



Intro to harmonica

Holding the harmonica

1. With your left hand, make a duck bill pointing to the right - fingers and thumbs straight out and parallel.
2. Pick up the harmonica with your right hand, making sure the harmonica holes are facing you, and the numbers on the harmonica cover are facing up.
3. Tuck the harmonica all the way into where the fingers and thumb are attached to the palm. Your index finger should rest on the top cover of the harmonica.
4. Keep all 4 fingers on your left hand flat — Don't drape any fingers down over the back holes or you may block air flow, which will keep you from playing well.
5. Put the pad of your right thumb on the right end of the harmonica.
6. The pinky of your left hand should fit right into the crease where your fingers meet your palm on your right hand. Drape the fingers of your right hand lightly over the fingers of your left hand.
7. Your right hand and fingers should not be touching the back of the harmonica, so you're not blocking air flow.

Harmonica, meet lips

1. Relax your top and bottom lips, pooching them out slightly.
2. Wedge that harmonica right into those pouty lips so the lips are resting on the curve of the top and bottom harmonica cover plates, with the end that is not in your mouth slightly tilted upwards, towards your nose.
3. The harmonica should ALMOST touch your teeth, but never actually touch them. Explore making sounds by breathing in and out at your own pace.
4. Lick your lips and see how your saliva acts as a lubricant, making it easier to slide the harmonica back and forth. See how gently you can blow to make sound.
5. Purse your lips and whistle. Use that lip shape to blow or draw through one hole at a time. Can't get just one? That's ok! Keep playing around with it and you'll get it.
6. Blow gently!

Reading harmonica tablature

Creating a melody involves blowing and drawing air through one or more holes in the harmonica. "Tablature" represents how to do this. Here's how to read it:

- Each hole is represented by a number, 1 - 10.
- Numbers appear over the word, syllable, or pause where the note changes.
- A number by itself means blow air through that hole.
- A number with a minus sign in front of it means draw air through that hole.
- Example:

6 6 -6 6 7 -7

Hap-py birth-day to you!

Key: C										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
BLOW	C	E	G	C	E	G	C	E	G	C
DRAW	D	G	B	D	F	A	B	D	F	A
BEND	Draw Db	Draw F	Draw Ab	Draw Db		Draw Ab		Blow Eb	Blow Gb	Blow Bb

CHORDS

B

Draw

3-4-5 7-8-9

C

Blow

1-2-3 | 4-5-6 | 7-8-9

D/Dm

Draw

4-5/6 8-9/10

Em

Blow

2-3 5-6 8-9

F

Draw

5-6 9-10

G

Draw + 5 for G7

2-3-4-5

How to care for your harmonica

- Keep it clean! Set it down on a napkin or clean cloth when not in use.
- Don't expose them to extreme heat or cold.
- Keep it dry. Store in a plastic container only when it has had time to completely dry out. Whap it on your leg when you're done to knock out excess moisture that accumulates from playing.
- Don't eat or drink anything but water prior to playing so you don't blow food or residue from drinks into the reeds. This can cause them to plug up and not play.
- Don't put anything heavy on the harmonica - it could bend the covers. Resist keeping it in your back pocket where you'll sit on it.
- Breathe gently. Blowing too hard can damage the reeds.
- Sharing is caring — EXCEPT when it comes to harmonicas!

BAD MOON RISING - John Fogerty

6-20-19

5 5 5 -4 4 -4 4 5 4 5 5 -4 4 5 -4 4
I see a bad moon rising. I see trouble on the way

5 5 -4 4 -4 4 5 4 5 5 -4 4 5 -4 4
I see earth-quakes and lightning. I see bad times today

5 -5 -5 -5 4 4 -4 4 -4 5 5 5 -4 4
Ohhhh, Don't go 'round tonight, 'cause it's bound to take your life

-4 -4 -4 4 4 4 4
Therrrr's a bad moon on the rise

BLOWIN' IN THE WIND - Bob Dylan

6-20-19

6 6 6 -6 -6 -6 6 5 -4 4 6 6 6 -6 6 -5 6
How many roads must a man walk down before you call him a man?

5 -5 6 6 6 -6 -6 -6 6 5 -4 4
Yes, 'n' how many seas must a white dove sail

6 6 6 -6 6 6 -5
Before she sleeps in the sand?

5 -5 6 6 6 -6 -6 -6 6 5 -4 4
Yes, 'n' how many times must the cannon balls fly

6 6 6 6 -6 6 -5 6
Before they're for-ever banned?

5 -6 -6 6 -5 -5 6 6 6 -5 5
The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind

5 -5 -5 5 -4 -4 4 -3 4
The answer is blowin' in the wind.

BLUE EYES CRYIN' IN THE RAIN - Fred Rose

7-19-19

5 -5 5 3 4 -5 5 4 -4 5 -4 3 4 -4 5
In the twilight glow I see her, blue eyes cryin' in the rain

3 5 -5 5 3 4 -5 5 -4 4 -4 -4 5 -4 3 -3 -4 4
When we kissed good-bye in parting, I knew we'd never meet again

-6 -6 -6 4 -5 -6 -6 6 -5 -5 6 -6 6 5 -5 5 -4
Love is like a dying ember. Only memories remain

3 5 -5 5 3 4 -5 5 -4 4 -4 5 -4 3 5 -4 4
Through the ages I'll remember blue eyes crying in the rain

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CAMPTOWN RACES - Steven Foster

6-20-19

6 6 5 6 -6 6 5 5 -4 5 -4
Camp town la-dies sing this song: Doo da, Doo da

6 6 5 6 -6 6 5 -4 -4 5 -4 4
Camp town race track's five miles long: Oh de doo da day

4 4 5 6 7 -6 -6 7 -6 6
Goin' to run all night, goin' to run all day

6 6 6 5 5 6 6 -6 6 5
I bet my mo-ney on a bob-tailed nag

-4 5 -5 5 -4 -4 4
Some-bo-dy bet on the gray.

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DOWN IN THE VALLEY - Lead Belly

6-20-19

3 4 -4 5 4 5 -4 4 -4
Down in the valley, valley so low

3 -4 5 -5 -4 -5 5 -4 4
Hang your head over, hear the wind blow.

3 4 -4 5 4 5 -4 4 -4
Hear the wind blow, dear, hear the wind blow.

3 -4 5 -5 -4 -5 5 -4 4
Late in the evening hear the wind blow.

FREIGHT TRAIN - Elizabeth Cotton

7-19-19

6 5 -4 4 -3 -3 6 -5
Freight train, Freight train, runnin' so fast,

6 -5 5 -4 4 4 6 5
Freight train, freight train, runnin' so fast,

5 -5 5 -4 4 -4 4
Please don't tell what train I'm on

4 -4 5 5 -4 3 5 -4 4
So they won't know what route I've gone.

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HOME ON THE RANGE - Brewster Higley

7-19-19

3 3 4 -4 5 4 -3 -3 -5 -5 -5
Oh give me a home where the buffalo roam,

5 -5 6 4 4 4 -3 4 -4
Where the deer and the antelope play

3 3 4 -4 5 4 -3 -3 -5 -5 -5
Where seldom is heard a discouraging word,

-5 -5 5 -4 4 -3 4 -4 4
And the skies are not cloudy all day

6 -5 5 -4 5
Home home on the range,

3 3 4 4 4 4 -3 4 -4
Where the deer and the antelope play

3 3 4 -4 5 4 -3 -3 -5 -5 -5
Where seldom is heard a discouraging word,

-5 -5 5 -4 4 -3 4 -4 4
And the skies are not cloudy all day

HAPPY BIRTHDAY - Hill, Hill, Orem & Foreman

7-19-19

6 6 -6 6 7 -7 6 6 -6 6 -8 7
Hap-py birth-day to you! Hap-py birth-day to you!

6 6 9 8 7 -7 -6 -9 -9 8 7 -8 7
Hap-py birth-day, dear _____. Hap-py birth-day to you!

I'M AN OLD COWHAND - Johnny Mercer

7-19-19

6 6 5 4 -4 -4 -4 -5 5 4
I'm an old cowhand from the Rio Grand

6 6 5 4 -4 -4 -4 -5 5 6
And my legs ain't bowed, and my cheeks ain't tanned

5 6 -6 -6 -6 -7 -6 6 5 5 5 6 -6 -6 -6 -7 -6 6 5 5
I'm a cowboy who never saw a cow. Never roped a steer 'cuz I don't know how

5 6 -6 -6 -6 -7 -6 6 5 5
And I sure ain't fixin' to start in now

5 5 -4 4 -4 4 5 5 -4 4 -4 4
Yipee-yi-o-kie-yay - yipee-yi-o-kie-yay

IT'S A HEARTACHE - Ronnie Scott & Steve Wolfe

6-20-19

5 -4 4 4 4 -4 5 -5 6 6
It's a heartache, nothing but a heartache

-6 6 -5 5 -5 -5 -5 5 -4 4 5 -5 5 -4
Hits you when it's too late, hits you when you're down

5 -4 4 4 4 -4 5 -5 6 6
It's a fool's game, nothing but a fool's game

-6 6 -5 5 -5 -5 -5 5 -4 4 5 -5 5 -4
Standing in the cold rain, feeling like a clown

5 6 -6 -6 -6 6 -5 6 5 -5 6 6 6 -5 5 5 -4
It ain't right with love to share when you find he doesn't care for you

5 6 -6 -6 -6 6 -5 6 5 5 -5 6 6 6 -5 5 -4
It ain't wise to need someone as much as I depended on you

LET IT BE - Lennon & McCartney

7-19-19

6 6 6 6 -6 5 6 6 7 -8 8 8 8-8 -8 7 7
When I find myself in times of trouble, mother Mary comes to me,

8 8 -9 8 8 -8 8 -8 7
Speaking words of wisdom, let it be.

6 6 6 -6 7 6 6 7 -8 -8 8 8 -8 -8 7 7
And in my hour of darkness, she is standing right in front of me,

8 8 -9 8 8 -8 8 -8 7
Speaking words of wisdom, let it be.

8 -8 7 8 9 -10 -10 9 8 9 7 6 8
Let it be, let it be. Let it be, let it be.

8 8 -9 8 8 -7 8 -8 7
Whisper words of wisdom, let it be

MOLLY MALONE - James Yorkston

6-20-19

3 4 4 4 4 5 4 4 -4 -4 -4 -4 -5
In Dublin's fair city, where the girls are so pretty,

-4 5 -4 4 6 -5 5 5 -4 4 -4
I first set my eyes on sweet Molly Malone,

3 3 4 4 4 4 5 4 -4 -4 -4 -4 -5
As she wheeled her wheel-barrow through streets broad and narrow,

-4 5 6 -4 5 6 -5 5 4 -4 4
Crying "Cockles and mussels, alive, alive, oh!"

ODE TO JOY - Fredrich Schiller

6-20-19

5 5 -5 6 6 -5 5 -4 4 4 -4 5 5 -4 -4

5 5 -5 6 6 -5 5 -4 4 4 -4 5 -4 4 4

-4 -4 5 4 -4 5 -5 5 4 -4 5 -5 5 -4 4 -4 3

5 5 -5 6 6 -5 5 -4 4 4 -4 5 -4 4 4

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ON THE ROAD AGAIN - Willie Nelson & Bernard Lavilliers

7-19-19

3 3 5 5 5 5 -4 5 -5 5 -4 4 5 5 5
On the road again I just can't wait to get on the road again

5 5 5 -5 5 -4 4 5 -4 -4 4 -4
The life I love is making music with my friends

5 -5 -5 -5 -5 6 5 5 5 -4 4
And I can't wait to get on the road again

4 4 -6 -6 -6 -6 -7 7 7 7 -7 -7 -6 -6 6 6 5
On the road again like a band of gypsies we go down the highway

4 4 -6 -6 -6 -7 7 7 7 -7 -7 -6 -6 6 6 5 5 -5 -4
We're the best of friends insisting that the world keep turning our way and our way

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ON TOP OF SPAGHETTI - Tom Glazer

6-20-19

4 4 5 6 7 -6 -6 -5 6 -6 6
On top of spaghetti, all covered with cheese,

4 4 5 6 6 -4 5 -5 5 -4 4
I lost my poor meatball when somebody sneezed.

4 4 5 6 7 -6 -6 -5 6 -6 6
It rolled off the table, and on to the floor,

4 4 5 6 6 -4 5 -5 5 -4 4
And then my poor meatball rolled out of the door.

OVER THE RAINBOW - Harold Arlen & Yip Harburg

7-19-19

4 7 -7 6 -6 -7 7 4 -6 6
Some-where o-ver the rain-bow way up high

4 -5 5 4 -4 5 -5 -4 -3 4 -4 5 4
there's a land that I heard of once in a lull-a-by

4 7 -7 6 -6 -7 7 4 -6 6
somewhere o-ver the rain-bow skies are blue

4 -5 5 4 -4 5 -5 -4 -3 4 -4 5 4
and the dreams that you dare to dream real-ly do come true

6 5 6 5 6 5 6 5 6
Someday I'll wish up-on a star and

-5 6 -5 6 -5 6 -5 6 -6 -6 6
wake up where the clouds are far be-hind me, where

5 6 5 6 5 6 5 6
trou-bles melt like lem-on drops, a-

-5 6 -5 6 -5 6 -5 6 -6 -6 /-7 7 6/5
way a-bove the chim-ney tops that's where you'll find me

4 7 -7 6 -6 -7 7 4 -6 6
Some-where o-ver the rain-bow blue-birds fly

4 -5 5 4 -4 5 -5 -4 -3 4 -4 5 4 6
birds fly o-ver the rain-bow why then oh why can't I...if

5 6 5 6 5 6 5 6 -5 6 -5 6 -5 6 -6 -7 8
hap-py lit-tle blue-birds fly be-yond the rain-bow, why oh why can't I

ROW, ROW, ROW YOUR BOAT - Eliphalet Oram Lyte

6-20-19

4 4 4 -4 5 5 -4 5 -5 6
Row, row, row your boat, gent-ly down the stream

7 7 7 6 6 6 5 5 5 4 4 4 6 -5 5 -4 4
Mer-ri-ly, mer-ri-ly, mer-ri-ly, mer-ri-ly, life is but a dream

TAPS - Daniel Butterfield

6-20-19

3 3 4 3 4 5 3 4 5 3 4 5 3 4 5
Day is done, gone the sun, from the lake, from the hills, from the sky

4 5 6 5 4 3 3 3 4
All is well, safe-ly rest. God is nigh.

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This Land Is Your Land - Woody Guthrie

6-20-19

4 -4 5 -5 -5 -5 4 -4 5 5 4 4 5 -4 -4 -4 -4 4 -4 5 5
This land is your land this land is my land, from Ca-li-for-nia to the New York Is-land

4 4 -4 5 -5 -5 -5 -5 4 -4 5 -4 4
From the Red-wood For-est to the Gulf Stream wa-a-ters

-4 -4 -4 -3 3 -3 -4 4
This land was made for you and me

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WHEN IRISH EYES ARE SMILING - Chauncey Olcott & George Graff, Jr.

6-20-19

6 5 5 -4 4 5 6 6 6 -6 -7 7 -6 6
When Irish eyes are smiling, sure, 'tis like the morn in Spring

7 7 7 -7 7 -6 6 5 -5 6 -6 -4 -4 5 -4
In the lilt of Irish laughter, you can hear the angels sing

6 5 5 -4 4 5 6 6 6 -6 -7 7 -6 6
When Irish hearts are happy, all the world seems bright and gay

7 7 7 -7 7 -8 8 6 6 6 -6 7 -7 -8 7
And when Irish eyes are smiling, sure they steal your heart a way

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When the Saints Go Marching In - Traditional

6-20-19

4 5 -5 6 4 5 -5 6 4 5 -5 6 5 4 5 -4
Oh when the saints go march-ing in — Oh when the saints go mar-ching in

5 5 -4 4 4 5 6 6 6 -5 5 -5 6 5 4 -4 4
Oh how I want to be in that num-ber — When the saints go mar-ching in

CROSS HARP: G blues with C harp

G blues scale:

-2 -3 4 -4 -5 6 6 -5 -4 4 -3 -2

Shortenin' Bread

11-11-19

-2tt 5tt -4tt 5tt -2tt 5tt -4tt 5tt
Mama's little baby loves shortenin' shortenin'

-2tt 5tt -4tt 5 -3 -3 3
Mama's little baby loves shortenin' bread

-2tt 5tt -4tt 5tt -2tt 5tt -4tt 5tt
Mama's little baby loves shortenin' shortenin'

6tt 5tt -4tt 5 -3 -3 3
Mama's little baby loves shortenin' bread

Classic blues riff

-2 4... -3-2 -2 -2 [repeat]

Boogie in G (Cross-harp)

11-11-19

-2tt -3tt -4tt 5tt -5tt 5tt -4tt -3tt

-2tt -3tt -4tt 5tt -5tt 5tt -4tt -3tt

-1tt -4tt 4tt -4tt 1tt 4tt -3tt 4tt 2tt -2tt -1tt -2 2 -1 -1 -1

Two C Scale Exercises

4 5 4 -4 -5 -4
5 6 5 -5 -6 -5
6 -7 6 -6 7 -6
-7 7

7 -6 7 -7 6 -7
-6 -5 -6 6 5 6
-5 -4 -5 5 4 5
-4 -3 -4 4

4 -4 5 4
-4 5 -5 -4
5 -5 6 5
-5 6 -6 -5
6 -6 -7 6
-6 -7 7

7 -7 -6
6 -7 -6 6
-5 -6 6 -5
5 6 -6 5
-4 -5 5 -4
4 5 -4 4

Harmonica Train Sounds

Inhale on the Taks (indicated by the minus sign)

Exhale on the Ahhs and Akas

Create your own rhythms and patterns and stories:

Make the train strain up a hill.

Now let it run downhill — give that whistle a loooonnnng blow!

Now slow it down, one last bloooooowwww as it comes into the station.

-Tak Ahh

-Tak -Tak -Tak Ahh

-Taka Haa

-Taka -Taka Taka Ahhh

-Taka -Taka -Taka Ahhh

-Tak Aka

-Tak Aka

-Taka -Taka -Taka Akaa

(Whistle) -4/3

Do the same thing with this pattern:

-2/1 -2/1 3/2/1 3/2/1 (Whistle) -4/3