

Drone Tunings - three simple examples

Normal tuning	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	a	b	c	d	e
Drone scales:	a	a	cis	cis	e	e	e	e	a	a	cis	cis
major character	a	a	c	c	e	e	e	e	a	a	c	c
free character	a	a	d	d	a	a	a	a	a	a	d	d

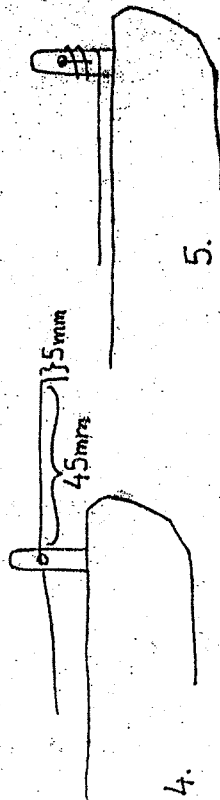
Trying to find different scales is very fascinating, you can get inspiration both from nearby and far away.

The First Tuning

In order for the lyre to hold its pitch as long as possible after tuning, it is important that the very first tuning is done in the following manner; first tune all of the strings to their right pitch. Then press down relatively hard with your finger in the middle of each string. It should flex 6 - 7 mm (1/4 inch). The tones will now have become lower, because the strings stretch and the lyrebody bends slightly under the string tension. Now, repeat the procedure until the strings stand the pressure of your finger, without losing their pitch. Due to the high tension on the strings - totally appr. 125 kg. (65 lbs) - the tuning will be slightly lower during the first weeks in spite of daily adjustment. The lyre will gradually find its inner counter-tension.

Changing the Strings

The strings are changed either when they no longer hold a clear tone or when they have broken. When you change a broken string you must not forget to unscrew the tuning pin as many turns as it has been tightened. This will be about three or three and a half turns. The tuning pins have left hand threads; which means that they screw out clockwise, and in counter-clockwise. When the new string is placed on the lyre, it is attached to the pin as shown in pic 4 and wound up as in pic 5.



Auris

Auris diatonical childrens lyre is made in Hagedal snickeri - Järna - Sweden, where also the following instruments are produced:

pentatonic childrens lyre	7 strings	d', e', g', a', b', d'', e''
schoollyre	29 strings	f - a''
sopranolyre	35 strings	e - d'''
altolyre (also called sofolyre)	41 strings	c - e'''

bombass - a twostringed (c + d) instrument, the size of a cello. It is played by two to four persons. The two functions; to bow and to grip are here divided. It is used both in music therapy and schools.

Specially designed models can even be crafted.

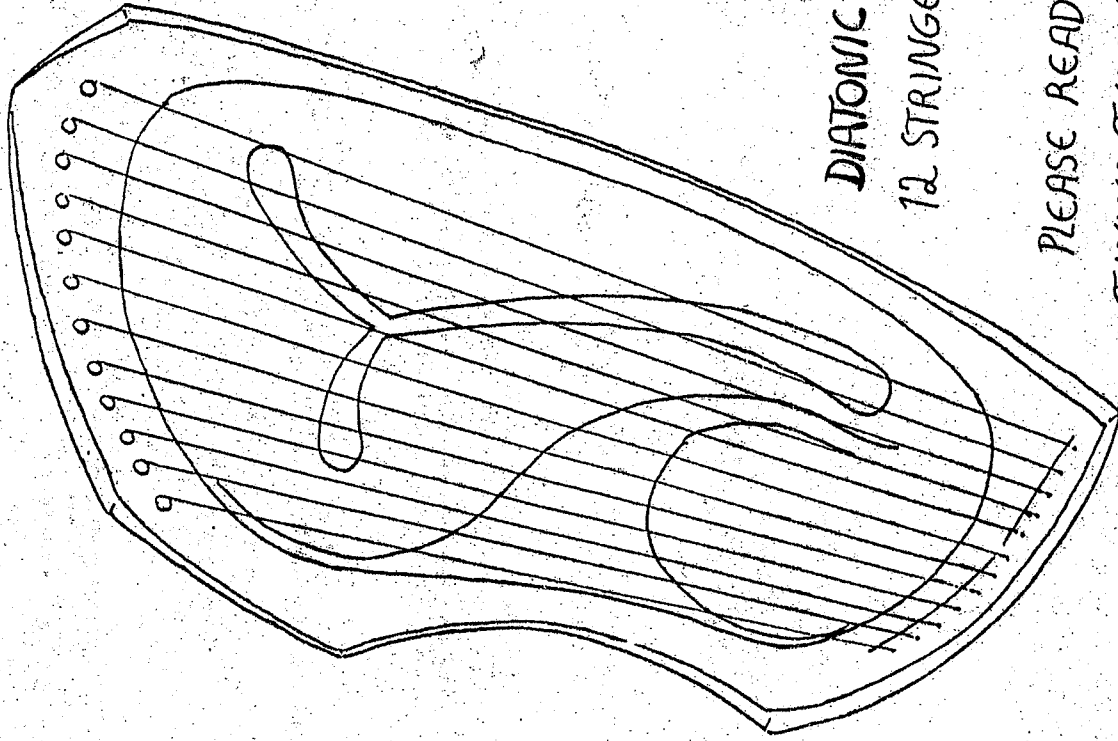
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#LDD

AURIS



DIATONIC LYRE
12 STRINGED

PLEASE READ BEFORE
TUNING THE LYRE

The Diatonic Scale

The Auris 12 stringed lyre is tuned in a diatonic scale.



This scale contains all the tones of the C major scale (basic tones do-re-mi-fa-so-la-ti-do). In order to widen the range, the lyre has been provided with two tones above and two below this basic scale. In addition, other tunings are also possible - see section "Different Tunings".

The diatonic scale constitutes the basis of all Occidental music; from the old music of the church, through the classical epoch, up to modern times and contemporary folk music. The scale allows one the freedom of working in major and minor as well as with dissonance in both melody and harmony. Children in the third to fourth grades and over possess the adequate response for such work.

The 12 string lyre is a simple tool through which the child, through play, ensemble and listening, can become acquainted with many different aspects of music.

Lyre

The aim has been to create a lyre with a clear and light-filled sound, carried by the material's own tone quality. To achieve this the strings are relatively thick and tightly strung, which is needed so that the whole body of the lyre will be penetrated and resound with the tone's movement. From the balance between the string's tension and thickness and the material's hardness and form, comes the lyre's voice. It is made out of maple wood.

An interest group consisting of music therapist Hans G. Klose, music teacher Pär Ahlborn and instrument builder Kjell Andersson, has been formed around the work with Auris instruments.

How to Hold and Play

The instrument is made to be held in the left hand (pic 1); the carved recess on the back gives the thumb a good hold. The left hand grip gives the player freedom to dance and to move the lyre to the music. It also makes it possible to practise finger and chord playing.

In order to make it easier to familiarize oneself with the strings, both the c-strings have been colored red and the fifth (g) colored blue. In addition, the distance between the b and c strings is somewhat greater than the others.

For two handed playing the lyre can be laid across the knees (pic 3).

Striking the Tone

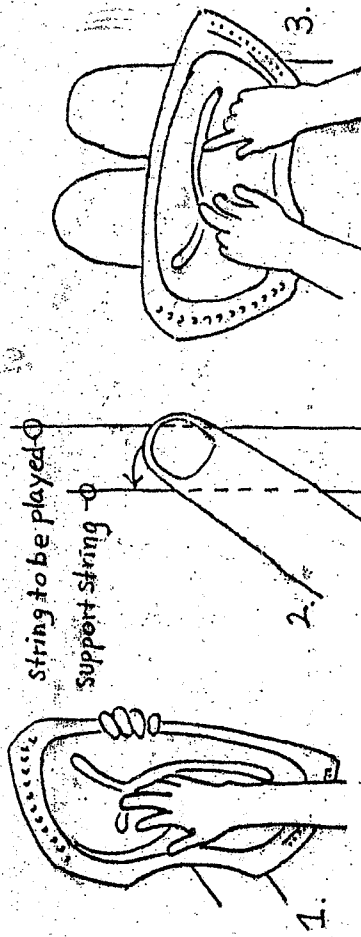
In order to obtain warm and full sound, a support-touch technique is recommended. Hold the right hand so that the fingers lay almost parallel to the strings (see diag 1). Place the finger on the string to be played (diag 2) and "touch" the string lightly so that the finger comes to rest on the next higher string (support-string). One can imagine oneself shooting with a miniature bow and arrow. Chords can be played by using this same technique with several fingers at the same time.

A free and dynamic playing style can be attained through a careful practise of this basic technique. Just as the archer waits until he has his target clearly in sight before releasing the string; so must the player of the lyre become "one" with the coming tone, inwardly preparing the touch and then following the rising and subsiding tone. With practise, quick runs and arpeggios will also be possible to perform with the same warmth and fullness as single tones.

Droneplaying

The lyre can be used to advantage as a drone instrument - a continuous toning to an improvised or composed melody. In drone-playing the lyre is held as shown in pic 1. The strings are gently strummed in a sweeping movement towards or away from the body with the right hand and fore-arm. Preferably use the long, ring or little finger; the index finger, due to its stiffness, often gives a raw tone. Swinging the lyre between the strokes allows the tone to become "larger".

In spite of its simplicity, the instrument gives many possibilities, in melody and chord playing, accompaniment to solo and choir singing and improvisation to an open chord. With many lyres in a group you can create chord melodies by letting the children pass different dronechords on to one another. All can play in unison, in different key or in canon. The musical games can be varied as long as your fantasy lasts.



Different Tunings

To tune the lyre: Tune the low c-string with a pitchpipe, or other instrument with a stable pitch. Thereafter, roughly tune the other strings up the c major scale (do, re, mi, etc). a, b, d and e should also be rough tuned in this way. Fine tuning and correction can now be done with the help of the C major triad (c-e-g-c'), G major triad (b-d) g-h-d', and the F major triad (a-c) f-a-c'. The lyre is tuned when these chords sound true.

For those who have difficulties tuning by ear, another instrument may of course be used to help in tuning tone by tone. It will be noticed however that, after a while, one begins to hear when the lyre is tuned true.

All the strings may be tuned to a pitch 1 1/2 tone steps above or below their normal pitch, thus allowing for a variety of different scales. As example, the lyre may be tuned to all twelve keys of the fifths circle.