

Instructions for Oscar Schmidt 15 bar conversion kit

These instructions assume that you know the basic principles of an autoharp, and that you are reasonably skilled with a screwdriver, drill, square etc. This installation is not difficult but does require a minimum of mechanical skills.

1. Remove the old bar set. Clean up your 'harp and change the strings if needed.
2. Lay out the conversion kit parts. Springs are attached, and screws may be placed in a can with a magnet to keep from losing them. You should have bar holders and caps, and 15 chord bars. Call if you are missing any parts. If the bars get out of order, here is the factory set-up: The treble row (left to right) is D, Gm, Dm, E7, Am, D7. The bass row is Eb, F7, Bb, C7, F, G7, C, G.
3. Tune your autoharp to make identification of the proper placement of the bars easier.
4. Lay one bar holder at the treble side of the 'harp, without the cap in place. Lay the other holder at the bass end, in the approximate finished position. Also position them as near the anchor end of 'harp as the placement of the cover will allow, to give maximum playing room between the cover and the tuning pins. This should place the treble side holder at about 1/4" from the metal anchor cover on "B" model 'harps.
5. Find the first and last chord bars, Eb and G. Put them in place in the holders. Now position the holders so that the felt on the two bars lines up with the proper strings to dampen. Press the bars down and strum. If they are placed correctly, an Eb and a G chord will sound properly. If not placed correctly, it will be obvious by the sound that the placement is incorrect. Now position the bar holders to give just enough room for the bars to move up and down freely, but leave only about 1/32" to 1/16" extra room at each end. Place blue tape on the autoharp along the edge of the bar holders to mark the positions.
6. Remove the bars without moving the holders and with an awl or ice pick, mark the holes on the treble bar holder. Remove the bar holder now and pre-drill the screw holes with a 5/64" bit, at the depth needed for the screw.
7. Anchor this bar holder in place with the screws provided.
8. Put the two bars back on the bar holders and line up the bass bar holder to allow the bars to move freely again. With a small square, square the #1 string to the chord bar, moving the bass bar holder as needed.. Now fasten this bar holder in place as you did the other.
9. Now you may install the chord bars in your desired positions.
10. With the bars all in place, install the bar caps.

That's it! Enjoy!