

How to tune your harp

What you will need:

Tuning Key

A tuning key is an instrument that you use to turn the tuning peg.

If your harp did not come with a tuning key, we would recommend buying a rubber one. These are easy to use and will not damage your harp if you accidentally drop the key on the harp.



You can purchase a tuning key on our website:

https://www.poppyharp.com/store/p133/Ergonomic_Rubber_Harp_Tuning_Key.html

Chromatic Tuning Machine or app

You can download a tuner on any smartphone for free. These are useful for harp students however they are not very accurate. We recommend a Korg Chromatic Tuner. This is a much easier, more reliable and accurate way of tuning your harp.

Purchase a Chromatic Tuner:

https://www.poppyharp.com/store/p350/Chromatic_Tuner_-_Korg.html

Contact Microphone

We use and recommend the Korg Chromatic Tuner alongside a clip-on contact microphone. The microphone is incredibly useful for professionals, or if you need to tune in noisy places such as orchestral rehearsals or in a busy home. These devices block out all external noise and allow you to tune anywhere with ease.

How to store the contact Microphone: always detach from the tuner and loosely wind the lead.

Purchase a Cord Contact Microphone:

https://www.poppyharp.com/store/p351/Korg_contact_microphone.html



Step by Guide

1.

Lever Harp

Tune the harp with all of the levers disengaged (when the strings are relaxed, all of the levers should be either all up or down dependent on your harp).



Pedal Harp

Tune the harp with all of the pedals disengaged (when the strings are relaxed, all the pedals should be in the highest slot).



2. Set your tuning machine to 440hz. Use the manual to find how to set your machine. *It is usually altered by pressing the up or down arrows on your machine.*

3. Clip the contact microphone to the back of your harp and plug it into your tuning machine. Place your phone or chromatic tuner on a music stand near to the harp or at the base of your harp.

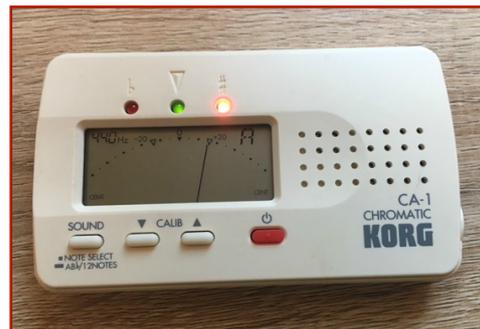


4. Starting in the middle of the harp - choose a string and put the tuning key on the tuning peg of the string you are about to tune. Use your right hand to hold the tuning key and use your left to pluck the string.



Pluck the string repetitively in the middle and loudly.

Look at your tuning machine - you are looking for the arrow to point to the middle and the light to go green.



The b sign means that the string is too loose (flat)
 The # sign means that the string is too tight (sharp).
 To tighten the string (sharpen) turn the tuning key away from you.
 To loosen the string (flatten) turn the key towards you.
 Always use very small movements to avoid snapping a string.

Harps are **NOT** tuned in C major.

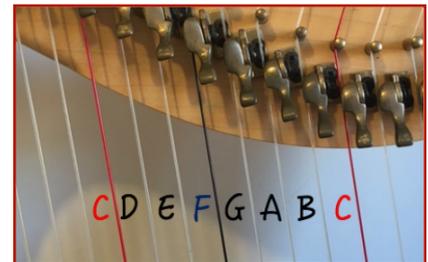
Lever harps are tuned in Eb major
 Pedal harps are tuned in Cb major.

Don't worry if you are not musical and this doesn't make sense!

On the tuner, in the top right corner, the name of the string should appear once you have played it. Check that the note on the tuner corresponds correctly to the note you are playing by using the tables below. Then fine tune the string by using the red and green lights.

Lever Harp

Depending on where you study your lever harp it will either be tuned to Eb major when all the levers are disengaged. (3 levers up when you move into C major.) Or A b major (4 levers up when you move into C major). Make sure you ask your teacher if you are not sure and make sure to use the correct table below.



Harp in Eb major:

String:	C	D	E	F	G	A	B
Tuner:	C	D	D# or Eb	F	G	G# or Ab	Bb or A#

Harp in Ab major:

String:	C	Db	E	F	G	A	B
Tuner:	C	C# or Db	D# or Eb	F	G	G# or Ab	Bb or A#

Pedal Harp

String:	C	D	E	F	G	A	B
Tuner:	Cb	C# or Db	D# or Eb	Fb	F# or Gb	G# or Ab	Bb or A#

If you are unsure it is always better to loosen the string first before tightening the string too much.