A Steel Drum Project

I guess truth be known, I am a person with too many hobbies, a kind of jack of all trades hobby related. Although I like to think I have mastered a few, again the truth is that that they have mainly mastered me…or at least taught me a thing or two as we go along, which can work out ok, as I like to learn.

So my hobbies are Astronomy where I’ve built my own observatory, designed the electronics, written the control programs, dealt with frustrating night time weather and occasionally taken a picture of a galaxy. Then there’s the bee keeping, wood turning on my lathe, building a Baroque Lute, I’d better stop there.

My latest project came into being because having lots of spare time, I decide to Join Maggs Atwell’s Silver Seas Steel Pan Band. I play (!) a steel drum and occasionally I manage to play in tune and in time with fellow band members. It’s great fun and we rehearse at St Catwg’s on Fridays, 6 til 7 pm. New members are welcome… In order to practice in between the Friday sessions, I had the idea of building a drum simulator. It’s a prototype, evolving as it goes along.

The picture here is the real steel drum that I play and chose to simulate. The simulator idea came to me as a low cost option for creating a drum which also combined some of my other hobbies such as electronics (where I can blow up almost any electrical circuit) and programming (where I suppose I did have some formal training about 50 years ago).