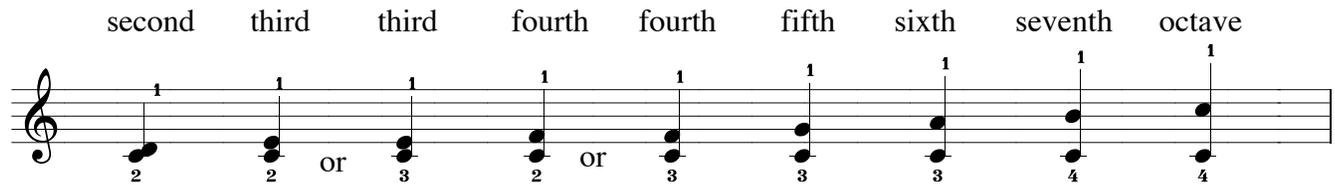


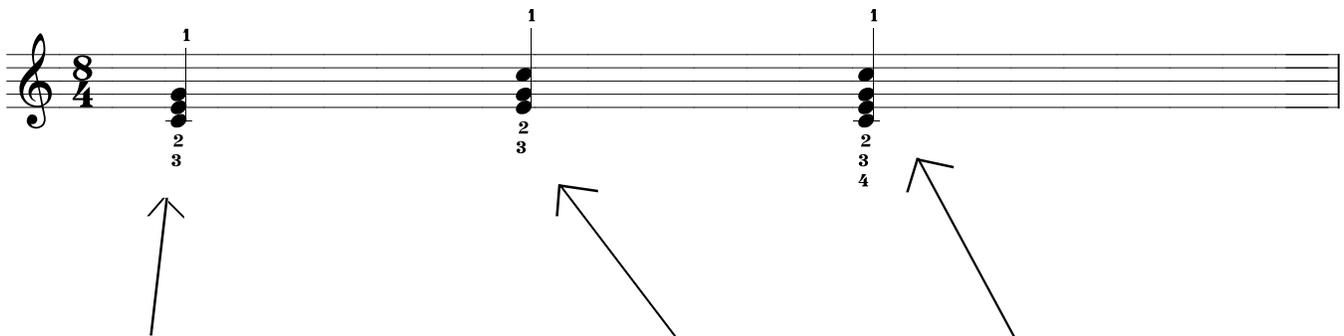
typical fingerings for harpists

a beginner's guide

Barbara Ann Fackler



When the above fingerings are used for the above intervals, you'll prepare yourself for playing full chords. Look at how the intervals included use the same fingerings you'd use to play the intervals above.



The root position triads include 2 thirds, but it also includes a fifth, which is typically fingered with 1 and 3. Notice that the third is fingered with 1 and 2, one of the usual fingerings used for thirds.

The same thing happens with a first inversion chord, the usual fingerings are still what will work the best: 1 and 2 for the fourth and 1 and 3 for the sixth.

In a 4 note, root position chord, you'll find the fourth played with 1 and 2, the sixth played with 1 and 3 and the octave played with 1 and 4.

If you are consistent in your habits as a beginner you'll have an easier time as you attempt more difficult music. There aren't too many chord shapes for a harpist to know. Because our instrument works chromatically differently than other instruments, a minor third and major third are virtually the same to our hands. Once you realise this and memorize the typical fingerings for each interval, large chords and arpeggios become much easier to master.

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