

# A SIMPLE WIRE TENSION METER

## Build it yourself for about \$5.00

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Tension in electrified fence wires built with 12-1/2 gage high tensile, class three galvanized wire should not exceed 250 pounds. Tension in non-electrified wires should not exceed 350 pounds. The amount of tension on a wire can be easily measured with a homemade wire tension meter.

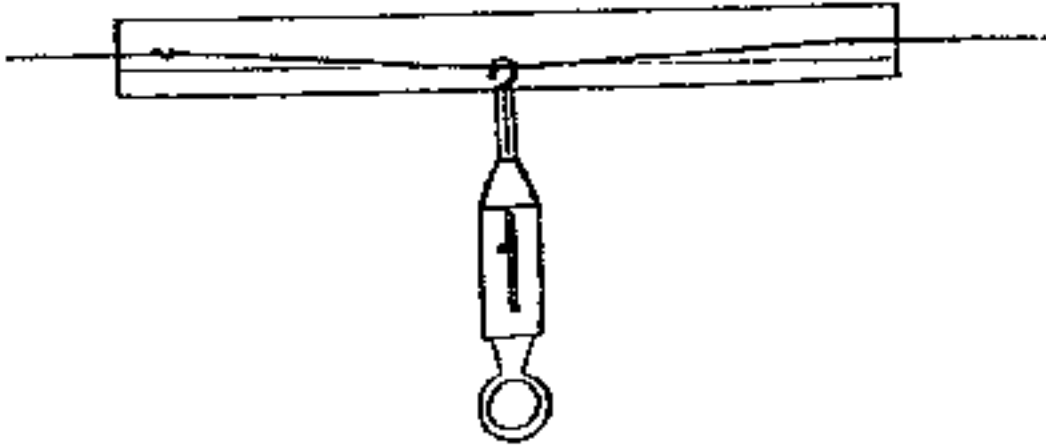
Wire tension meters are easy to build. Just screw two small cup hooks 40 inches apart in a 1/2" x 3" x 40" board (figure 1). Draw a line 1/2 inch behind the cup hooks down the length of the board. That's all there is to it!

Measuring the tension in a wire is just as easy. Just follow these steps:

1. Place the wire to be measured inside the cup hooks.
2. Using a spring balance (the kind used for weighing fish and widely available for about \$5.00 from drug and sporting goods stores), deflect the wire to the 1/2" line and read the scale.

### Figure 1.

3. Multiply the scale reading by 20 to determine the amount of strain on the wire.



For example, if the scale reads 10 pounds when the wire is pulled back to the 1/2" mark, the tension on the wire is 200 pounds:

$$10 \text{ pounds} \times 20 = 200 \text{ pounds}$$

If the scale reads 15 pounds, the tension on the wire is 300 pounds:

$$15 \text{ pounds} \times 20 = 300 \text{ pounds}$$

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