument. Secure well! You may want to use a small line to wrap any excess loose ends to the taught part of the support rope to prevent little fingers from undoing any knots.

Play by striking the corners of the ends of the keys with the flat of the stick. The tuning is a Pentatonic Scale comprising of the notes: F, G, A, C, D, F, G, A, C, D, F, G. There are no "sour" notes, so any amount of people may play at the same time without fear a discordant sound. Although I make much effort to make your instrument sound great, you may find that some notes at the ends of the instrument don't ring quite as nice as the middle. This is normal and due to the limitations of the wood.

For outside use, the instrument will be finished with Storm System cedar (color) exterior stain #20041. I recommend recoating about every year more or less, depending on your climate. Any good quality oil based exterior stain should be fine to use. Small checks and surface cracks may appear in the wood, but will not hamper your Amadinda's sound or playability.

Enjoy!

Sincerely, *Jim*



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