

## Quick primer on softening up new felt-

It is true that once you play it for a while the felt damps better. But if you need to speed up that process, here is a good way to do it.

Take off the cover and lay out the bars.

Lay a sheet of 150 sand paper on the work bench.

Being careful not to tear the felt from bars, sand each bar on the sand paper to raise the grain of the felt.

Place the bars back on the 'harp one at a time and try them.

If you have strings which still do not damp properly, identify the strings which are ringing through. Usually these are around #3 to #10 in the low end. The double wound strings sometimes tend to keep the felt a little high in this area.

Find the felt pieces which are not reaching the strings, and squeeze them with needle nose to make them bulge a bit.

Try them again.

If you find strings which continue to make noise when they shouldn't, even when the felt contacts the string, and even when you push hard, that's a harmonic node. Your felt has become a bridge instead of a damper. The nemesis of the autoharp world, near impossible to avoid altogether. Ignore it, play music, have fun!