

Dusty Strings

Harp Amplification



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Dusty Strings

Handcrafted Musical Instruments

3450 16th Ave. W., Seattle, WA 98119 • 866-634-1656 • www.dustystrings.com

Harp Amplification

Picture this: you've been hired to play your harp at a party. You arrive early, settle into a cozy corner, tune up, and begin to play. Your harp fills the room with delicate but sumptuous sound—that is, until the room fills with people. Halfway down your tune list, you realize that you and your instrument have become a visual aid, not an audio asset. Your patrons can't hear you, the guests can't hear you; in fact you can't even hear yourself. You need (gulp) amplification

As one of the country's prominent harp builders, we're often asked by players for our recommendation on how best to amplify their harps.

If you've ever explored the world of amplification, you know about the myriad choices available. How do you sort it all out so that your basic needs are met? How do you make your harp louder, while maintaining the sound quality of the unamplified harp? How do you find a system that works well for your playing situation and is easy to set up and use?

Dusty Strings has developed solutions that will allow you to concentrate on your music, confident that you are delivering a professional sound: the **Dusty Harp Pickup™** and the **Dusty Pedal Harp Pickup™**. Paired with a good quality amplifier, these devices will deliver clear, strong sound from your harp, and both are very easy to use. For a lower cost alternative, we also recommend the **Audio Technica Pro 35AX** microphone.

We have played harps through many amplifiers and have selected the **Shertler David** model as our favorite. It is a very good value, offering great sound, portability and flexibility.

In the pages that follow you'll find specific information on each of these recommended products, as well as the cables, power supplies, and preamps to round out your system.



Dusty Strings harp with the Dusty Harp Pickup and Shertler David amplifier.

The Dusty Harp Pickup™

The Dusty Pedal Harp Pickup™

Most harp players who perform decide at some point that they need to amplify their instruments, so they go shopping for a pickup. They soon discover a confusing array of options that can make it daunting to decide what will work best. We

spent a lot of time testing various pickups on the market. Not entirely satisfied with what we found, we took on the project of developing a pickup system specifically for harps. We call it the Dusty Harp Pickup. Originally designed for Dusty Strings harps, it is also compatible with a wide array of harps built by other harp makers.

By customer request, we then designed the Dusty Pedal Harp Pickup, with pickup elements optimized for pedal harps. It has generated rave reviews. It makes amplification easy, and sound technicians love it.

Using four carefully placed piezo pickup elements, our pickups achieve a clean,

focused, natural and lush sound. The rich, full bass notes balance with the clear, musical mids and high notes. It's simply the sound of the harp, only bigger. This pickup works at any volume level without feedback.



The pickup is discreetly mounted inside the soundbox of the harp, invisible to the audience. A single jack mounted on the back of the harp makes for true “plug and play” ease of use. An instrument cable connects your harp directly

to any amplifier and most PA systems.

In most situations a preamplifier is not needed, but if the gig requires very high volumes, adding a preamp to the system will help. In addition to boosting your signal, it will give you direct control over your volume and tone if you aren't near your amplifier. With some amplifiers it can also sweeten and smooth out your sound. Please refer to dustystrings.com for recommendations on amplifiers and preamps.

Using the detailed instructions, installation is easy for any handy person or instrument technician. Templates show exact pickup element locations for Dusty lever harps and for pedal harps. For other makes of lever harp, the installer may want to experiment to confirm the best-sounding element locations. The lever harp pickups come in two sizes, so you'll also want to make sure the soundbox is long enough to accommodate the pickup harness. The small size (24-30 string harps) is 27" long, and the large (32-40 strings) is 30" long. Drilling a hole for the jack in the back of the harp or in the pedal box gives the most professional results, and we offer a 1/2" brad point drill bit (sold separately) for this purpose. Mounting hardware is also included with the Dusty Pedal Harp Pickup for the harp owner who prefers to surface-mount the jack inside the lowest soundhole or on the bottom of the pedal box. The pedal harp pickup is 35" long.

"I was amazed hearing the new internal pickups when amplified. After I play, the sound guys are always first to rush up and find out what I'm using to get such great sound. These guys are the ones that know and give the system the highest of marks. Thank you again for making quality your priority. It shows in every aspect of my beautiful harp."

*—Jeannie Page,
Albuquerque harpist*

Schertler

David Amplifier

Choosing the ideal microphone or pickup for your needs is only the first part of the process of amplifying your harp. Next you need to find the right amplifier. There are, of course, hundreds of choices available. Dusty Strings has selected one that sounds great with harps, as well as almost any other acoustic instrument.

Great sound combined with small size has long been the goal for amplifier choice. The **David** amplifier by the Swiss audio gear company Schertler fits the bill admirably. With a plethora of input and output possibilities and electronics designed specifically for acoustic instruments, the **David** delivers clear, crisp, accurate sound.



There are inputs for pickups as well as microphones. Phantom power, separate tone and reverb controls for each channel, outputs for P.A. systems and input/output jacks for external effects make

this an amazingly versatile amp. An optional padded carrying case (\$90.00) with a handy pocket, shoulder strap, and sturdy handle on top make it easy to carry.

This is the best sounding amplifier for harp we've heard yet.

Technical Specifications

Weight (including carrying case) 23.4 lbs.
Dimensions..... 13 x 11.5 x 9.5 in.
Power Output (bi-amp).....50W + 30W RMS
Frequency response..... 40Hz-22KHz
Woofers..... 6 in.
Tweeter.....1 in. dome

Audio Technica Pro

35AX Microphone

For the budget-minded player, we have selected a good sounding and easy to use clip-on microphone. Light weight and invisible to the audience, it's great for those wedding gigs with lots of ambient noise where you need to impress the bride and groom who have hired you to be heard by their guests . . .

Sporting a flexible gooseneck holder and a sturdy, padded alligator-type clip, the **Pro 35AX** microphone is a strong performer, with good balance and strong, clean sound. It is a condenser microphone, which means the sound is accurate, and that it needs either an amplifier with phantom power or a separate power supply, available from Dusty Strings for \$75. While it works great for almost any lever harp, the clip doesn't open far enough to attach to most pedal harps.

The **Pro 35AX** comes with a six foot, low impedance cable with an XLR-type connector for easy attachment to a P.A. system or many instrument amplifiers.

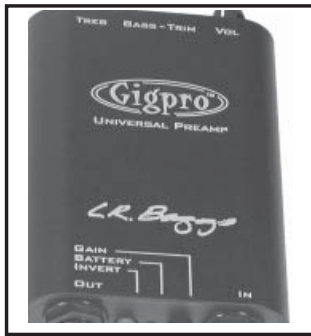


Technical Specifications

Element..... Condenser
Polar Pattern..... Cardioid
Frequency Response..... 50Hz-17KHz
Impedance.....200 Ohms
Phantom Power 9-52 v.
Maximum Input SPL..... 149dB
Gooseneck..... 4 in
Weight.....0.25 oz.
Cable Length..... 6 ft.

Some amplification situations require or are improved by the use of preamps or transformers. You may find some of these devices useful if you want to add volume and tone controls to your signal or if you want to plug into an amplifier that doesn't have an appropriate

L.R. Baggs Gigpro Preamp and Para Acoustic Direct-In



The Gigpro Universal Preamp has 1/4-inch input and output jacks and works great with the Dusty Harp Pickup when plugging into an amplifier that also has a 1/4-inch

input jack. Besides giving you volume and tone controls at your fingertips, the input gain control will allow you to adjust the signal to be a perfect match for whatever amp you are using, and the phase inverting switch will help control feedback.

The Para Acoustic D.I. does everything the



Gigpro does and also allows you to convert the 1/4-inch unbalanced output jack on the Dusty Harp Pickup to the XLR-type balanced input jacks found on most P.A. systems. It also

has more precise tone controls, an external effects loop, a notch filter for increased feedback control, and can run on phantom power or 9-volt battery.

Both the Gigpro and ParaAcoustic D.I. are solidly built in steel cases, are lightweight and are great at providing the kind of versatility you may need if you are playing in a variety of amplification situations.

Cables, Power Supplies and Transformers

What else do you need to get up and running with harp amplification? Cables, of course, to connect everything together. Dusty Strings carries high quality, braided cloth-covered instrument and microphone cables in a variety of lengths.

Trying to plug into an amplifier that doesn't have the right kind of input? To plug the low impedance microphone cable from the Harp Mic into a



guitar amplifier with high impedance 1/4-inch inputs, use the Lo-Z to Hi-Z transformer. If you need to plug the high impedance instrument cable from your Dusty Harp Pickup into a P.A. system, you may need the Para Acoustic D.I. pictured to the left.

If your amplifier doesn't supply phantom power (this isn't a problem with the Schertler David amp) and you are using the Audio Technica Pro 35AX mike, or if you want to add 48v phantom



Audio Technica 8801 Phantom Power Supply

power functionality to the Harp Mic, use the Audio Technica 8801 Phantom Power Supply. It plugs into the wall, and you'll need two microphone cables – one from the mike to the power supply, and one from the power supply to the amplifier or P.A. system.

Harp Amplification Price List

July 30, 2011 • Prices subject to change without notice

Microphones and Pickups

The Dusty Harp Pickup

Harp sizes vary quite a bit; please call to discuss your needs.

Small (for 24-30 string harps).....	\$275.00
Large (for 32-40 string harps)	\$295.00
Installation.....	\$100.00
1/2" brad point drill bit.....	\$14.95
The Dusty Pedal Harp Pickup	\$395.00
Audio-Technica Pro 35AX microphone	\$219.00

Schertler David amplifier

\$985.00

Carrying case for Schertler David amplifier.....

\$99.00

Microphone Cables *for use with the Harp Mic*

6 ft. microphone cable.....	\$18.25
15 ft. microphone cable	\$21.50

Instrument Cables *for use with the Dusty Harp Pickup*

6 ft. instrument cable.....	\$17.75
15 ft. instrument cable.....	\$24.50

Preamps, Transformers & Power Supplies

L.R. Baggs Gigpro preamp (<i>with 1/4-inch in and out</i>).....	\$99.00
L.R. Baggs Para Acoustic D.I (<i>with 1/4-inch in and XLR and 1/4-inch out</i>).....	\$169.00
Audio-Technica 8801 Phantom Power Supply (<i>for use with AT Pro35AX mic</i>)	\$80.00
Low-Z to High-Z impedance matching transformer.....	\$17.50

Shipping (*in the contiguous United States*)

Order total under \$90.....	\$7.95
Order total \$90 or above.....	\$10.95
Amplifier.....	\$35.00

The charge for shipping an amplifier will also cover the shipping for any cables or small items that go with it.

Amplifying your harp can make your life as a performer a lot easier, whether you are playing the occasional wedding, at worship services or on the concert stage. While it's not particularly complicated, there can be a bit of a learning curve for those who have never before played with pickups, microphones or amplifiers. We encourage you to call and ask questions about what will work best for you.

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