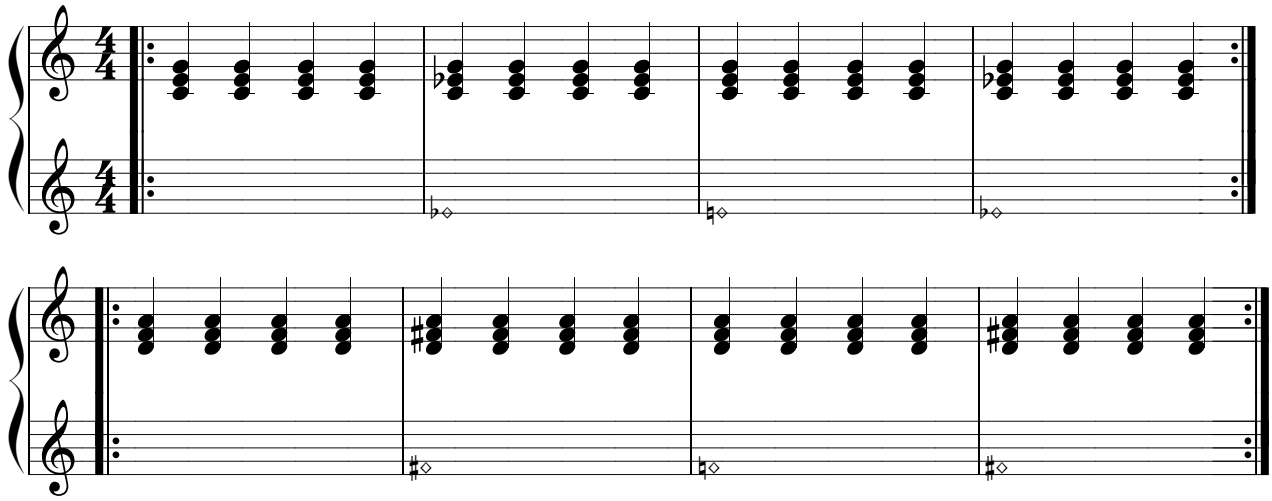
Lever Shifting Etude

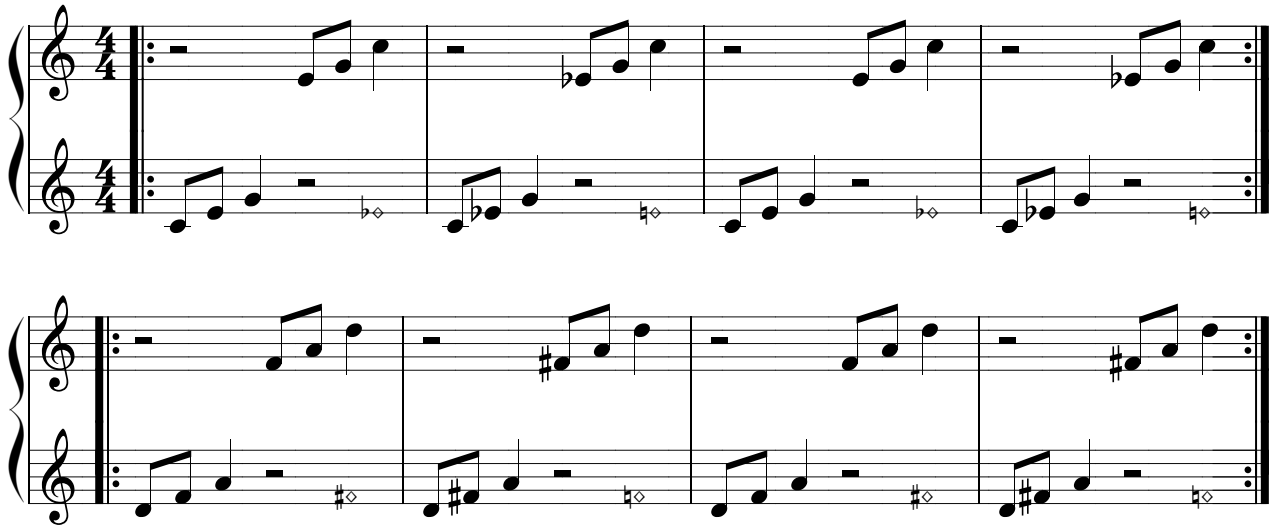
a beginning study

Barbara Ann Fackler

Lever shifts are indicated in the bottom staff of the system. Do your best to move the levers in rhythm. Pay attention to where your RH is touching the strings and let that guide your LH to the correct lever. As soon as you've touched the lever, move your eyes back to watching the music. If your harp is tuned in E flat, you can work both the C major to Cm progression as well as the Dm to D major progression. Any chords you choose to work on this concept will help you improve this skill.



Once you've coordinated playing a chord with your RH and shifting levers with your LH, move on to the next etude and try playing with both hands while shifting levers. Speed is NOT important in these etudes. Accuracy is important. Move the lever squarely on the 4th beat, right where it's marked and get your LH ready for the next measure. To do this, you'll be moving your LH into place while your RH is playing the 3rd beat. As soon as your LH touches that lever, shift your attention to the next notes you need to play. Notice that in each measure your RH, 3rd finger is placed on the string that your left hand will alter when the lever shifts. Use this to help guide your eyes and hand to the correct lever. When you can coordinate this in a steady rhythm, then, and only then, try to speed up the process.



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