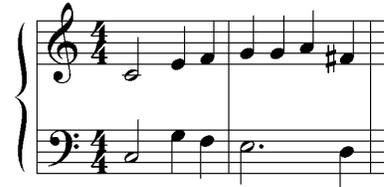


ACCIDENTALS AND LEVER CHANGES

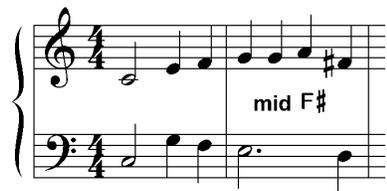
An accidental is a sharp, flat, or natural within the piece that is not in the key signature. When this occurs you usually will need to either engage or disengage the sharpening lever on that string. There are no accidentals or lever changes in this book, but you will find them in other harp books.

Because F# is not in the key signature in the example on the right, the F# in the second measure is an accidental. You will need to engage the sharpening lever on this F string sometime after you play the F in the first measure and before you play the F#. Because you will move the lever with your left hand, you need to have a beat or two free in the bass clef to give you enough time to flip the lever. Sometimes the easiest time to flip the lever may be several measures before it is needed in the music.

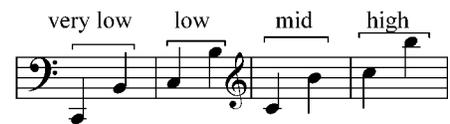


There are several ways that lever changes are notated in harp music. All of the examples below on the left tell you to engage the lever on the F string above middle C during the second measure, after you play the low E with your left hand on beat 1, and before you play the F# with your right hand.

The “High” and “Low” Octave Method



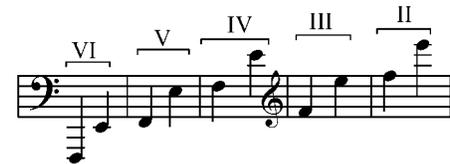
This is the method that I use in most of my books. “Middle” or “mid” means the notes from middle C up to the next B, and “high” is the next higher octave, etc, as shown on the right.



The Pedal Harp Octave Method



This method numbers the octaves the way they do on pedal harps. The octaves go from an F on the bottom up to an E on top, as shown here.

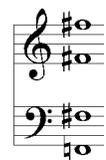


The Diamond Note Method



A diamond note is placed on the staff indicating which lever needs to be moved. You do NOT play the diamond note.

Before you play a piece, be sure to set your sharpening levers to match the key signature, and follow any other lever instructions written at the beginning of the piece. Sometimes a lever chart will be printed at the top of the page, particularly if the lever settings are unusual.



Harp music will often indicate pedal changes for pedal harpists as well as the lever changes for lever harp players. When this happens, pedal changes are generally written below the bass staff, while lever changes are written between the treble and bass staves.