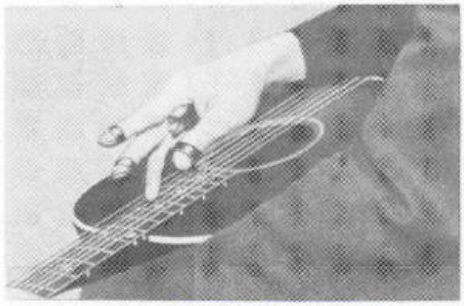
FINGER HARMONICS



FINGER HARMONICS

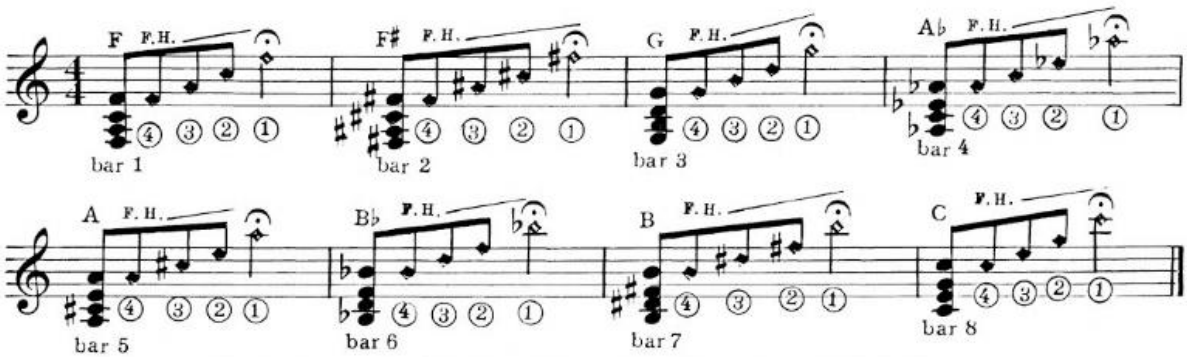
One of the outstanding features of the steel guitar is the easy, spontaneous response of harmonic tones — these clear, bell-like over-tones produce a tone color that have made the steel guitar, and especially the Electric Steel Guitar, so valuable in modern orchestras.

By using FINGER and PALM HARMONICS, it is possible to play any note of the scale with this new and different type of tone which adds a great deal of variety to advanced arrangements.

The example at the left shows the position of the right hand when playing FINGER HARMONICS. The steel is placed as usual for the note to be played — then the tip of the third finger of the right hand is extended to lightly contact the string to be played twelve frets higher than the fret on which the steel is placed — then, immediately after the string is picked with the thumb, the third finger is released to allow the harmonic tone to ring clearly. Notice that the thumb picks the string in back of the third finger, toward the bridge — a short decisive stroke of the thumb is used to produce the desired effect.

STUDY USING FINGER HARMONICS

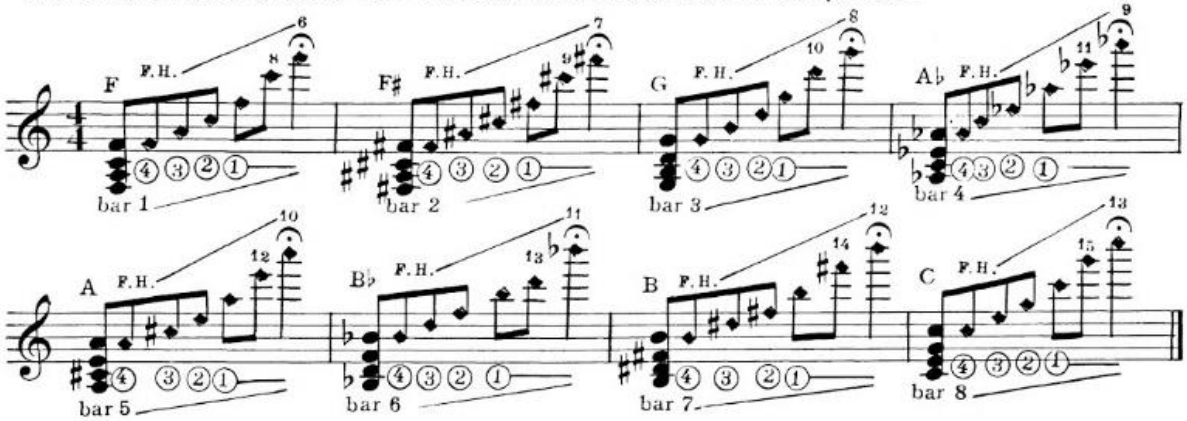
Pick the chord at the beginning of each measure with the thumb — then, while the steel remains at the bar position indicated, play the single notes in each measure using finger harmonics. Diamond shaped notes are used to indicate harmonic tones and the letters F.H. as an abbreviation for FINGER HARMONICS. Notice from their position on the staff that the notes to be played with finger harmonics sound an octave higher than the notes over which the steel is placed.



SECOND STUDY IN FINGER HARMONICS

Finger harmonics can also be produced at other positions in addition to those twelve frets than where the steel is placed. By playing them five frets higher, the resultant tone is two octaves higher than the tone produced where the steel is placed. By playing them seven frets higher, the resultant tone is one octave higher than the fret over which the finger of the right hand is extended.

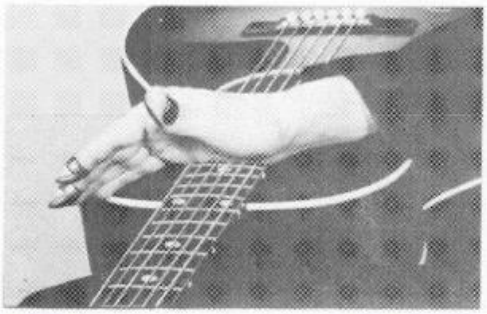
In the following study play the finger harmonics twelve frets higher than where the steel is placed, unless a number over the note indicates some other fret — the notes written indicate the actual tones produced.



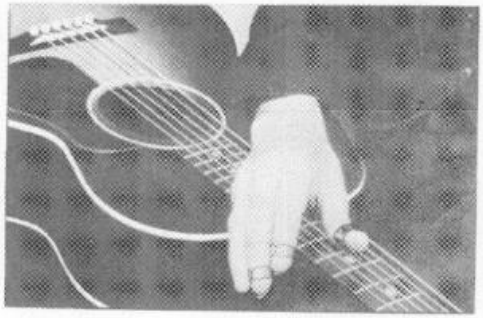
Palm Harmonics

PALM HARMONICS are produced by contacting the strings twelve frets higher than where the steel is placed with the edge of the right hand palm on the little finger side — the thumb of the right hand strikes the strings at a point ahead of the hand, toward the peghead.

With palm harmonics it is possible to produce harmonic tones on two or more strings simultaneously as well as on single notes. Palm harmonics have a soft mellow quality of tone as compared to the more brilliant sound of finger harmonics.



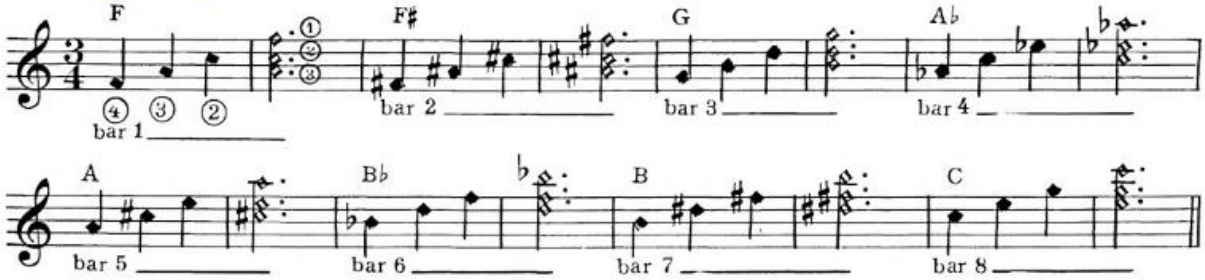
Palm contacting the strings for palm harmonics.



Natural playing position of the right hand for playing palm harmonics.

STUDY IN PALM HARMONICS

Use palm harmonics throughout



SECOND STUDY IN PALM HARMONICS

After playing a note with palm or finger harmonics, the harmonic tone can be carried along by sliding the steel to any other fret. It will prove especially to slide the steel an octave (twelve frets) higher after picking the harmonic tone as in the following study.

The term *8va* is an abbreviation for octave and means that the notes should be written an octave higher — to do so however would place them so high above the staff as to make them difficult to read — thus they are written an octave lower than they actually sound with the term *8va* over them to indicate the effect desired.

The letters P.H. are used as an abbreviation for PALM HARMONICS.