



FINAL FANTASY IV

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This is the legal stuff near the front of the book blah blah please don't sue me I'm a poor orphan robot from the 1800s

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INTRO

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CHAPTER 1: PROLOGUE

Title Screens

Right off the bat we see that the title screens are different across all three versions of the game:



The Japanese title screens also have some fancier animations and fade-ins while the English title screen just has a basic fade-in and no animation at all. Here's a video of them for reference:

Personally, I really like the font in the English title screen. The sword's a little cheesy, though.

The English version also has the bit of text about the licensing stuff, plus the company is called "Square Soft" rather than "Square", as it's called in the Japanese versions. There's probably a good reason for this company name difference, but I'm guessing that's an article for another day.

Incidentally, this probably doesn't need mentioning, but it was called Final Fantasy IV in Japan but Final Fantasy II in North America because the *real* Final Fantasy II and Final Fantasy III weren't released in North America at the time. Nowadays all the games have been released over here, so fans call them all by their official Japanese numbers.

Treasure Find

There's only one treasure chest in Agart, hidden in the grass. But its contents have been changed!

Location:	FFIV	FFIV Easy Type	FFII
Outside	Arctic Wind	Hi-Potion	Cure2

It's nothing too special – the Arctic Wind item basically casts the second level Blizzard spell, so it might be useful against fire enemies underground. Personally, I use Cure 2 potions way more than these spell items though, so the Easy Type and FFII item is more useful I feel.



Harping Across Space

A girl in a hidden area of town has some good info for you!

Japanese Version (literal)	English Version
Have you heard of Hisohisou?	Do you know about the TwinHarps?
They say it's a mysterious plant that lets you send your voice far off!	A pair of harps which can send the sound of one to another!

Whoa! This is a key item in the game that plays an important part in the story coming up, so this is a pretty big change!

In the Japanese version, this item she's talking about is a plant, but in the English version it's a harp? How did that happen?

Basically, the Japanese name for the item uses word play – it's a sort of portmanteau of "hisohiso", which is the Japanese sound effect for whispering, and "sou", which is often added to the ends of words to denote that they're plants or herbs of some sort. So this is some sort of "Whisper Grass" or "Whisper Plant", in other words.

Of course, when you translate it out like that, the word play is completely lost and things make a bit less sense. So the translators decided to change the item name to "TwinHarp", thus turning the key item from a plant into a harp.

So if you ever thought Cecil and friends carried a harp into the magnetic cave, nope! They actually carried some sort of plant with them!

Now that I think about it, everyone in this town is always saying how Toroia is famous for all of its vegetation and trees and such; maybe this special plant is native to this area and that's how Gilbert/Edward wound up with it. That would also explain why this little girl is talking about it.

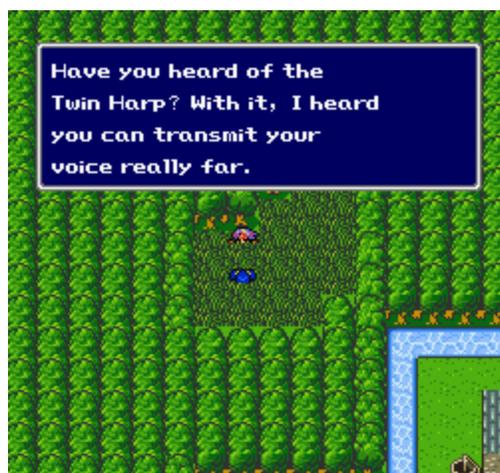
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For reference, the fan translation localized this item's name into "Echoer", which I think is actually kind of cool:



The Playstation translation stuck with "Twin Harp":



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And, not surprisingly, the GBA translation also goes with “Twin Harp”:

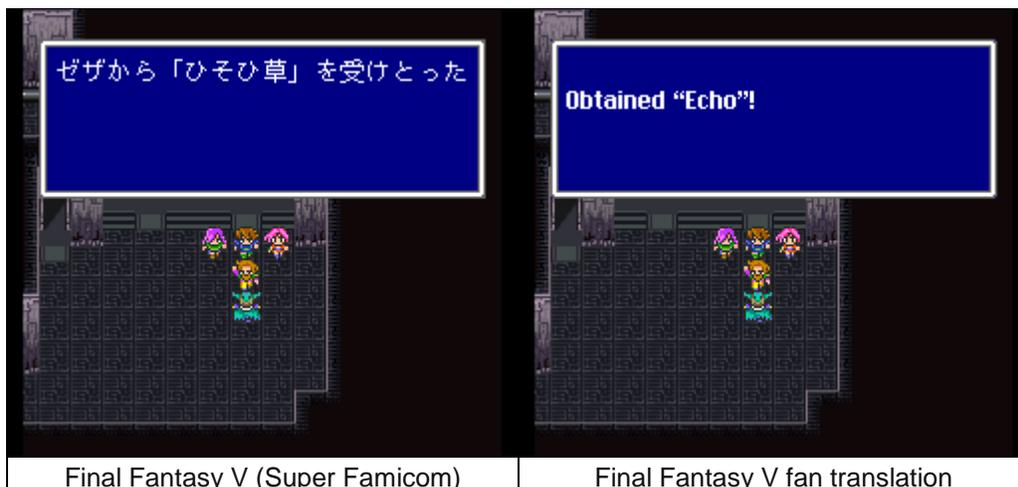


And the DS version handles it pretty nicely by calling it “whisperweed”:



Incidentally, this Hisohisou/Whisper Grass item appears in a couple other Final Fantasy games, including Final Fantasy V and Final Fantasy Tactics, among others. But I don't know if this name was kept as “Twin Harp” in the official translations of those games.

Checking quickly, though, it appears that the FFV fan translation simply called it “Echo”:



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Although, actually, if you check the rare items menu, it's called "Echo Plant" there:



Also, a couple Japanese guides have what seems to be an official drawing of this special plant:

