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Basic Blues Harmonica Method Level 1 (Harmonica Masterclass Complete Blues Harmonica Lesson)



Synopsis

Basic Blues Harmonica Method is geared toward getting you playing blues harmonica as fast as possible. The songs and exercises have been designed to get you comfortable with moving around the instrument and allow you to take full advantage of the great sounding patterns available on your harmonica, without first having to learn advanced techniques such as bending. The basic techniques covered are single hole embouchure, tongue block embouchure and octaves. You'll be able to achieve that bluesy feel, without bending notes, by learning how to play in 3rd position. You'll also learn single note patterns and rhythms that will help you develop your motor skills and tone. This book is packed with song examples that sound great, even at this beginning stage. The online audio download that accompanies the book contains eight jam tracks for you to play along with. These jam tracks use harmonica-friendly keys and a wide variety of tempos and grooves to fit whatever mood you're in. The instruction portion of this book/audio set teaches phrasing within the 12 bar structure.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is an update of Mel Bay's Basic Blues Harmonica, which was fairly well-reviewed (although there were only 6 reviewers). I should also mention that I have only been playing for a few weeks (although somewhat obsessively), so I'm not an expert. But maybe a beginner is the best reviewer for a book aimed at beginners. I'm not too happy with this book/CD. When you get it, just

about the first thing you read is that you "should have" two other items (another book/CD and a DVD). The book advocates a certain embouchure (harp at 45 degree angle) that I find extremely difficult, while completely ignoring the U-block, which I favor. Again, the "two hole shake" is achieved by head movement; it is not even mentioned that many, if not most, players do it by moving the harmonica. These are not the only problems (check out the inadequate discussion of vibrato). The most stunning thing for me is that the book--a book on blues, after all--doesn't get into bending, which is virtually the defining feature of blues playing. So, you buy your three items and then get into the level 2 series, where bending is finally introduced. I suggest Harmonica for Dummies as a reasonably priced alternative, although I think it could be organized more effectively for learners, and, of course, the name is insulting. I haven't seen Blues Harmonica for Dummies, but that is probably where I'll be going next. The most valuable resource of all, though, is the wealth of material on the internet.

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