

HARMONICS!

PART 2

Harp Harmonics Workout

Now that you've got those harmonic hand moves down, try these fun (and challenging!) exercises.

1. Play one note - then pluck that same string again using the harmonic technique.
2. Now play scales that way - plucking each string twice - one fundamental note, then one harmonic.
3. Try playing a tune all in harmonics!

Did You Know...

that German harper Rudiger Oppermann's piece "Pretty Cool Harmonics!" has a melody that consists entirely of harmonics? You can hear it on his "Fragile Balance" CD.

HARMONIC NOTATION

Harmonics are written as a note with a small circle above or below it, like this. The written note is the string you will play - though the harmonic tone will actually sound *one octave higher*.



Some harmonics are written on the staves below. Draw in notes above each harmonic to show where the tone will actually sound. See the red note for an example.



Wondrous Wind Harps

Harmonics have an eerie sort of sound - like when the wind blows through telephone wires, creating a ghostly moaning sound. In fact - that's exactly what that unearthly sound is - harmonics!

Aeolian Harps (also called wind harps) aren't meant to be played by people. They are placed outside, or in a window or doorway to allow the wind to blow across the strings.

When a string is plucked as usual, you mainly hear the fundamental note, along with subtle harmonics that add distinction to the tone. When the wind blows over a string, the fundamental note is not heard - only the harmonics.

If you take your harp outside on a day when there is a light breeze, you might hear the wind playing harmonics on your harp!

● Advanced Research Assignment:
Who is the Aeolian harp named after?

