IT'S EASY WITH THE LEE OSKAR HARMONICA SYSTEM...

Spice up your songs with the soulful sound of the harmonica along with your Guitar or Ukulele playing!

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The Major Diatonic harmonica uses a standard Blues tuning and can be played in the 1st Position (Folk & Country) or the 2nd Position (Blues, Rock/Pop Country).

1st Position: Folk & Country
Most Folk and Country music is played on the harmonica in the key of the blow (exhale) chord. This is called 1st Position, or straight harp, playing.

Begin by strumming your guitar / ukulele:

With your C Major Diatonic harmonica in its holder, starting from blow (exhale), try to pick out a melody in the midrange of the harmonica.

C Major scale played in 1st Position on a C Major Diatonic harmonica.
2nd Position: Blues, Rock/Pop, Country

Most Blues, Rock, and modern Country music is played on the harmonica in the key of the draw (inhale) chord. This is called 2nd Position, or cross harp, playing. For example, playing a C Major Diatonic harmonica in the key of G.

Begin by strumming a basic Blues shuffle in the key of G.

With your C Major Diatonic harmonica in its holder, chop chords on the backbeat, drawing for the I chord (G) and blowing for the IV chord (C). The harmonica doesn’t have a V chord in 2nd Position, but Blues harmonica players often substitute a warble on holes 4 and 5 draw.

A Mixolydian Scale (commonly used in Funk, Blues, and Rock music) played in the key of G in 2nd Position on the C Major Diatonic harmonica. Notice the second note requires a whole step bend on draw 3.

With practice, you can work up an accompaniment pattern on the harmonica and use it to keep rhythm for a guitar or ukulele solo.

For more about the Major Diatonic, check out the chord guide for guitar and ukulele at: www.leeoskarquickguide.com

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Major Diatonic - Key of C

Key labeled in 1st Position (straight harp)

G
BLOW CHORD

G7
DRAW CHORD

G9
DRAW CHORD

Bmin7b5
DRAW CHORD

Dmin
DRAW CHORD

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The Major Diatonic harmonica is the traditional, standard tuning for playing **Blues, Folk, Rock, Country** and **Pop**. To play simple **Folk** music and melody lines, 1\(^{st}\) Position (straight harp) is used, which accents blow notes. To achieve greater expression and a bluesy sound, 2\(^{nd}\) Position (cross harp) is used, which accents draw notes.
But wait! There's more...
Lee Oskar also makes harmonicas in three other tunings: Melody Maker™, Natural Minor and Harmonic Minor, ideal for creating different harmonic textures and for accompanying different styles of music.

Melody Maker™ Key labeled in 2nd Position (Cross Harp)
Available in 5 keys: C, D, E, G, A

The Melody Maker™ harmonica, with its three altered notes (shown above), is great for playing major scale melodies in the 2nd Position.
It is widely used in R&B, Country, Reggae, Pop, Folk, and Jazz, as well as Latin, Afro, and Ska.

2nd Position: R&B, Country, Reggae, Pop, Jazz

Begin by strumming a G Major 7th chord to an A minor 7th, playing a Reggae groove.

On a G Melody Maker™, draw on the lower half of the harmonica for a G Major 7th chord.
Blow for an A minor 7th.

G Major scale played in the 2nd Position on the Melody Maker™ harmonica.
2nd Position: Latin, Afro, Clave, Ska

Strum the chords in reverse, from an A minor 7th to a G Major 7th, to play the song “Night Nurse Riddim,” or shift to a Clave rhythm for a Latin or Afro feel.

The Melody Maker™ lets you play three-chord Ska and Reggae tunes like “007 (Shanty Town)” and “Stir it Up” with the I chord as holes 2, 3 and 4 (draw), the IV chord as holes 4, 5 and 6 (blow), and the V chord as 4, 5 and 6 (draw.)

This three-chord trick can be used in genres ranging from Rock’n’Roll to World Beat.

For more chords built into the Melody Maker™ tuning, check out the chord reference guide for guitar and ukulele, available on our website - www.leeoskarquickguide.com
The Melody Maker™ harmonica is incredible for playing melodies in 2\textsuperscript{nd} Position (cross harp). They are great for playing Country, R&B, Pop, World Beat, African, Reggae, and Standards.
Amin

Amin7

C

G

Bmin

D

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The Natural Minor tuning, with five altered notes (shown above), is a natural choice for playing minor key Blues, Reggae, Ska, and Latin, as well as minor Funk, R&B, and Hip Hop.

2nd Position: Minor Blues, Reggae, Ska, Latin, Funk, R&B, Hip Hop

With an A Natural Minor (Am) harmonica in its holder, play a sparse bassline on your guitar or ukulele. Chop on the backbeat with an A minor chord (draw on lower range of the harmonica) and a D minor chord (blow).

Strum a Reggae rhythm:
Try a minor Blues.

Or try it with a minor Reggae groove such as "Swing Easy Riddim" or "Stand Up For Your Rights." Or play a funkier rhythm for a two-chord tune, like Hip Hop harmonica player Bad News Brown.

Natural Minor scale played in
A minor in 2nd Position on the
A Natural Minor harmonica.
Notice the second note requires a bend.

Strum these chords on your guitar / ukulele to play in a Major mode.

The Natural Minor harmonica will also play the relative Major scale.
Shown here is a C Major scale played on the A Natural Minor harmonica.

For more info on the Natural Minor tuning, check out the chord reference guide for guitar and ukulele, available on our website - www.leeoskarquickguide.com
Natural Minor - Key of Am
Key labeled in 2nd Position (cross harp)

Dm

Amin

Amin7

Amin9

C

Emin

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The Natural Minor harmonica has a very bluesy, soulful sound that is perfect for playing minor Blues, Rock, Reggae, Pop, Latin, Jazz Standards and Hip Hop. 1\textsuperscript{st} Position (straight harp) accents blow notes. 2\textsuperscript{nd} Position (cross harp) accents draw notes.
Harmonic Minor

Key labeled in 1st Position (Straight Harp)
Available in 12 keys: Gm, Abm, Am, Bbm, Bm, Cm, Dbm, Dm, Ebm, Em, Fm, F#m

The Harmonic Minor tuning, with five altered notes (shown above), is the traditional minor tuning for diatonic harmonicas. Its distinctive flavor is suitable for Gypsy, Yiddish, and Asian music, as well as East European, Tango, and Reggae.

1st Position: Gypsy, Yiddish, Asian, East European, Tango, Reggae

Try it with an Eastern European slow Waltz or a Tango rhythm on your guitar / ukulele.

With an A Harmonic Minor (Am) harmonica, blowing gives you an A minor chord. Drawing in the lower half of the harmonica gives you an E7 chord. While vamping a Reggae groove with the A minor (blow) and E7 (draw) chords on the harmonica, you are freed up to play accompaniment lines on the guitar or ukulele.

Playing this harmonica in 1st Position (starting from blow) gives you a harmonic minor scale.

For more info on the Harmonic Minor tuning, check out the chord reference guide for guitar and ukulele, available on our website - www.leeoskarquickguide.com
Harmonic Minor - Key of Am
Key labeled in 1st Position (straight harp)

1st Position Am

BLOW

DRAW

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The Harmonic Minor harmonica has a very soulful, Eastern European sound. This multi-cultural harmonica is perfect for traditional ethnic music that is important to the heritage of many cultures. Minor Eastern European to the Tango, Gypsy, Yiddish, Mediterranean, Middle Eastern, Asian and European / American Folk music, as well as various selections of Jazz and classic Showtunes can be played easily with this harmonica. 1st Position (straight harp) accents blow notes.