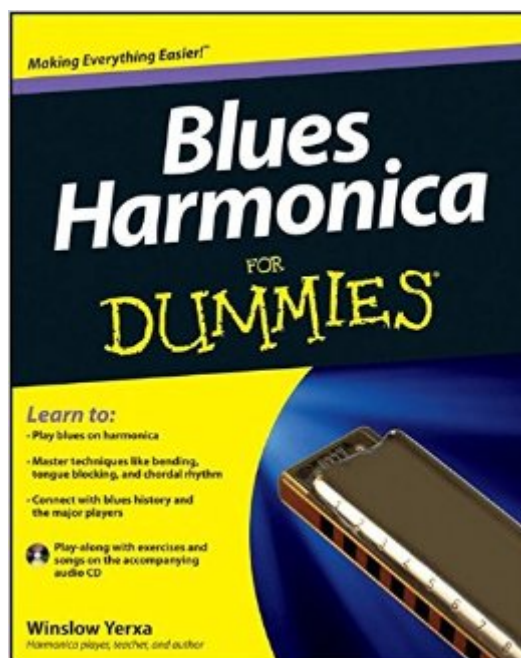


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# Blues Harmonica For Dummies



## Synopsis

The fun and easy way to play blues on the harmonica Blues harmonica is the most popular and influential style of harmonica playing, and it forms the basis for playing harmonica in other styles such as rock and country. Blues Harmonica for Dummies gives you a wealth of content devoted to the blues approachâ”specific techniques and applications, including bending and making your notes sound richer and fuller with tongue-blocked enhancements; use of amplification to develop a blues sound; blues licks and riffs; constructing a blues harmonica solo; accompanying singers; historical development of blues styles; and important blues players and recordings. The accompanying audio CD features all the musical examples from the book, plus play-along exercises and songs that let you hear the sound you're striving for. In-depth coverage of major blues harmonica techniques Blues song forms, improvisation, and accompanying singers Information on blues history and personalities If you're intrigued by the idea of understanding and mastering the compelling (yet mysterious) art of playing blues on the harmonica, Blues Harmonica For Dummies has you covered. CD-ROM/DVD and other supplementary materials are not included as part of the e-book file, but are available for download after purchase

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I have been fooling around with the harmonica for a few years now. I bought this author's previous book, Harmonica For Dummies, and I enjoyed it. However it's the Blues that attract many people to this instrument. Although I admire someone who can play classical or pop music on the harmonica,

but it's harmonica players like Little Walter, Junior Wells, John Lee "Sonny Boy" Williamson and even more contemporary players like John Popper from Blues Traveler that make you want to pick up the harmonica and blow. Like the earlier book, *Blues Harmonica for Dummies* takes the student from the very beginning steps (such as "how to buy a harmonica") to more intermediate techniques like bending notes, over-blowing, using an amplifier, and playing a chromatic harp. However, each lesson has a blues bent to it. This book also comes with a CD that allows the student to hear what they are supposed to sound like as they work their way through the lessons and exercises. This is definitely my favorite between the two books and the one that I will be recommending to others beginning harmonica enthusiasts. Well done, Winslow!

A piano player since a child, at one time a professional violinist, and a dabbler in the harp -- what am I doing with a book that teaches the harmonica? Having a GRAND time, is the obvious answer. Years ago I bought an inexpensive harmonica -- still have it -- and learned a few of the basics. But it was soon stashed away in the piano bench and almost forgotten. Why spend time on an instrument that, at best, sounds like a child's toy? Well this book disproves that assessment -- whoa, does it ever!! Following Mr. Yerxa's clear instructions, I have experienced one surprise after the other. And I've had SO much fun in the process. I am now about two-thirds through his book and have paused only because I've reached the point that I need to replace my original "toy" with the real thing, something that can do justice to all that he has taught me so far. What I have also learned is that there is a vast difference between "playing a harmonica" and "playing a BLUES harmonica." So even if you know the rudiments of traditional harmonica playing, this presents another, quite wonderful dimension. The inclusion of his CD is not only a great teaching addition, but inspirational as well. If you are at all interested in the subject, you absolutely will not go wrong by purchasing this book. Did I say it was fun? Forgive me, but that bears repeating.

I got this book with the intention of maybe starting to play the harmonica. I have played the guitar (blues, jazz, rock, country, etc...) for about 22yrs now and have a solid understanding of music theory; so I delved into this book with some background knowledge. Suffice it to say, the author gives a good chapter on just the theory of the blues. I think you would get more out of this book, however, if you already have an understanding of theory. Technique is covered, what harmonica to start with is covered, and the cd is essential to getting the examples right. All in all, this is a GREAT book/cd combo and I highly recommend it!!! I have been playing the harmonica (bought a Hohner Special 20 after some research) for only 2wks and can already play a couple of blues melodies

thanks to this book. FIVE STARS all the way! If you're looking to learn harmonica this is THE book in my opinion.

A great music primer for anyone who wants to play harmonica. A plus is that the book covers a lot of music theory and blues theory. My only complaint is the Kindle version does not come with the CD's, so you have no guide as to what the exercises are supposed to sound like. Here's a tip: If you don't have a Harmonica seriously consider the Hohner Special 20. It uses the same reeds as the the Marine Band, and the plastic comb makes for a smooth, airtight, long lasting harmonica that's relatively easy to play. Follow-up 4/23/13. An email to the publisher got me to a website that allowed me to download the audio clips that are on the CD. Just upped the rating from 4 to 5 stars.

I also have Harmonica for Dummies by the same author, but I prefer this book. The author starts with the assumption that you know nothing about harmonicas and starts from there. Starts with information about the basic types of harmonicas and how to select your harmonica based upon your musical intent and works from there. If you already have skills you can jump ahead to the level of instruction you require. The author has a dry sense of humor that I enjoyed.

This is a great guide for those who know absolutely nothing about the harmonica. It starts from scratch and guides you along. The author has a wonderful, user-friendly style of writing. If you want to try your hand at Blues Harmonica, it doesn't get any better than this. Highly, highly recommended.

I am really impressed. This book far exceeded my expectations. I read the book reviews after I bought it wondering of others liked it as much as I do. The trend seems to be that those who bought the Kindle version are not happy because they don't have the CD. Those that bought the paper version with the CD are happy. I am not a beginner harmonica player and I know some things about Blues music. I thought that this book might be too basic for me but that is definitely not the case. Actually it is exactly what I dreamed of having. This will be a great study for me. I highly recommend it. The author did a great job.

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