

## Think Enharmonically: More Options

There are times when thinking enharmonically isn't necessary to get through a passage but can give more options. There are also times when there's no benefit at all. The trick is learning when it's helpful and when it's not worth the effort.

There's more than one way one could choose to think about the G#dim7 chord in the first line of You Are My Sunshine, which is often notated thus:

**You Are My Sunshine**  
1940

Moderato Jimmie Davis/Charles Mitchell



The oth - er night dear as I lay sleep - ing I dreamed I  
I'll al - ways love you and make you hap - py If you will  
You told me once dear you real - ly loved me And no one

Chords: F, G#dim7, F, F7

It's easy enough to play this as written on pedal or lever harp but using the Ddim7 instead of the G#dim7 there are different options, so consider thinking about it like this instead:

Moderato JIMMIE DAVIS/CHARLES MITCHELL



The oth - er night dear as I lay sleep - ing I dreamed I  
I'll al - ways love you and make you hap - py If you will  
You told me once dear you real - ly loved me And no one

Chords: F, Ddim7/A<sup>b</sup>, F, F7

A G#dim7 chord contains these notes: G#, B, D, and F and a Ddim7 chord contains these notes: D, F, A<sup>b</sup>, and C<sup>b</sup>.

Think about enharmonic spellings. Play them. Listen. Same pitches, different strings. Often very handy.

The enharmonic spelling allows for a pedal slide or lever slide (if you don't play all four notes in the chord). It also makes the lever change (even without a slide) easier for some people.

Lever harpists: Try playing this both ways. You might find that the lever is easier to change when both hands are reaching for "A", both the A string and the A lever, instead of LH aiming for the G lever and RH placing on the A string. If so, learning to think enharmonically is going to make your lever changes easier and more reliable and probably faster. If you have the melody and the rhythm correct most people won't miss the chord if you leave it out, so try that as you experiment with options.