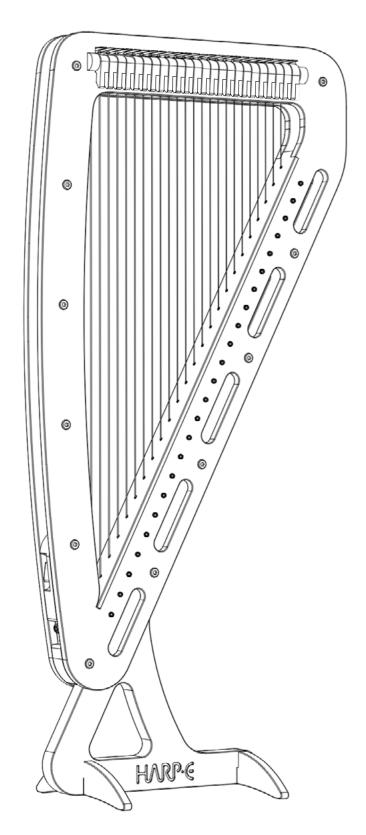


Designed in London by Joris Beets Design



Harp-E v.3 Assembly Manual

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WE HIGHLY RECOMMEND WATCHING THE ASSEMBLY VIDEOS FOR A MORE DETAILED AND EASY TO FOLLOW ASSEMBLY TUTORIAL!



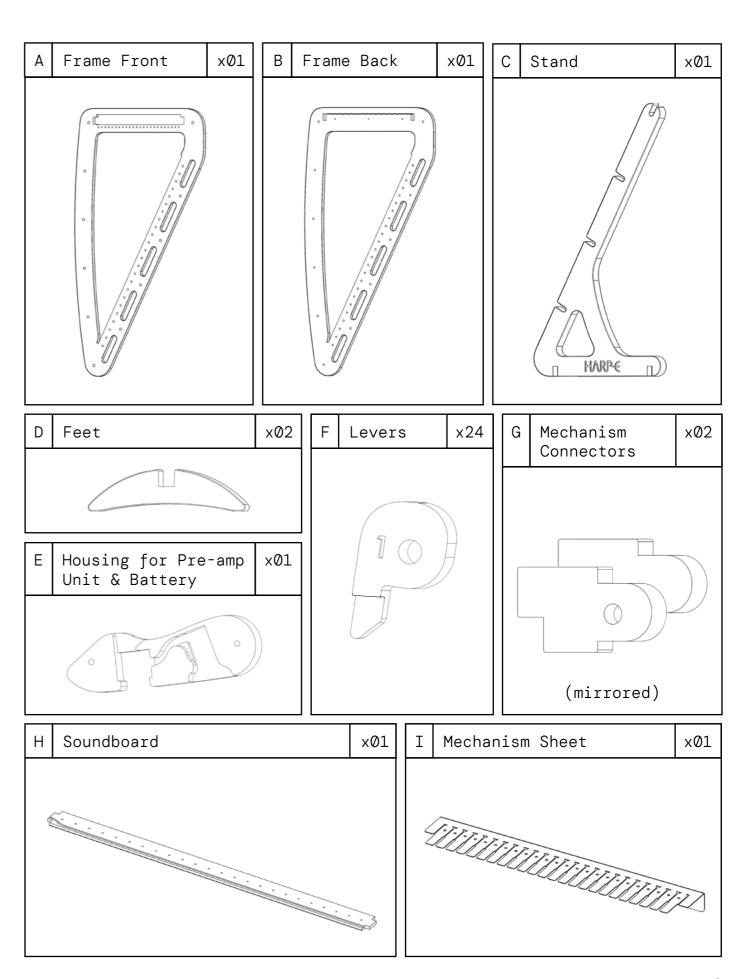
Scan this QR code or visit the <code>Getting Started</code> page on the Harp-E website ${\bf C}$ to watch the assembly, stringing and setting up videos.

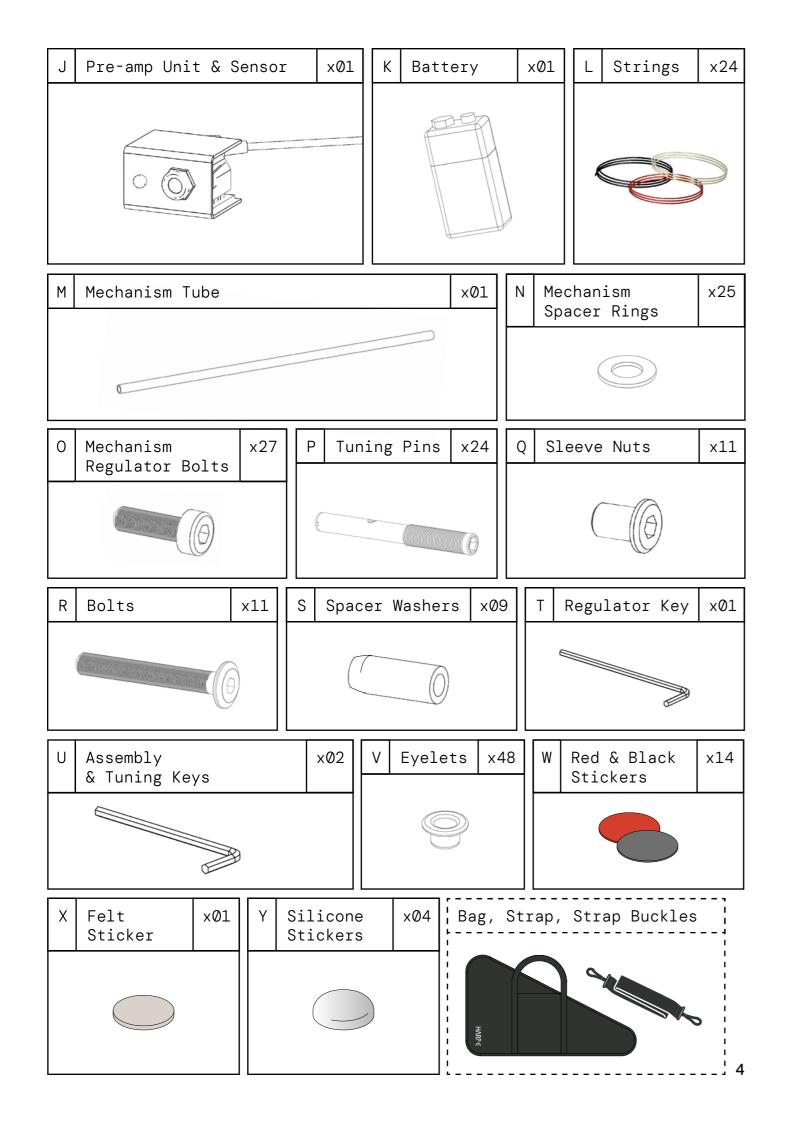
If you would like to suggest improvements to this manual, please send us an email at elvire@jorisbeetsdesign.com

DIY PACKAGE

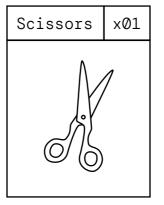
Assembling

THIS KIT CONTAINS

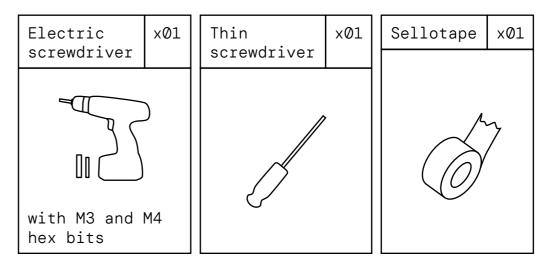




ADDITIONAL TOOLS



OPTIONAL TOOLS TO SPEED-UP THE PROCESS



PREPARING YOUR WORKSPACE

You just need a clean and flat workspace.

For those with uncoated DIY packages, if you feel like certain areas in the wood are too rough for coating later on, you may lightly sand them.

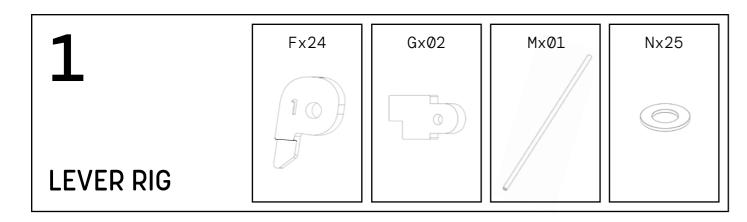
Take all the metallic parts out of their plastic bags, and make little piles of them inside the long cardboard box.

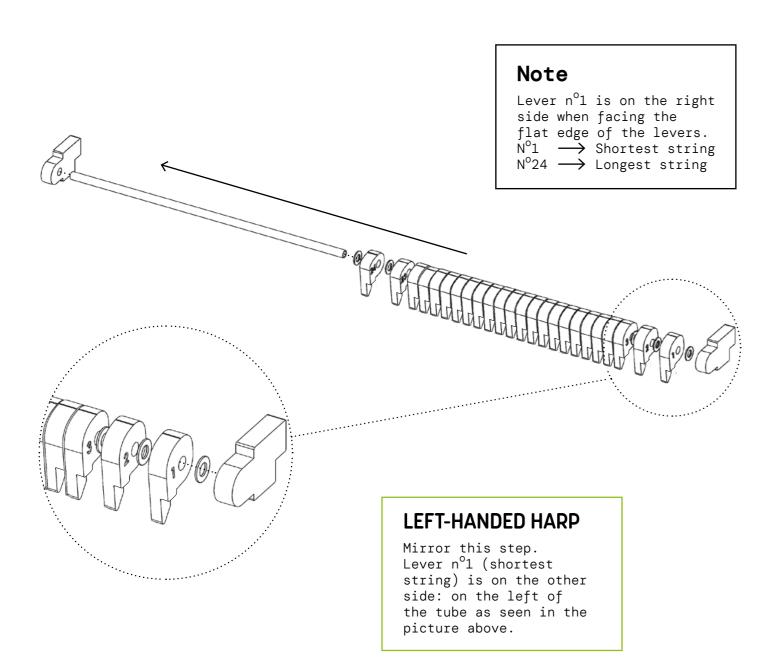
Count the parts to make sure you have the right number of each. For some small parts there are a few spare included.

If needed, use some tissue to wipe off excess grease on metallic parts, and let the cardboard soak up the rest while you assemble.

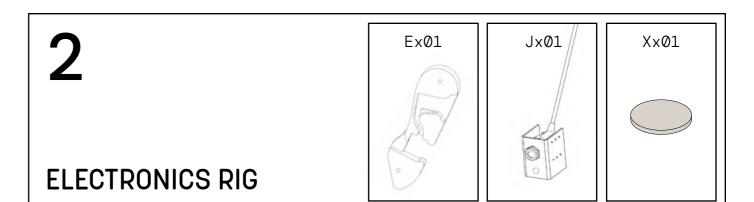
LEFT-HANDED HARP

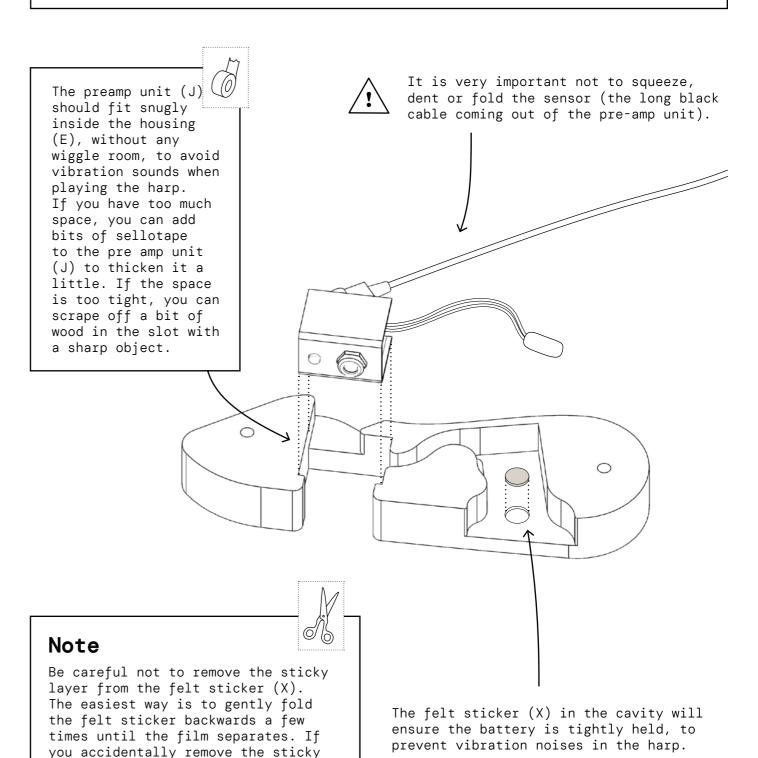
To assemble a harp for left-hand playing, you should do the assembly mirrored. Indications are given in green boxes in this manual.





A small gap between the last lever and connector (G) is normal as wood thicknesses vary slightly. The levers can be evenly spaced out later after stringing the harp. If the total gap is more than a few millimetres, you could add the spare rings (N) to fill that gap, for instance after the first and second octaves.

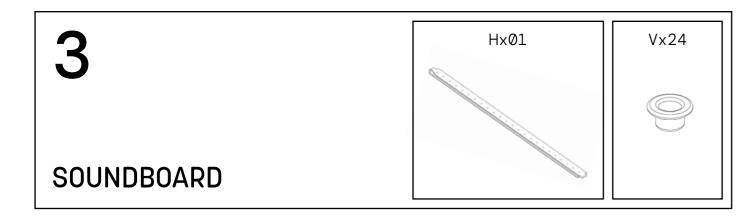


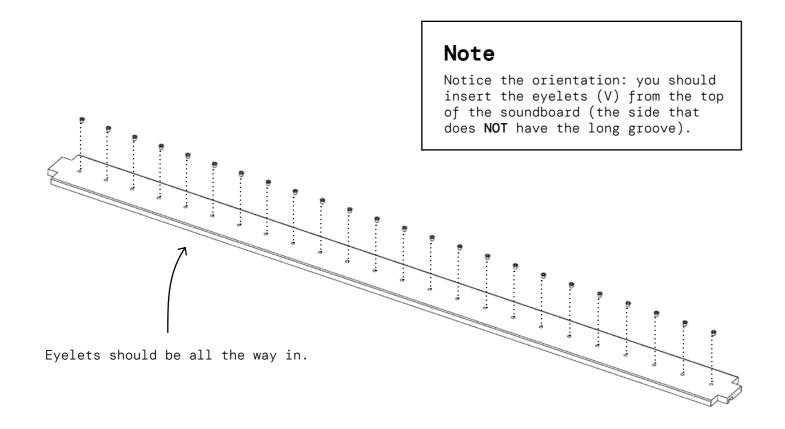


layer, it's no problem. Just put a

of the sticker.

little bit of super glue on the back

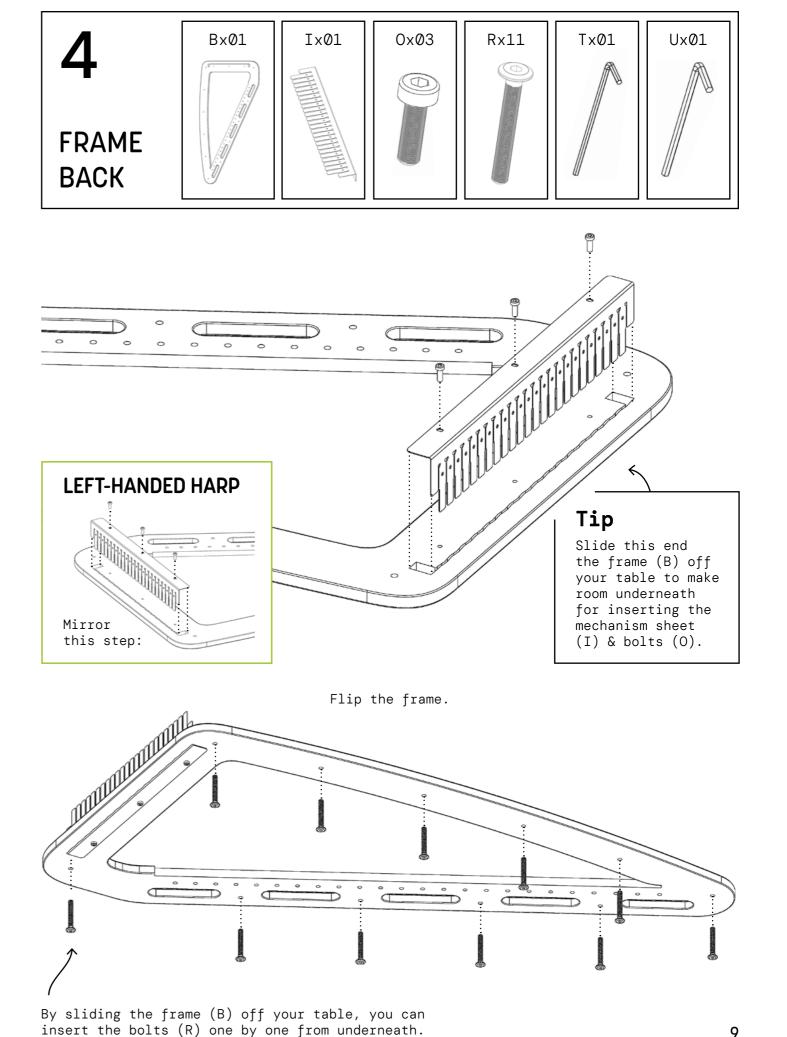




Tip

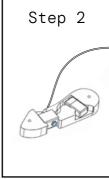
The holes are tight so eyelets (V) may be difficult to push in. If you have one, use a thin screwdriver to place and push eyelets in. You can also use a hard object (a hammer or a foot of Harp·E) wrapped in tissue to help pushing.

Check that none of the eyelets are deformed and all looks good. Deformed eyelets can develop sharp edges that cut into the strings and cause them to break over time.

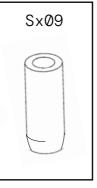


FRAME INSIDES



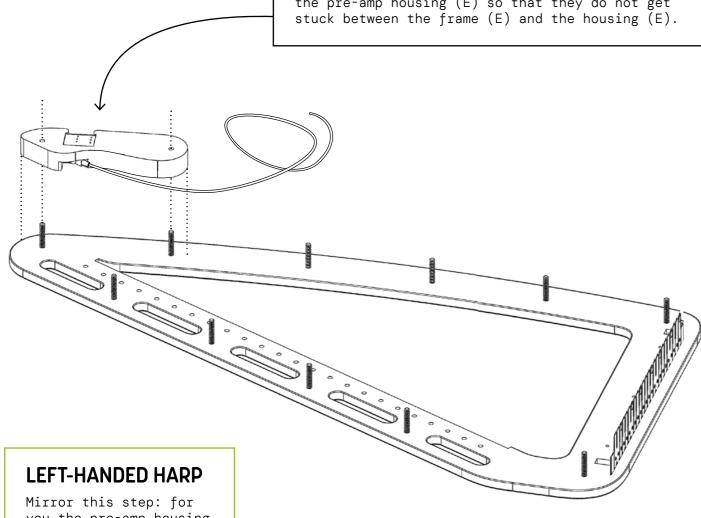






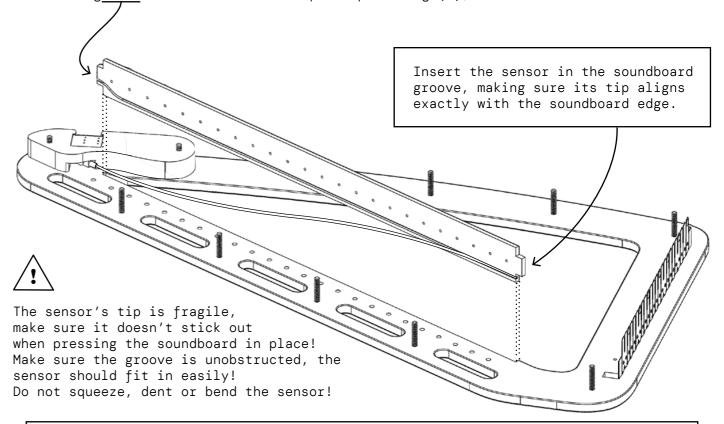
Note

Make sure the battery wires follow the groove in the pre-amp housing (E) so that they do not get



you the pre-amp housing will have the cavities for the battery and wires facing upwards.

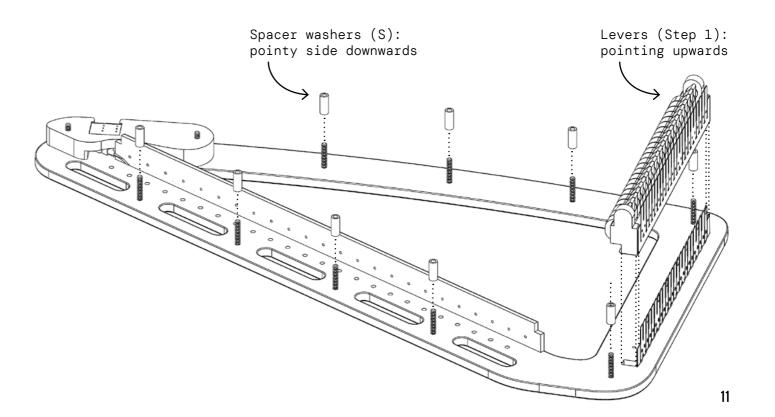
For both right and left-handed assembly: the soundboard (H) should have the groove on the side of the frame handles (towards you in the setting shown below) and the side where the groove twists close to the pre-amp housing (E), as shown below.

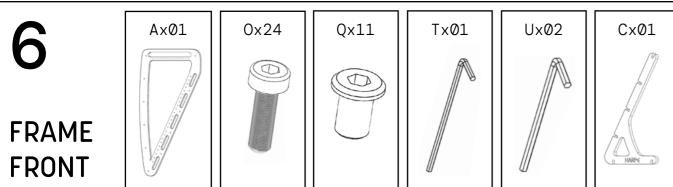


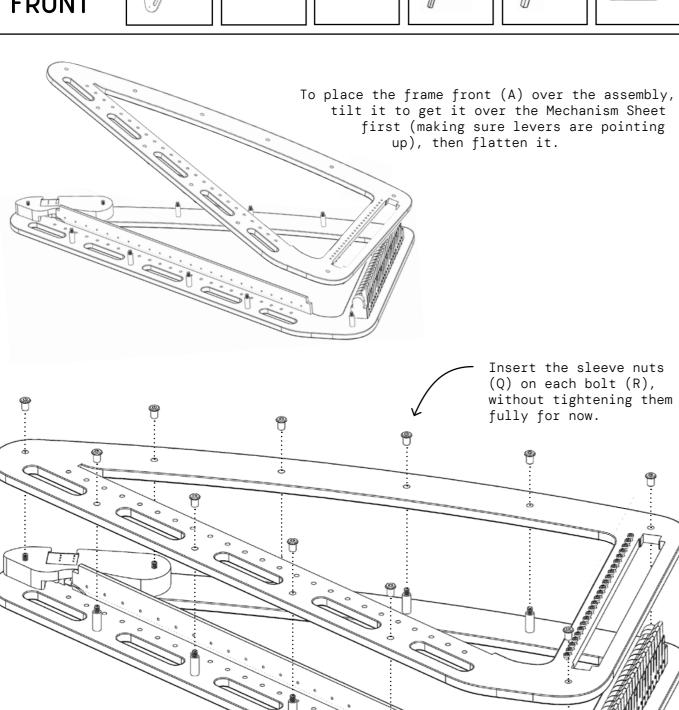
Tip

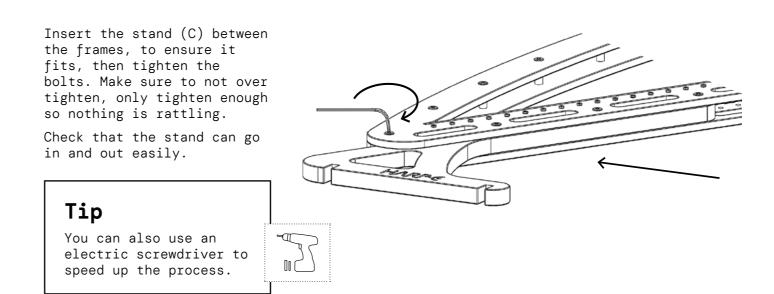
To put the soundboard in place, insert the bottom side (left here) in the slot, then slightly bend the soundboard to put the other end in place.

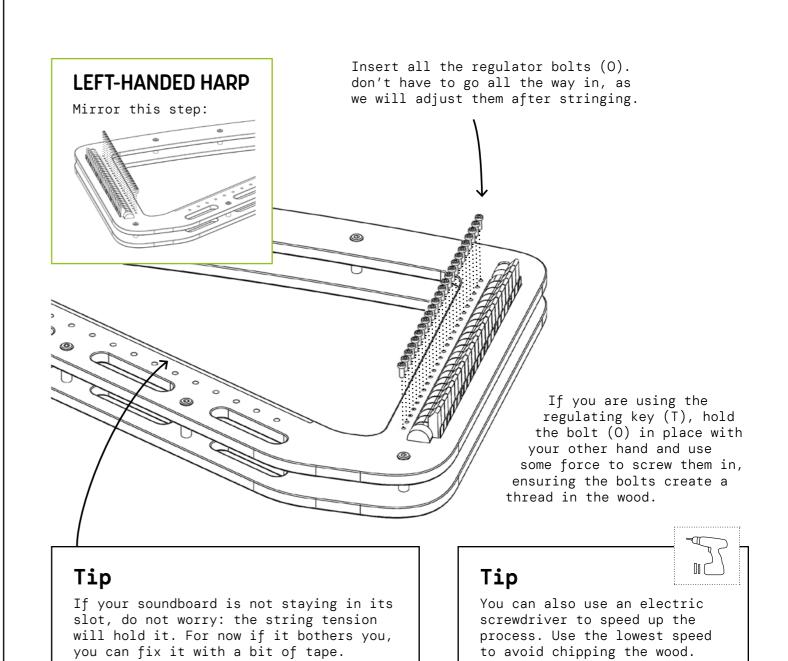
Check that the sensor is neatly inside the groove all along and is not being squeezed or pinched anywhere.





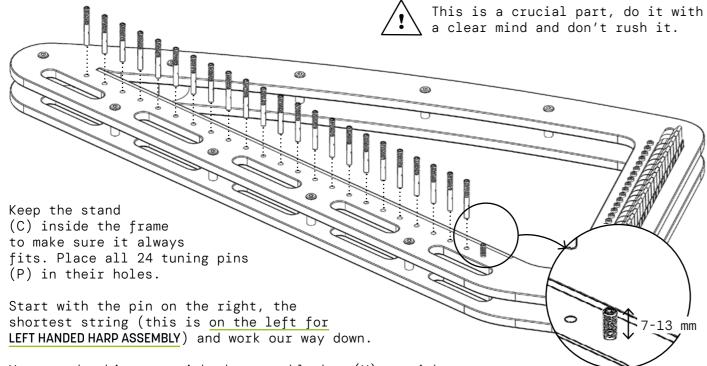








In this step we create a thread in the wood by pushing and turning the tuning pins (P). The aim is to get the right amount of friction so they hold strings in tension while being easy to turn when tuning. Start very slowly, you will develop a feeling for it.



You can do this step with the assembly key (U) or with an electric tool. Even if you're planning to use the electric screwdriver, do the first one by hand to get a feel for things. Take your assembly key and rotate the pin clockwise while applying pressure.

The pressure is important for the thread to catch the wood properly. Applying too little pressure will turn the pin into a drill enlarging the hole. Any sawdust appearing would be a warning sign to apply much more pressure.

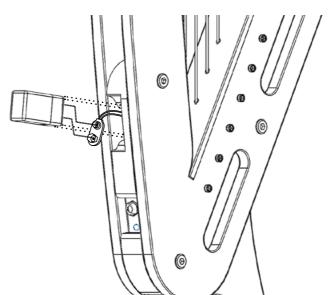
Screw the tuning pins in just enough so the rounded tip just about reaches the hole in the frame back. As the pin goes in deeper, friction will increase.

The head of the pin should not go all the way in, but stick out something between 7-13mm from the frame front. They will go in further later when you string the harp. The friction you feel should be enough to hold the string, but not require too much force to tune.

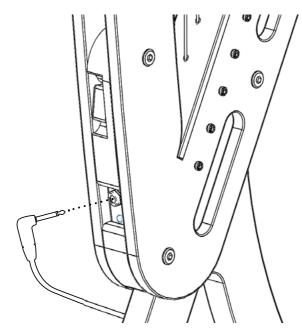
For your next pins you can use the electric screwdriver. Make sure again to apply good pressure, go very slowly and make sure to not wobble, as that might enlarge the holes, which will be very hard to remedy. Do the last millimetres by hand, to get the right friction. If there is too much friction, you can unscrew it until it's smooth or even unscrew it completely and try again. They don't need to all stick out by the same amount, as long as the tips all reach the other frame half and the friction feels similar for all.

Align the holes in the tuning pins with the holes in the soundboard for when you string your harp later. This is also a good last check on whether they all feel right.

A last test: take the battery and connect it to the wires in the pre-amp.



Plug in an angled mono jack.



The battery indicator light should flash white to indicate a full battery and then keep flashing every couple of seconds. Amber light means the battery is nearing empty and red means it's time to change the battery.

If you've connected the harp to an amp, you should be able to hear a noise when tapping the harp.

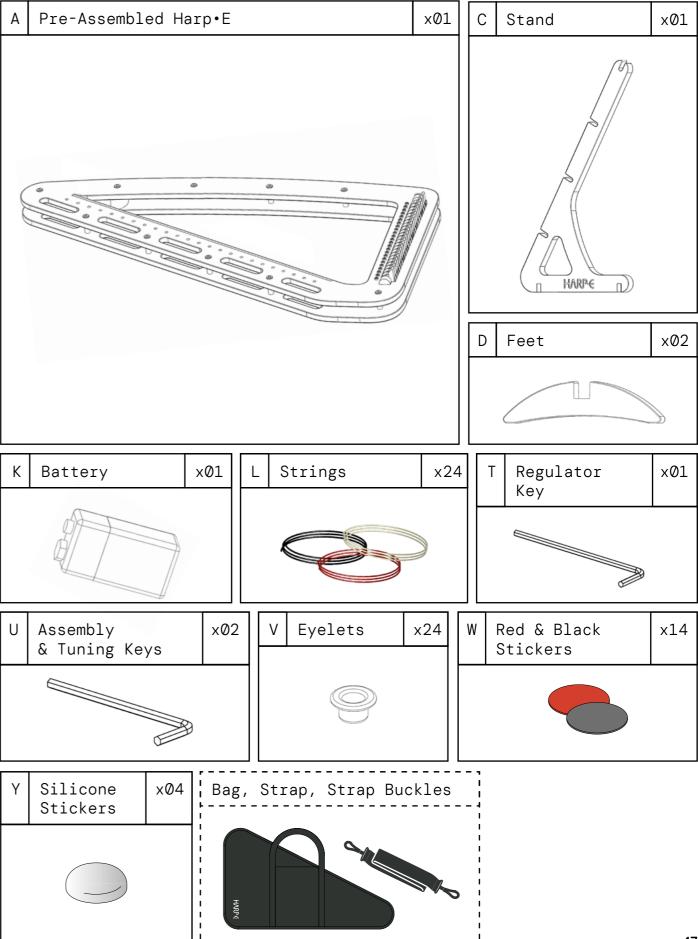
CONGRATULATIONS, WE ARE DONE WITH THE ASSEMBLY!

Take a well-deserved break, then you can move on to stringing, tuning and regulating.

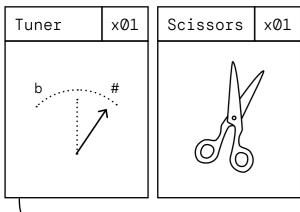
STRING & GO PACKAGE

Stringing, tuning and regulating

THIS KIT CONTAINS

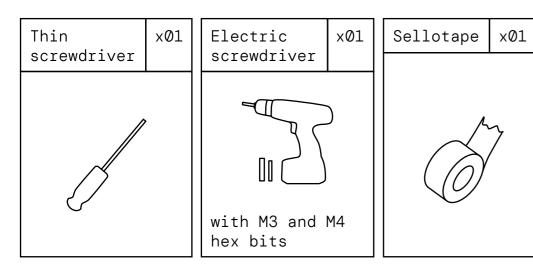


ADDITIONAL TOOLS



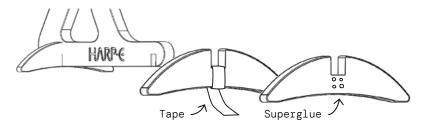
>> You can simply download a tuner app on your phone.

OPTIONAL TOOLS TO SPEED-UP THE PROCESS

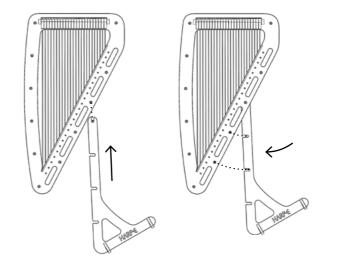


PRELIMINARY STEPS

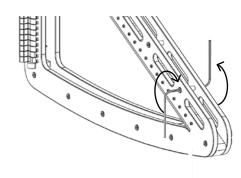
- Check that you have all the correct parts in correct quantities.
- If there is a bit of tape on the sensor, it's simply to keep it in place while it's not strung yet. Leave it for now and remove it once you've strung the harp.
- Check that the feet fit well in the stand: tight enough so that they don't fall out when you lift the harp.
- If they don't: thicken the
 part with a few drops of
 superglue (let it dry
 thoroughly) or with some tape.



• Check that the stand fits well in the frame: not too tight but tight enough so that it doesn't fall out when you lift the harp. Try it in different heights.



→ If it doesn't: tighten or loosen the bolts around the frame.



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- · Check that the tuning pins turn smoothly without being too loose.
- \longrightarrow Screw in the tuning pins that have too little resistance, and screw out the pins that have too much resistance.

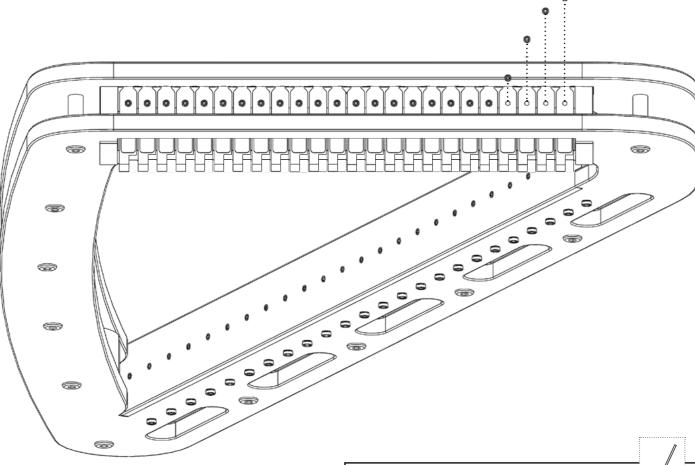
You should have more resistance in the lower tuning pins, because they will need more friction to hold thicker strings in tension.

- Align the holes of the tuning pins with the holes in the soundboard, this will make threading the strings through easier.
- By running your fingers on the wood, you can check if everything is smooth and remove any splinters. You can also use a little sanding paper on some rough spots if needed.
- Take the eyelets and assembly keys out of their plastic bag and if they are greasy, wipe them with a piece of tissue.



Vx24

EYELETS



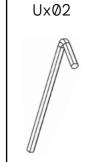
Tip

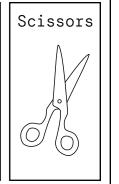


If you have one, using a thin screwdriver is helpful to place and push eyelets in. Keeping the levers up also helps pushing.



Lx24





STRINGS

1. Make a

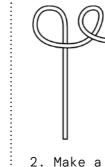
big loop

Start with the lower, thicker strings. The lowest is n°24 (red). Make the knots as small and close to the end of the string as possible, to leave a maximum of length to reuse in case of breakage.

Tip

It can help to practice with something bigger like a charging cable, rope...

${\color{red} KNOT1}$ for thick strings

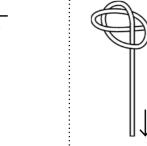


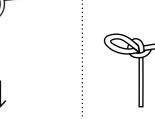
smaller loop



small loop into

the big loop





4. Pull the string around the small loop

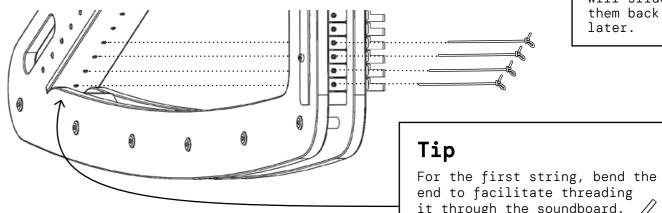
5. Pull tight to close the knot

Thread the string you just knotted through the appropriate eyelet (V) in the metal sheet (I).

Pull pull the string to stretch it while tightening the knot. Then thread it through the eyelet in the soundboard (H) and the hole in the tuning pin (P), and stretch it more.

Secure the string by turning the pin clockwise with the tuning key (U), while holding the string's end.

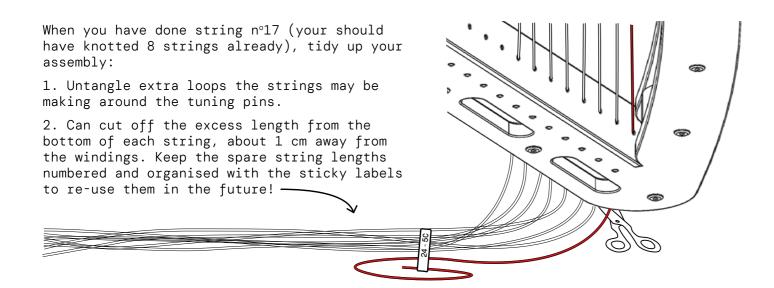
Keep the string sticky labels. You can slide them off for now, you will slide them back on later.



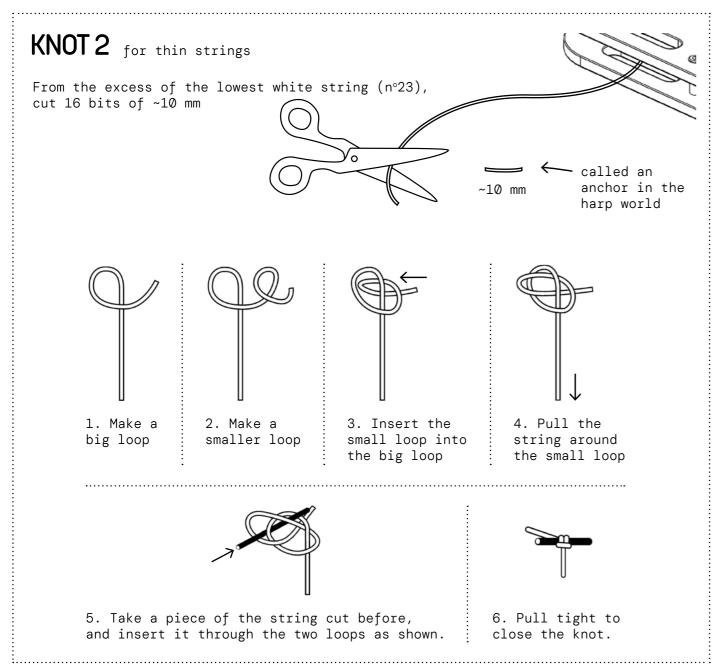


Be careful when stretching the strings.

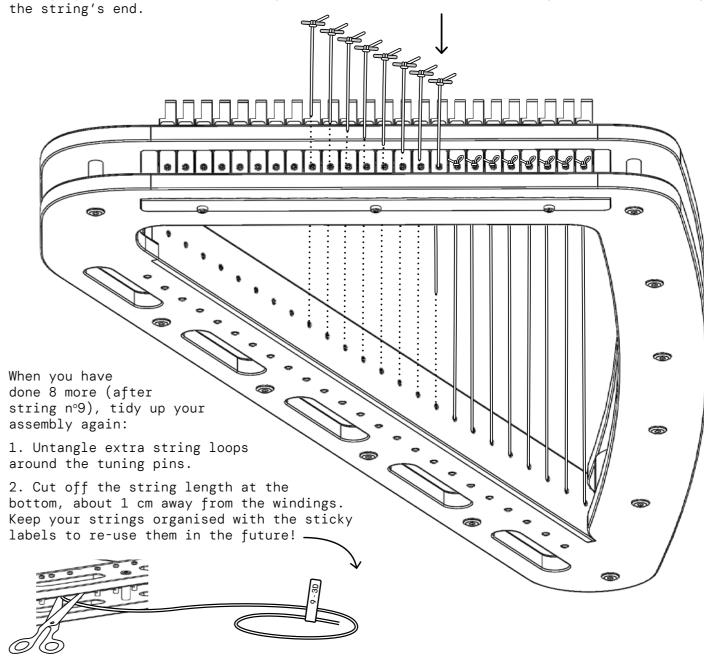
end to facilitate threading it through the soundboard.



Now, from string 16 and below, the strings are too thin to continue with knot 1, so switch to knot 2.

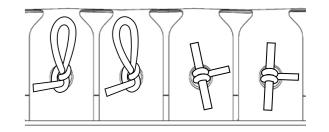


Repeat knot 2 on the next 8 strings, thread each one through the appropriate eyelet (V) in the metal sheet (I), and pull to stretch the string and tighten the knot. Then thread it through the soundboard and tuning pin, and pull it again to stretch the string again. Secure it by turning the pin clockwise with the tuning key, while holding the string's and



Finally, repeat this process for the last 8 strings: knot 2, thread and stretch, then secure each string, and tidy up your assembly.

Now tidy up the top of the strings as well: Make sure that the knots and anchors are pointing in the same direction, so that no strings touch each other, neighbouring keys or the frame, to avoid buzzes. If some string tails are too long, cut them.

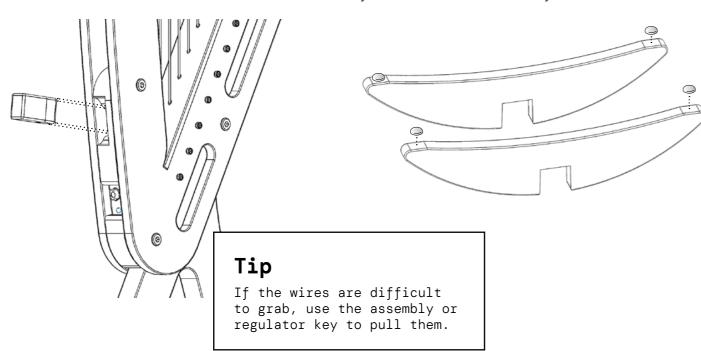


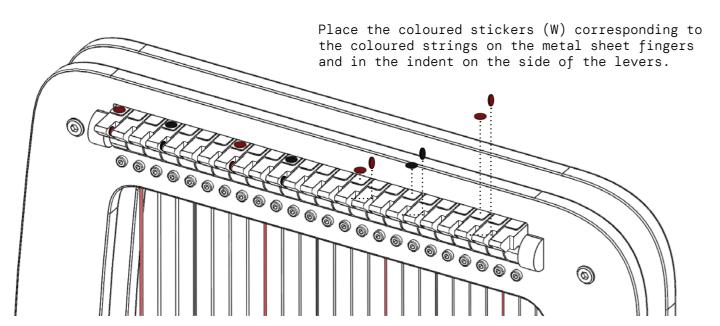
STICKERS & BATTERY

Connect the battery to the wire and insert it.

Place the silicone stickers (Y) at the bottom of the feet, to isolate the harp from vibrations in the floor.

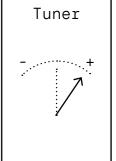
24





4

TUNE SHARP





Tip

Start with all the levers up and tune each string by delicately turning the tuning pin (P) with a tuning key (U).

There are free tuner apps for smartphones.

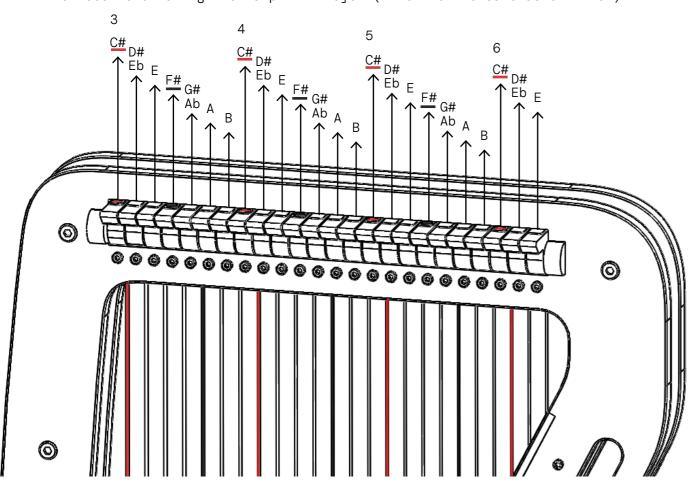
In a quiet environment, place your tuner close to the strings, pluck a string and see what the tuner shows: it will likely be showing a pitch too low. See what the right key should be for each string on the next page.

Turning the pin (P) clockwise will tense the string, which will make the pitch higher.

→ Turning the pin (P) counterclockwise will release the string, which will make the pitch lower.

Continue plucking the string and turning the pin until the tuner shows the right key.

We recommend tuning the harp in E major (which is the same as C# minor):



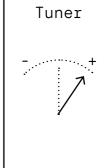
Note

- Musical notation is not a very standardised thing unfortunately. For string $n^{\circ}23$, your tuner app might for instance depict the correct note as either Eb or D# they are exactly the same thing. Same counts for G# and Ab, they are the same note, written in different ways.
- Also, the numbering of octaves is a bit obscure for harps. If you were to order new strings for a harp, you'll look at the string table for harps (see our website for the Harp-E string table, running from 5C to 2E, Sipario Silkgut Strings 2). Tuners however, are usually designed for more common instruments than the harp, so that's what we'll use here. In that numbering the lowest string on the Harp•E is a C3 (C#3 with lever up) and the highest string is an E6 (Eb6 with lever down). The octave numbers in the image above refer to that more standardised numbering, so that it's most likely you can recognise the right octave on your tuner.
- This is a bit technical, but: if ever in doubt, your lowest red string with lever down should be tuned to 130.813Hz, when tuned at what is called "at 440Hz", meaning your A4 is tuned at 440Hz, which is currently the most standard way of tuning an instrument.

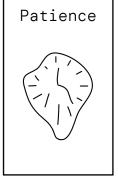
WELL DONE! YOU HAVE TUNED YOUR WHOLE HARP FOR THE FIRST TIME!

5

REPEAT UNTIL STABLE







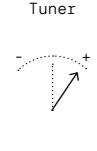
The harp will need several rounds of tuning, with the levers in sharp position (up) until the strings set. Repeat step 4 twice a day for about 10 days, until Harp•E is stable. The harp is considered stable once strings stop detuning within the same day. This will take some time. Only then you can move on to the next step.

Tip (for pros only)

If you are very confident with feeling string tensile strength and want to accelerate the tuning process by a few days, you can overtune the harp, especially the lower strings, to stretch them faster.

Overtune the lowest ~4 strings by 2 semitones, the rest of that octave and the next by 1 semitone, and the rest of the strings by maximum a quarter of a tone.

6





ADJUST FLAT



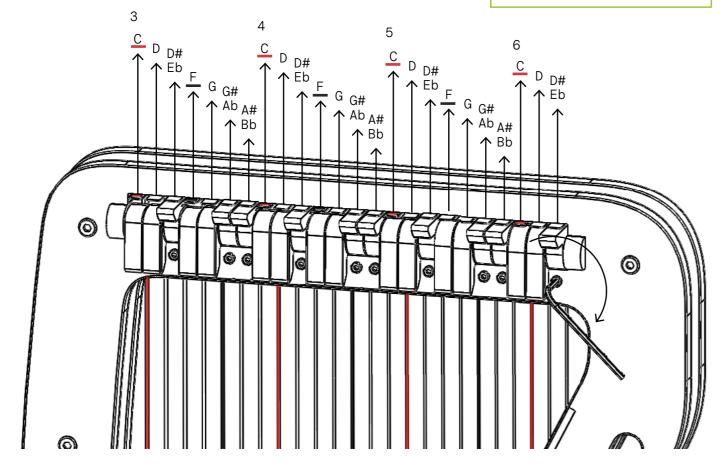
Only do this once your harp is stable or you will have to do it again!

Put the levers in C major: from the left, 2 down, 1 up, 2 down, 2 up etc. as shown. Regulate the harp so that flipping a lever down makes the note one semitone lower, by moving the regulator bolts (0) inwards or outwards:

→ Moving the bolt outwards will make the pitch higher.
→ Moving the bolt inwards will make the pitch lower.

LEFT-HANDED HARP

Mirror this step: for you the lowest C is on the left, to put the levers in C major start from the right.



PS: the Harp•E lever system is different from traditional lever systems. Lowering a lever releases the string a little, lowering the tension and therefore lowering the pitch and vice versa. Traditional lever systems pinch the strings to shorten the vibrating part of the string in order to lower the pitch. The Harp•E mechanism can be re-regulated by yourself at any point in the future (without needing an engineer) and it allows for "sliding" notes and microtonalities.

7

TROUBLESHOOTERS

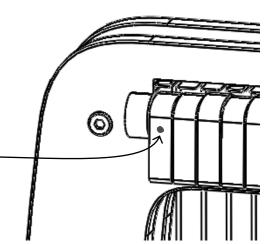
IF YOU CANNOT REGULATE ONE OF THE LEVERS

Sometimes even with the screw all the way in, the string doesn't reach a full semitone lower.

1. In 90% of cases, this is because the wood has not fully settled yet. You can mark those levers and come back to regulating them a few days later.

2. It is ok to screw the regulator bolt a bit further down, into the wood.

3. If these haven't worked, there is still an easy fix: place a drop of superglue on this spot (then let it dry thoroughly before flipping the lever up) which will make the lever-up position slightly higher. You can tune this string again with the lever up, and then you should be able to regulate it perfectly with the lever down.



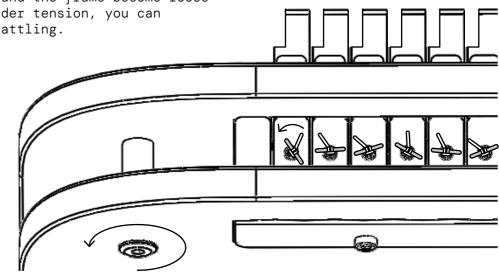
FIXING BUZZING NOISES

First, make sure all string ends at the top and bottom are cut short enough so that they don't touch any parts.

If the nuts and bolts around the frame become loose after the wood deforms under tension, you can tighten them to prevent rattling.

Remaining buzzing

Remaining buzzing noises will probably be caused by strings not sitting properly in the middle of the eyelets. You can simply move the string around in the eyelet to correct this.



IF YOU FIND THAT A STRING REPEATEDLY BREAKS

Don't try to string it again and contact us 2 so we can investigate what is happening.

Breakage is normally not caused by a defect in the string but by the way it's been strung.



The first thing is to give time to your strings to stretch! Don't put too much tension on them too fast, let them ease into their fully tensioned state.

If your string is breaking at the top:

• It may be that you made the knot wrong, which could cause your string to sit in an awkward position that weakens it abnormally fast.

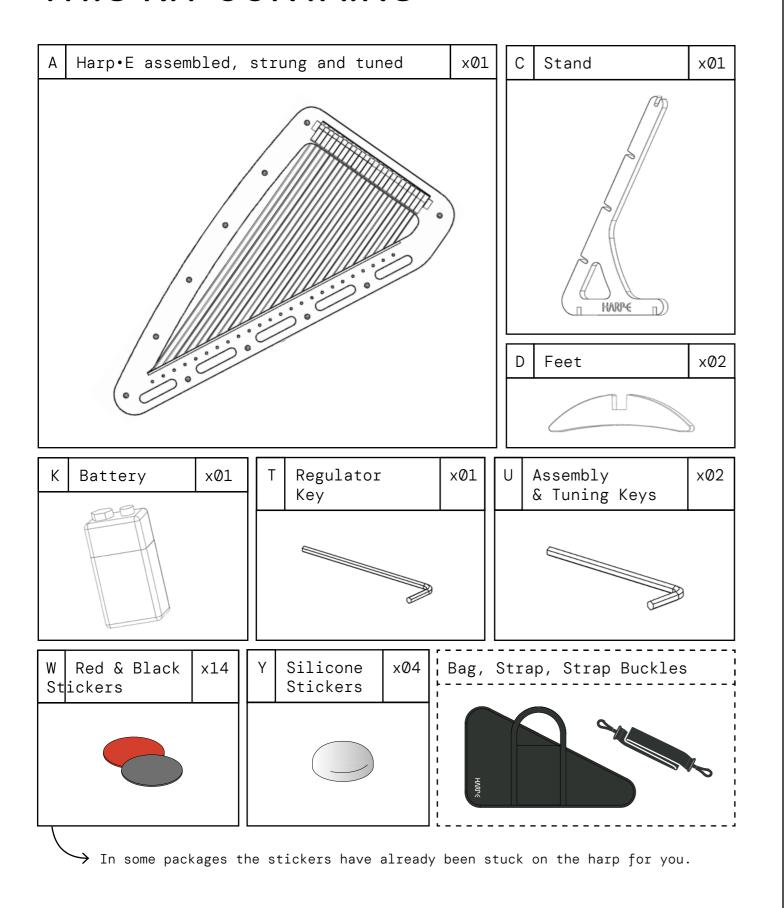
If your string is breaking at the eyelet in the soundboard, make sure your eyelet is properly put in straight all the way and not deformed inside the hole, as this could have created sharp edges inside the soundboard.

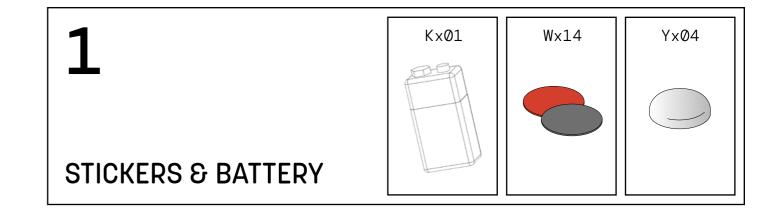
If your string is breaking at the tuning pin, this may be because of a defect in the tuning pin: check that the hole in which the string goes is rounded and not sharp. If it is sharp, send us a picture and we will send a replacement immediately.

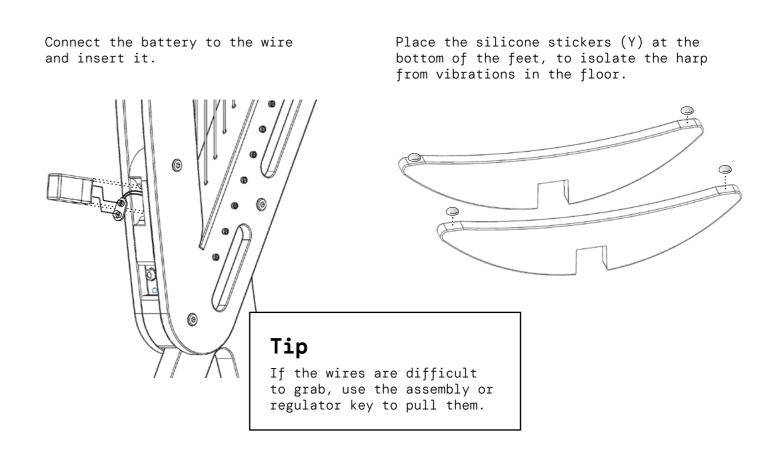
PLUG & PLAY PACKAGE

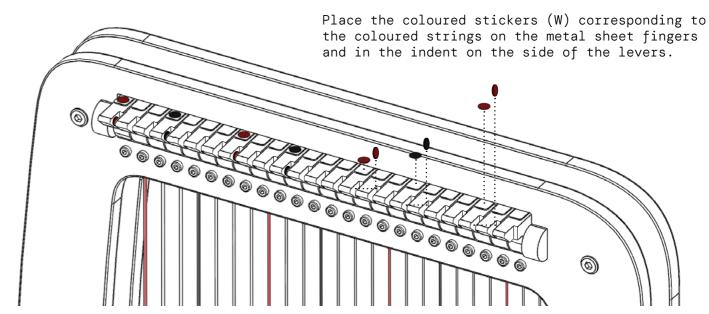
Final touches and using Harp•E

THIS KIT CONTAINS





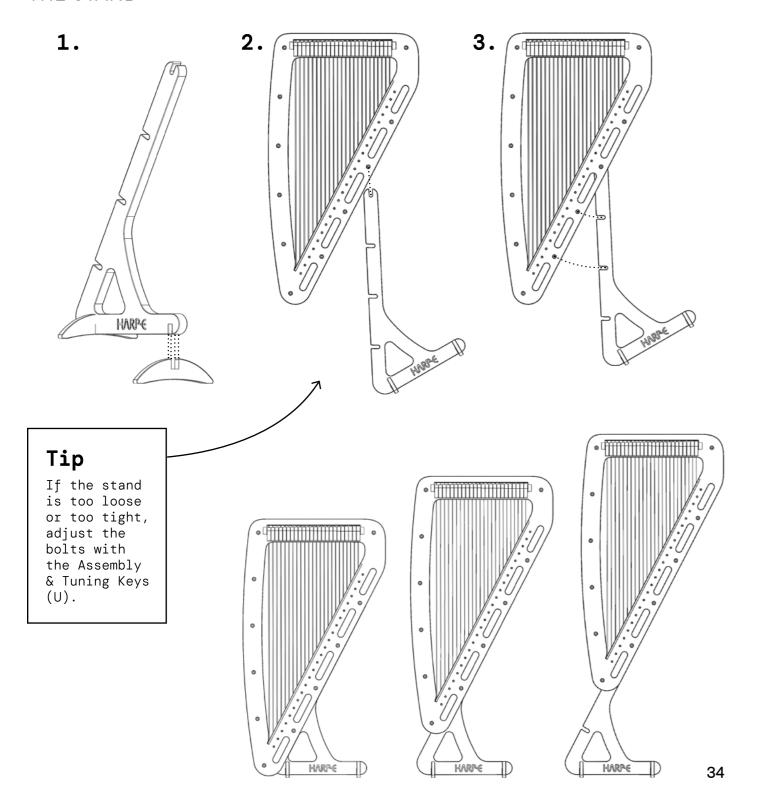




2

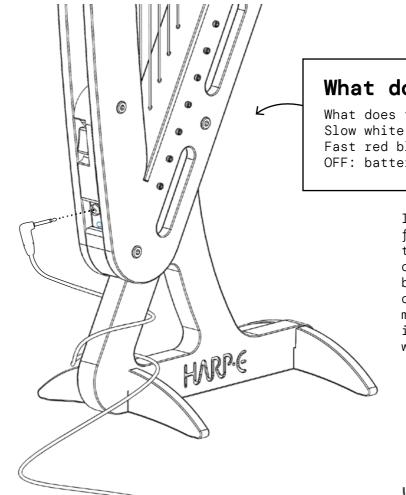
USING HARP•E

THE STAND



AMPLIFICATION

Use a cable with a "mono jack" angled plug (6.35mm) to connect your Harp•E directly to an amplifier or to other devices (like a mixer or effects pedals). Inserting the plug will switch on the preamp unit inside the Harp•E. You do not need to remove the battery ever, only to replace it when it's empty. When Harp•E is unplugged, it automatically disconnects the battery, so the preamp is off and the battery does not drain. Unplug your Harp•E when you are not using it.



What does the light mean?

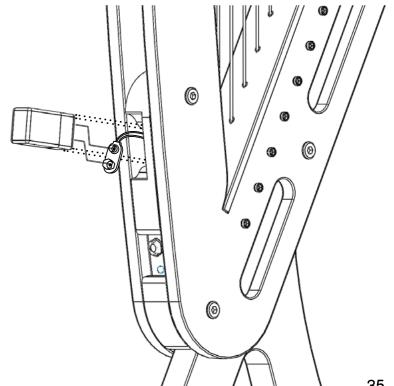
What does the light mean? Slow white blinking: good battery level Fast red blinking: battery is low OFF: battery is dead or disconnected

If you don't want the harp to flash every 5 seconds, you can toggle the electronics in and out of a mode that only shows the battery level once at switching on. You switch to and from this mode by inserting the plug 3 times in close succession, a green light will indicate mode change.

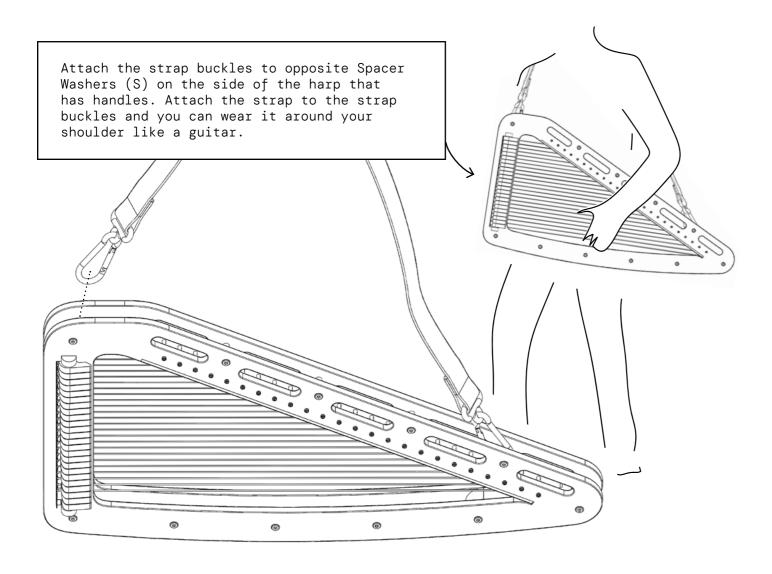
CHANGING THE BATTERY

Warning!

To avoid damage to the electronics inside the Harp-E when someone trips over your cable, make sure to loosely wrap the cable around the stand once.



WEARING THE HARP-E STANDING



You can also use the strap around your shoulder while sitting on a chair. You can wear your Harp-E upright in a more traditional way by wrapping the strap around the bottom of the harp while keeping the strap around your shoulder. You can also play standing up without a strap by putting your harp on the stand's lowest notch and on a table so that it is at standing height. You can see a demonstration of these in our "Playing positions" video tutorial.

DO YOU WANT TO SHARE TIPS, TRICKS AND ADVICE WITH OTHER HARP•E-ISTS?

Join our <u>Harp•E community group on Facebook</u>
to share your top tips and hacks or ask the community for advice!