

# Shading The Pond

So eager was I to build my **ornamental wildlife pond** some years ago, that I didn't have much consideration for one of the most vital components of a pond environment: **shade**.

Over the years I've tried numerous methods to retrofit shading over my pond but these ideas were either short-lived or didn't really provide much in the form of shade.

This year (2023) I decided to go down the parasol route; not for me but for the pond. A cantilever design seemed the best choice as then the parasol would provide slightly more coverage than a model which has a central stand. Indeed the parasol I purchased did a fine job in shading my pond between the hours of say 7am and 3pm, after which shade generated by a garden fence would suffice until dusk. The time of year now is July and I've had the parasol for about four months.



All went very well except for one problem I'd overlooked: **wind speed**.

Cantilever parasols (or at least the model I purchased) seem to be incredibly susceptible to wind speed. Initially, anything over 5mph would cause the parasol to rock sharply from side to side (although not spin which was a relief).

You can see to the right the parasol itself, which is a **SONGMICS Cantilever Garden Parasol - 3M**.

I tried a few different configurations but suffice it to say that my current 'parasol restrainer' method seems to be pretty reliable with wind speeds of up to 10mph.

It might be possible for this system to keep functioning with wind speeds in excess of 10mph but I don't risk it; all it will take is one big wind 'uppercut' and I could be looking at a new parasol purchase and possibly some annoyed neighbours.



I also purchased some **Garden Shop Classic weights** for this parasol. At the moment they're filled with water but the recommended way is to fill them with sand.

Additionally I purchased two **HMWD Heavy Duty 2.4M Strong Galvanized Washing Line Props** and two **Milkytoper Umbrella Stand Anchors (3 spikes)**. You can see the weights and stand anchors above.

Using some strong **200mm x 2.5mm cable ties** and a couple of **carabiner** clips (if that's the right term) I could attach a rib from opposite sides of the parasol to each of the heavy duty washing line props, as is shown to the right. You could just use more cable ties instead of the clips.

Finally the finished configuration below.



## Update

I found out the other day that the umbrella stands sometimes need a little help staying in the ground.

As I had them lying around (ahem), I popped **1 x 1.25 kg** and **1 x 5.0 kg** resistance-training weights on top of each stand.

## Another Update

Recently I've found that depending on the wind direction (and speed), the parasol can still manage to unhook itself from the washing line props. To hopefully remedy this issue, I've dispensed with the cable ties between the carabiner clip and the washing line props. It seems in hotter temperatures, the rubber at the top of the washing line props is more flexible and so the carabiner clip is easier to fix in place. I've also updated the picture above so it shows the new configuration.

One last 'upgrade' is the **bungee strap** which pulls down slightly on the central section of the parasol (yes it's not 100% flush) so that the parasol doesn't rock in that direction when the wind speed increases.

Here are some links to the items shown on this page that were working as of 2023-09-05.

[SONGMICS Cantilever Parasol](#)

[Classic Garden Shop Parasol Weights](#)

[Milkytoper Umbrella Stands With Three Spikes](#)

[HMWD 2.4M Washing Line Props](#)

[Bungee Straps](#)

Thanks for reading.

**Updated:** 2023-09-06