

THEORY QUICK REFERENCE FOR BLUES HARMONICA

By

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NOTES ON C HARMONICA

										Bb
							Eb	Gb	B	
	C	E	G	C	E	G	C	E	G	C
C	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	D	G	B	D	F	A	B	D	F	A
	Db	Gb	Bb	Db		Ab				
		F	A							
			Ab							

12 BAR BLUES REFERENCE

I Chord <i>1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and</i>	I Chord <i>1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and</i>	I Chord <i>1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and</i>	I Chord <i>1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and</i>	
IV Chord <i>1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and</i>	IV Chord <i>1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and</i>	I Chord <i>1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and</i>	I Chord <i>1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and</i>	
V Chord <i>1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and</i>	IV Chord <i>1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and</i>	I Chord <i>1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and</i>	I Chord <i>1 and 2 and</i>	V Chord <i>3 and 4 and</i>

SCALES

CHROMATIC SCALE

C C# D D# E F F# G G# A A# B C
Db Eb Gb Ab Bb

MAJOR SCALE

Intervals:

W W H W W W H

C Major (1st pos)

C D E F G A B C
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8/1

Lower Octave

1+ 1 2+ 2'' 2 3'' 3 4+

Middle Octave

4+ 4 5+ 5 6+ 6 7 7+

Upper Octave

7+ 8 8+ 9 9+ 10 10'+ 10

MAJOR PENTATONIC

Omits 4th and 7th from the major scale.

G Major Pentatonic (2nd pos)

G A B D E G
1 2 3 5 6 8/1

Lower/Middle Octave

(1 2+) 2 3'' 3 4 5+ 6+

Upper Octave

6+ 6 7 8 8+ 9+ (10 10'+)

MINOR SCALE (AEOLIAN, OR NATURAL MINOR)

Major scale with flat 3rd, flat 6th and flat 7th.

Intervals:

W H W W H W W

A Minor (4th pos)

A B C D E F G A
1 2 b3 4 5 b6 b7 8/1

Lower/Middle Octave

(1+ 1) 3' ' 3 4+ 4 5+ 5 6+ 6

Upper Octave

6 7 7+ 8 8+ 9 9+ 10

MINOR PENTATONIC

Omits 2nd and 6th from minor scale.

G Minor Pentatonic (2nd pos)

G Bb C D F G
1 b3 4 5 7 8/1

Lower/Middle Octave

(1+ 1) 2 3' 4+ 4 5 6+

Upper Octave

6+ 6ob 7+ 8 9 9+

BLUES SCALE

Minor pentatonic with added flat 5th.

G Blues Scale (2nd pos)

G Bb C Db D F G
1 b3 4 b5 5 7 8/1

Lower/Middle Octave

(1+ 1) 2 3' 4+ 4' 4 5 6+

Upper Octave

6+ 6ob 7+ 7od 8 9 9+

CHORDS

Major triads use the 1st, 3rd and 5th of the scale.
Seventh chords use the 1st, 3rd, 5th and b7th of the scale.

	1st (root)	3rd	5th	b7th
I Chord (G)	G	B	D	F
IV Chord (C)	C	E	G	B \flat
V Chord (D)	D	F \sharp	A	C

POSITIONS / MODES

FIRST POSITION - MAJOR/IONIAN MODE

Key of C on C harmonica.

C Major:

C D E F G A B C

Lower Octave

1+ 1 2+ 2'' 2 3'' 3 4+

Middle Octave

4+ 4 5+ 5 6+ 6 7 7+

Upper Octave

7+ 8 8+ 9 9+ 10 10'+ 10+

SECOND POSITION - MIXOLYDIAN MODE

Based on the 5th scale degree of the major scale.
Key of G on a C harmonica.

G Mixolydian:

G A B C D E F G

Lower/Middle Octave

(1) 2 3'' 3 4+ 4 5+ 5 6+

Upper Octave

6+ 6 7 7+ 8 8+ 9 9+ (10 10+)

THIRD POSITION - DORIAN MODE

Based on the 5th scale degree of the Mixolydian scale.
Key of D on a D harmonica.

D Dorian:

D E F G A B C D

Lower Octave

(1+) 1 2+ 2'' 2 3'' 3 4+ 4

Middle/Upper Octave

4 5+ 5 6+ 6 7 7+ 8

Partial Upper Octave

9+ 10 10'+ 10+

FOURTH POSITION - NATURAL MINOR/AEOLIAN MODE

Based on the 5th scale degree of the Dorian scale.
Key of A on a C harmonica.

A minor:

A B C D E F G

Partial Lower Octave

1+ 1 2+ 2'' 2 3''

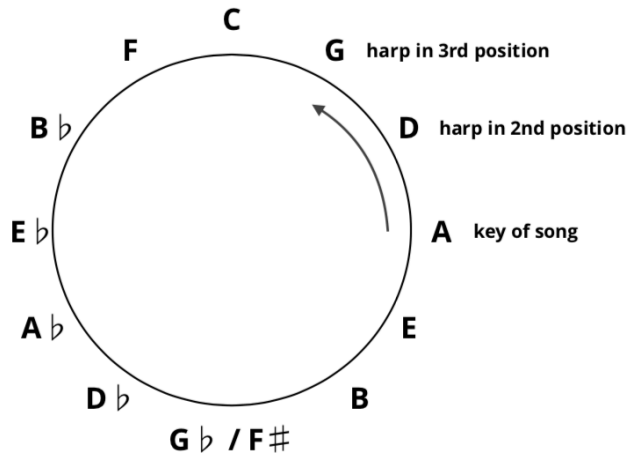
Lower/Middle Octave

3'' 3 4+ 4 5+ 5 6+ 6

Upper Octave:

6 7 7+ 8 8+ 9 9+
(10 10'+ 10+)

CIRCLE OF FIFTHS



(Also works clockwise. e.g. C harmonica plays 3rd position in the key of D.)

POSITION QUICK REFERENCE CHART

Harp key	1st position key	2nd position key	3rd position key
C	C	G	D
G	G	D	A
D	D	A	E
A	A	E	B
E	E	B	F#
B	B	F#	C#
F# / G ^b	F#	C#	G#
D ^b	D ^b	A ^b	E ^b
A ^b	A ^b	E ^b	B ^b
E ^b	E ^b	B ^b	F
B ^b	B ^b	F	C
F	F	C	G