

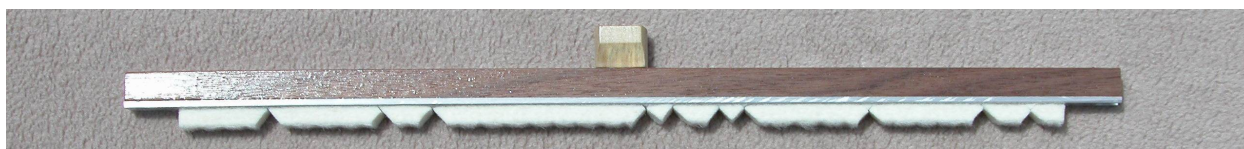


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Felt Changing Tips

(See the video here: <http://www.daigleharp.com/howtocorner.html>)

- Remove the chord bar covers and place the chords in order on the table or work bench.
- Mark the bars (not the old felt) at the locations of the strings that are open on each bar. You can do this with a dry-erase or similar non-permanent marker.
- Remove all felt and adhesive residue from bars. They don't have to be perfect, but should be flat with no bumps. Use a utility knife to remove the adhesive. For 21 bar Oscar Schmidt bars, if there is a thin bead of glue visible holding the felt in place, these bars can be soaked in water for a couple of hours, and the felt will fall off easily.
- For 12 or 15 bar Oscar Schmidt and similar 'harps, apply new felt strips allowing the felt to hang over the end of the bars just slightly. This helps keep the bars from making noise against the bar covers, and from moving side to side. Trim the excess length, and test for proper fit.
- For 21 bar Oscar Schmidt and similar 'harps, apply the felts to the bars centered on the bar, leaving approximately 5/16" of bare bar at each end. This dimension varies, so check the old felts before removing, and test the new for proper fit. Make sure the felt does not come down on the bar holder at each end.
- All other 'harps, follow the maker's recommendations or simply copy the existing felt pattern.
- This next step should be observed even if you have marked the old felt placement already. Rechecking will prevent mistakes. Place each bar, one at a time, in the same slot where it will be placed. With a fine marker, mark the felt precisely at the locations of the strings that will be open and ringing with that chord.
- At the location of the mark, cut the felt at an angle, starting at a little more than 1/16" on each side of the marks. This forms a "V" notch for the string to ring. The V also gives the felt added strength.



- **TIP:** Use a sharp utility knife and push the blade straight down (don't slice) through the felt.
- Try each chord bar as you go. Adjustments can be made, pieces of felt can be removed carefully and reinstalled if you make small mistakes.
- A tiny drop of rubber cement, wood glue or contact cement can be used to reattach a wayward felt piece.
- When should you change the felts? Old (especially softer) felts can become very ragged or loose and begin to interfere with strings. More commonly, they will become grooved, requiring too much pressure to achieve even dampening.