



TEN HARPS AND LYRES

All made from Agave these instruments delve into the origins of music and of man himself. Scroll to move the slides at your own pace.

Replicas of ten harps and lyres from around the world.



ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ARCHED HARP

Nearly 5000 years of history with its origins in the simple hunting bow. This hollowed out tube of Agave gives off a soft rhythmic melody. The strings were made from discarded fishing line from my local fishing port.



NGOMBI ARCHED HARP

A real test of the strength of the Agave. The Ngombi is from Gabon but there are many examples of this type of arched harp across Africa. It ought to have a face but I don't have African carving skills.



KRAR six strings

A replica of the instrument from Eritrea and Ethiopia. Not an easy instrument to replicate. The sound-box is Agave but the triangle of the harp is river cane.



XITENDE the soul of African folklore and folk music. Tied down near the middle to give two distinct rhythmic sounds.



UDUNGU a Ugandan arched harp, usually has more strings but I'm happy with the sound of just four.





AN AFGHAN KAFIR HARP

Not unlike the arched harps of Africa.

DAN BAU copying the Vietnamese monochord. You can bend the note by pulling on the bar.



KANTELE the Nordic Lyre of the Karelian people. With 10 strings it's quite melodic but tricky to tune.



KRAVIK LYRE

A seven-string Norwegian lyre.
Thought to be similar to instruments
carried by the Vikings.



A CLARSACH !!

Well this could be how the first Clarsachs looked. As the harp moved from Africa to Europe it developed from the arch to the triangle. The third leg of the triangle gives more positivity and the ability to tune the instrument more durably.

Anyway the Scottish Clarsach was never made from Agave but it's fun to make instruments from the material you have at hand.

The tuning pegs are a bit basic but as you tune each string the wrap-around chords tighten and hold the pegs well.

