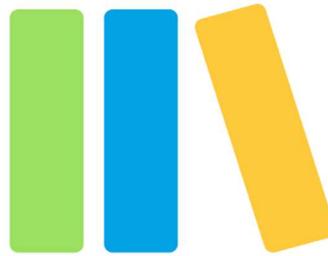


Plymouth READS



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Harmonica Basics

Learning to play the harmonica starts with playing a single melody and knowing how to read harmonica music. Those are the skills we will focus on here. Read all of these instructions, with an adult if needed, then give the songs a try. With a little effort, you'll be playing them in no time!

The instructions and sheet music provided here will apply to any ten-hole diatonic harmonica you may have (this is the most common type), but to play along with the musicians in the **Campfire Play and Sing-along** video, you'll want to be sure to use a harmonica that is in the key of C. The video will be available starting **Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 7 pm here: https://bit.ly/PlymouthREADS_Videos**

First Things First

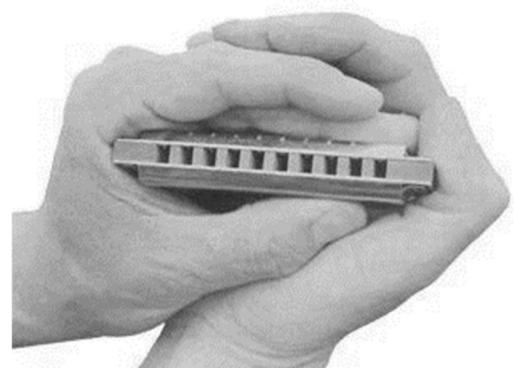
For sanitary reasons, do not share harmonicas, and wash your hands well before picking one up. Before playing each time, look over your harmonica to be sure there isn't any debris blocking the holes. Be sure your mouth is clean and clear of food. Avoid eating or drinking sugary drinks before/while playing.



Important Note: Harmonicas are made to be blown into, but to produce the desired notes, you don't need to blow very hard. **Blowing (or inhaling/drawing) with too much force can damage the reeds within the harmonica. Damaged reeds will not produce the desired notes.** You quickly will realize just the right amount of air needed to play a clear note.

Holding the Harmonica

Your harmonica will likely have markings on the top and bottom. When you're holding the harmonica properly, the **numbers over the holes will be on the top of the harmonica and face you**. When blowing into the harmonica, the lower-pitched notes will be on the left and the higher-pitched notes on the right. To hold the harmonica, make a narrow "C" with your *left* hand. Grip the harmonica within the "C" shape. Now place the gripped harmonica into your cupped *right* hand, with its thumb to the right end of the harmonica (as pictured).

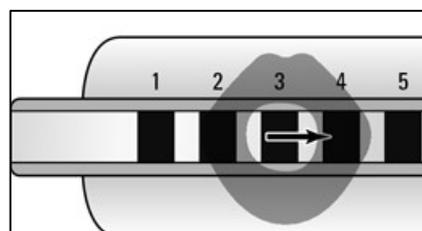


Playing Single Notes

When you blow into your harmonica the first time, you will likely hear multiple notes/pitches at the same time – this sound of two or more notes being played together is called a “chord.” Chords are often used to play along with songs. Here, we will focus on playing the *single* notes that make up a song’s melody.

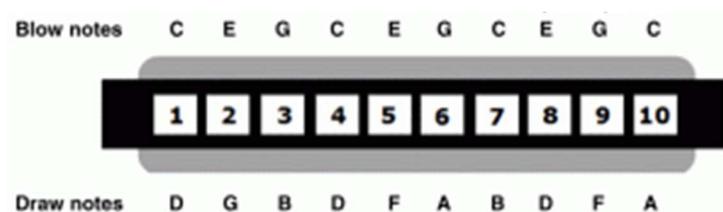
To play a single note, you’ll want to pucker your lips so that there is a small “O” through which you can direct the flow of air. The shape of your lips will be similar to blowing air into, or drawing air out of, a straw. Position the harmonica deep within your relaxed lips. The outer part of your lips should just touch your fingers; the inner “O” of your lips will be in contact with the harmonica and seal the airflow. This “O” should be no larger than the holes of the harmonica.

Try playing a note – adjust the “O” in your mouth and the placement of the harmonica until you can play a clear and full note. Blow and inhale/draw air evenly through the harmonica. Tilting the back of the harmonica up and sticking your lower lip out a bit can help with this. You may wish to say the syllable “ta” while blowing/drawing. At first your lips will tire quickly; they will tire less easily with a little practice.



The Holes and Notes on the Harmonica

Each hole on your harmonica is represented by a number (1-10) printed faintly above the hole. Each hole is capable of producing two different notes: blowing into the hole will produce one note, while inhaling/drawing air out will produce another note.



The diagram to the left shows the musical notes the typical diatonic harmonica in the key of C is designed to play. The letters (A-G) above and below the harmonica in the diagram represent the different musical notes.

The letters *above* are the notes that you will hear when blowing properly in each numbered hole; the letters *below* are the notes you’ll hear when drawing air back through the hole. For example, blowing into Hole 4 produces the note C. Likewise, inhaling/drawing air back through that same hole produces the slightly higher pitched D, and so on.

Reading Harmonica Music

Harmonica sheet music (also known as tablature or “tab”) tells you which holes to blow into or draw from to achieve the desired musical note. In the music provided here, **a plain number (with no symbol before it) indicates that you should BLOW into that hole**; alternately, **a number with a minus sign (-) before it indicates that you should DRAW air from that hole**. Some other types of harmonica tablature use an up arrow to indicate blow notes and a down arrow to indicate draw notes.

The C Major Scale

A scale is an ordered sequence of musical notes/tones. One of the most common scales is the C Major scale; it is made up of the notes C D E F G A B C. The final C in this scale sounds higher than the first C; the two Cs are one “octave” apart in pitch. Try playing a C Major scale between holes 4-7 as follows:

4	-4	5	-5	6	-6	-7	7
C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C

Notice that on Hole 7 of the harmonica the blow/draw pattern reverses as you go up the scale.

You can play this same scale an octave higher on holes 7-10, except that here the harmonica is missing the 7th note of the scale (the B):

7	-8	8	-9	9	-10	10
C	D	E	F	G	A	C

Campfire Play and Sing-along Songs

Below are the songs that will be included in the Campfire Play and Sing-along video! **The video will be available online starting Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 7pm** here: https://bit.ly/PlymouthREADS_Videos. Have fun!

Shenandoah

3 4 4 4 -4 5 -5 -6 6
Oh, Shen-an-doah, I long to hear you,

7 -7 -6 6 -6 6 5 6
A - a - way, you roll-ing riv-er,

6 -6 -6 -6 5 6 5 -4 4
Oh, Shen-an-doah, I long to hear you,

-4 5 4 5 -6 6
A - way, I'm bound a - way,

4 -4 5 4 -4 4
'cross the wide Mis-sour-i.

Verse 2

Oh, Shenandoah, I'm bound to leave you
Away, you rolling river,
Oh, Shenandoah, I'm bound to leave you,
Away, I'm bound away, 'cross the wide Missouri.

Verse 3

Oh, Shenandoah, I'm bound to leave you,
Away, you rolling river!
Oh, Shenandoah, I'm bound to leave you,
Away, I'm bound away, 'cross the wide Missouri.

Red River Valley

3 4 5 5 5 5 -4 5 -4 4
From this val-ley they say you are go - ing;

3 4 5 4 5 6 -5 5 -4
We will miss your bright eyes and sweet smile

6 -5 5 5 -4 4 -4 5 6 -5
For they say you are tak - ing the sun - shine

4 4 3 -3 4 -4 5 -4 4
That has bright-ened our path - way a - while.

Verse 2

Won't you think of this valley you're leaving?
Oh, how lonely, how sad it will be.
Oh, think of the fond heart you're breaking
And the grief you are causing me.

Verse 3

Come and sit by my side if you love me.
Do not hasten to bid me adieu.
But remember the Red River Valley
And the cowboy that loves you so true.

Take Me Out to the Ballgame

4 7 -6 6 5 6 -4
Take me out to the ball-game,

4 7 -6 6 5 6
Take me out with the crowd

-6 -6 -6 5 -5 6 -6 -5 -4
Buy me some pea-nuts and Crack-er Jacks

-6 -6 -6 -7 7 -8 -7 -6 6
I don't care if I nev-er get back,

5 -4 4 7 -6 6 5 6 -4
Let me root, root, root for the home team,

-4 4 -4 5 -5 6 -6
If they don't win it's a shame

-6 -7 7 7 7 -7 -6 6
For it's one, two, three strikes you're out

6 6 -6 -7 7
At the old ball game!

This Land is Your Land

Chorus:

4 -4 5 -5 -5 -5 4 -4 5 5
This land is your land, this land is my land

3 4 5 -4 -4 -4 -4 4 -4 5 5
From Cal-i - for - nia to the New York is - land.

4 4 -4 5 -5 -5 -5 -5 4 -4 5 5
From the redwood for-est to the gulf stream wa-ters

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

Verse 1

As I was walking that ribbon of highway,
I saw above me that endless skyway,
I saw below me that golden valley;
This land was made for you and me.

Verse 2

I've roam'd and rambl'd, I followed my footsteps,
To the sparkling sands of her diamond deserts,
And all around me a voice was sounding;
This land was made for you and me.

Verse 3

When the sun comes shining, then I was strolling,
And the wheat fields waving & the dust clouds rollin'
A voice was chanting, as the fog was lifting,
This land was made for you and me.

She'll be Comin' 'Round the Mountain

6 -6 7 7 7 7 -6 6 5 6 7
She'll be com-in' 'round the moun-tain when she comes,

7 -8 8 8 8 8 9 8 -8 7 -8
She'll be com-in' 'round the moun-tain when she comes.

9 -9 8 8 8 8 -8 7
She'll be com-in' 'round the moun-tain,

7 7 -6 -6 -6 -6 -8 7
She'll be com-in' 'round the moun-tain,

-7 -6 6 6 6 6 8 -8 7 -7 7
She'll be com-in' 'round the moun-tain when she comes.

Verse 2

She'll be driving six white horses when she comes ...

Verse 3

Oh, we'll all go out to meet her when she comes ...

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

Chorus

8 7 8 7 7 -6 6
Swing low sweet char - i - o - t

7 7 7 7 8 8 9 9
Com - in' for to car - ry me home;

-10 9 8 9 7 7 -6 6
Swi - ing low sweet char - l - o - ot

7 7 7 7 8 8 -8 7
Com - in' for to car - ry me home.

Verse 1

8 9 7 -6 7 7 7 7 7 7 -6 6
I looked o - ver Jor-dan and what did I see-ee?

7 7 7 7 8 8 9 9
Com - in' for to car - ry me home,

9 -10 9 8 8 8 7 7 7 7 -6 6
A ba - and of ang - els com-in' aft-er me-ee,

7 7 7 7 8 8 -8 7
Com - in' for to car - ry me home.

Verse 2

If you get there before I do,
Comin' for to carry me home,
Tell all my friends I'm a'comin' too,
Comin' for to carry me home.

Home on the Range

Verse 1

3 3 4 -4 5 4 -3 4 -5 -5 -5
Oh, give me a home where the buf - fa - lo roam

5 -5 6 4 4 4 -3 4 -4
Where the deer and the an - te - lope play,

3 3 4 -4 5 4 -3 4 -5 -5
Where sel-dom is heard a dis - cour - ag - ing word,

-5 -5 5 -4 4 -3 4 -4 4
And the skies are not cloud - y all day.

Chorus

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

3 3 4 4 4 4 -3 4 -4
Where the deer and the ante - te - lope play,

3 3 4 -4 5 4 -3 4 -5 -5
Where sel-dom is heard a dis - cour - ag - ing word,

-5 -5 5 -4 4 -3 4 -4 4
And the skies are not cloud - y all day.

Verse 2

Oh, give me a land where the bright diamond sand
Flows leisurely down the clear stream;
Where the graceful white swan goes gliding along
Like a something as if from a dream.

Verse 3

How often at night, when the heavens are bright
With the light from the glittering stars,
Have I stood there amazed and asked as I gazed
If their glory exceeds that of ours.

You Are My Sunshine

Verse 1

3 4 -4 5 5 5 -4 5 4 4
You are my sun-shine, my on - ly sun - shine

4 -4 5 -5 -6 -6 6 -5 5
You make me hap - py when skies are gray.

4 -4 5 -5 -6 -6 6 -5 5 4
You'll nev - er know dear how much I love you.

4 -4 5 -5 -4 -4 5 4
Please don't take my sun - shine a - way.

Verse 2

The other night dear as I lay sleeping,
I dreamed I held you in my arms.
When I awoke dear, I was mistaken
And I hung my head and cried.