

Prepared by Melody's Traditional Music

Folkharp.com 281-890-4500

Most Pedal Harps Harps with 40-47 Strings

You can use nylon or gut to string your pedal harp. Generally though, pedal harps are regulated for gut strings in the 3rd - 5th octaves. Gut strings are grabbed by the discs differently than nylon strings, which are smoother. Most people use gut on the 3rd through 5th octaves for the best tone. Many people in hot and humid climates use nylon on the 3rd octave. For the most part, gut is used on the 4th and 5th octave for best tone, and some people prefer gut all the way up.

Above First Octave (the 2 shortest strings at the top - not all pedal harps go this high)

G 00 Octave Pedal Nylon or Pedal Gut (also known as double ought G)

F 0 Octave Pedal Nylon or Pedal Gut (also known as single ought F)

First Octave (E-D-C-B-A-G-F)

E 1st Octave Pedal Nylon or Pedal Gut (40- and 44-string harps start with this string at the TOP)

D 1st Octave Pedal Nylon or Pedal Gut

C 1st Octave Pedal Nylon or Pedal Gut

B 1st Octave Pedal Nylon or Pedal Gut

A 1st Octave Pedal Nylon or Pedal Gut

G 1st Octave Pedal Nylon or Pedal Gut

F 1st Octave Pedal Nylon or Pedal Gut

(hint: most choose nylon for the 2nd octave and up to the top)

Second Octave (E-D-C-B-A-G-F)

E 2nd Octave Pedal Nylon or Pedal Gut

D 2nd Octave Pedal Nylon or Pedal Gut

C 2nd Octave Pedal Nylon or Pedal Gut

B 2nd Octave Pedal Nylon or Pedal Gut

A 2nd Octave Pedal Nylon or Pedal Gut

G 2nd Octave Pedal Nylon or Pedal Gut

F 2nd Octave Pedal Nylon or Pedal Gut

Third Octave (E-D-C-B-A-G-F)

E 3rd Octave Pedal Gut or Pedal Nylon

D 3rd Octave Pedal Gut or Pedal Nylon

C 3rd Octave Pedal Gut or Pedal Nylon

B 3rd Octave Pedal Gut or Pedal Nylon

A 3rd Octave Pedal Gut or Pedal Nylon

G 3rd Octave Pedal Gut or Pedal Nylon

F 3rd Octave Pedal Gut or Pedal Nylon

(hint: those in hot/humid climates usually choose nylon for the 3rd octave)

Fourth Octave (E-D-C-B-A-G-F)

E 4th Octave Pedal Gut or Pedal Nylon

D 4th Octave Pedal Gut or Pedal Nylon

C 4th Octave (Middle C) Pedal Gut or Pedal Nylon

B 4th Octave Pedal Gut or Pedal Nylon

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A 4th Octave Pedal Gut or Pedal Nylon
G 4th Octave Pedal Gut or Pedal Nylon
F 4th Octave Pedal Gut or Pedal Nylon
(hint: always remember that Middle C is 4th Octave C)

Fifth Octave (E-D-C-B-A)

E 5th Octave Pedal Gut or Pedal Nylon
D 5th Octave Pedal Gut or Pedal Nylon
C 5th Octave Pedal Gut or Pedal Nylon
B 5th Octave Pedal Gut or Pedal Nylon
A 5th Octave Pedal Gut or Pedal Nylon
(hint#1: these are very expensive but last a long time and sound better)
(hint #2: there are only five 5th octave strings that are gut/nylon)

Fifth Octave Bass Wires (there are only 2 wire strings in the 5th Octave)

G 5th Octave
F 5th Octave
(hint: always remember that the first wire string on your pedal harp is 5th Octave G)

Sixth Octave Bass Wires (E-D-C-B-A-G-F)

E 6th Octave
D 6th Octave
C 6th Octave
B 6th Octave
A 6th Octave (this is generally the lowest note on the 40-string pedal harps)
G 6th Octave
F 6th Octave

Seventh Octave Bass Wires - there are only 3 and your harp may not go this low

E 7th Octave
D 7th Octave (this is generally the lowest note on the 44-string pedal harps)
C 7th Octave
(hint: 47-string concert grands go to this low note, the 7th Octave C. The exception is that there are some Venus semi-grands with 46 strings that go to the low C, and the note they lack is the 00G way at the top.)

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