

Tuning Tips

Are you a singer? Your voice can help you tune! Try this:

- If you are in the key of C, pluck your C, D, E, F now don't pluck the G yet, hum the note you think comes next. If you need a reminder, pluck the C, D, E, and F again.

Try it again. Pluck C, D, E, F, G, now don't pluck A, try to hum it. Do this several times to check yourself. You will be pleasantly surprised at how much those sounds are already "in there"....

- Plucking each of these strings in succession, you hear a characteristic sound. This has been termed **do-re-mi-fa-sol-la-ti-do**. Remember that from early school? This particular sound is in there! *Each octave on your harp should have this sequence of sounds!*
- If your harp is tuned on C, C is considered 1, the first note in the scale

C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

If your harp is tuned in G:

G	A	B	C	D	E	F#	G
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

If your harp is tuned in D:

D	E	F#	G	A	B	C#	D
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

- You will find this same characteristic sound in any key. This is one quick way to reference what key someone's harp is tuned in. Start on any string and look for that characteristic sound. *The string you start on and find "that sound" will be the first note in the scale.*
- To tune: pluck and crank on the tuning wrench at the SAME time! **KEEP PLUCKING** the out of tune string until you match the correct pitch with a tuner, the same note in a different octave on your harp or another instrument

Over straining is the enemy of accomplishment. Calm strength that arises from a deep and inexhaustible source is what brings success
Rabindranath Tagore

- There are many ways to tune. It is also helpful to use *electronic tuners* when learning to play, however, I suggest tuning only ONE OCTAVE with the tuner, and tune the rest of the harp to that octave. *When we learn about tuning from a visual aid, we end up tuning with our eyes instead of our ears.* As you play your harp more you will become accustomed to hearing when the strings are out of tune, to low or to high.
- Tune the middle octave of the harp first. Sometimes students have a hard time hearing the pitch in the higher strings, so start in the middle, then go to the low octaves. Then tune the higher octaves.



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Eighty percent of success is just showing up
Woody Allen

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