

an introduction to note reading for harpists

All the C's are red. All the F's are black. Everything else is white. A is the only note that is NOT next to a colored string, its neighbors are always white strings

treble clef

C D E F G A B C

bass clef

C D E F G A B C

Notice that middle C is written on a ledger line that is sometimes near the top of the bass clef and sometime near the bottom of the treble clef. When you are learning to read notes, remember that if you can find this string, you can use it to find others. In the same way that you read a map by counting how many blocks you walk until you get to your destination instead of naming every street you pass, noticing how close or far away the "next note" is to the last will help you find them quickly.

If you have 22 strings G-g, this is likely to be your bottom note. It is a white string.

F G A B C D E F G

2 G A B C D E F G A B C D E F G

If you have a 22 string harp, C-c, this is probably your bottom note and this is probably your top note. Remember, both are red, you need to know which one to play. Look to see if the note you need to play is above or below middle C.

← Each of these carries the same name, but a VERY different location.

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The notes that are written above or below the staff are on ledger lines, each of which represents a particular note. In the second example here, the ledger lines show an alternate way to notate a note that has a place on the staff. In the last, you see the ledger lines used for notes that are above the staff, or below the staff.