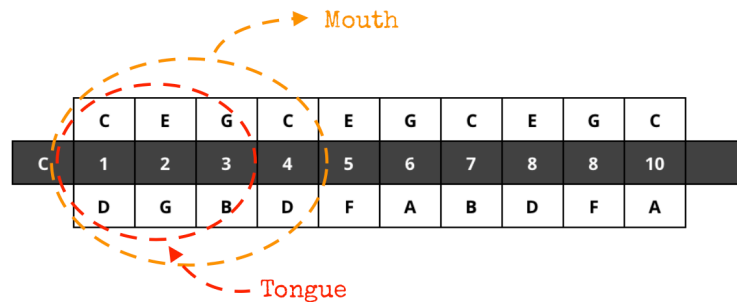
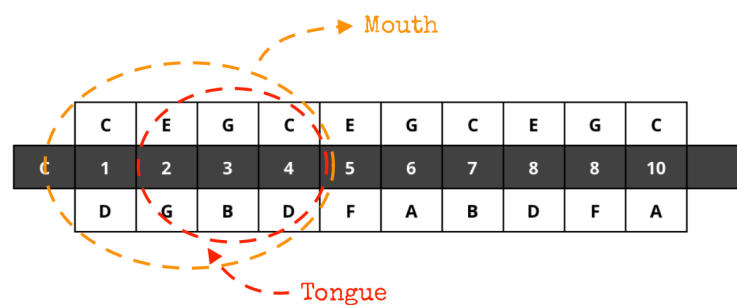


Tongue Switching

Most of the time blues players tongue block out of the right hand side of the mouth. As shown in the diagram below.



However, when playing hole one, it's often useful to play out of the left hand side of your mouth, like this.



David Barrett calls this "Tongue Switching". It allows you have a consistent embouchure across the whole range of the harmonica (even tongue block players commonly pucker the one hole) but more importantly, it allows you to switch between the one and four hole octave very efficiently. This is used to great advantage in many licks.

I've put together a video demonstrating this here: <https://youtu.be/GcMrpRlq9Vo>

Normal tongue blocking guidance applies:

- Use the fatter part of your tongue, further back. Not the tip.
- Use a light touch. Just enough to block the air flow into the holes.
- Drop your jaw as far as you can.
- Keep your jaw, cheeks, throat and neck relaxed.