

# GEORGE GOODMAN'S HARMONICA CHEAT SHEET

By George Goodman

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## Preface

**George Goodman's Harmonica Cheat Sheet** is a combination of three great tools to kick start your harmonica playing.

### **The Blues Harp Chart**

This chart provides harmonica tabs, chords, cross harp key, 12 Bar Blues Progression, and Blues Scale harmonica tabs covering all 12 keys.

### **Major Key Degrees Of Scale**

All major keys or scales consist of 7 notes. Each of these notes is a certain degree of the scale. First note is first degree, second note – second degree of scale and so on. Chords can be built upon each of these degrees of the scale. So a particular key will have 7 corresponding chords.

Find out where the notes are on the harmonica for each of these chords in all 12 keys.

Use the **Major Key Degrees Of Scale** to help determine song keys and to aid in transposing songs to new keys.

### **Circle of Fourths and Fifths**

Make sense of playing in positions using the **Circle of Fourths and Fifths** and learn how to choose the correct key harmonica depending on the key and style of a song.

### **Harmonica Tabs**

Basic harmonica tabs are provided to indicate which holes to blow or draw and bends if any.

#### Harmonica Tabs Key

A minus sign in front of a number indicates draw. Eg.-4 means draw 4.

If there isn't a minus sign in front of the number, then blow. Eg. 4 means blow 4.

b = semi-tone bend

bb = whole tone bend

Example: 4 -4b -4 5 = blow 4, draw 4 with a semi-tone bend, draw 4, blow 5

## Blues Harp Chart

Harmonica Tabs	-2 -3 -4 -5 6 -7 -8 -9 9	1 2 3 -3b 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	-4 -5 -6 7 -8 -9 -10 10	
Blues Key	I 7	IV 7	V 7	Cross Harp Key
C	C7	F7	Gm7	F
G	G7	C7	Dm7	C
D	D7	G7	Am7	G
A	A7	D7	Em7	D
E	E7	A7	Bm7	A
B	B7	E7	F#m7	E
F#	F#7	B7	C#m7	B
C#	C#7	F#7	G#m7	F# / Gb
G#	G#7	C#7	D#m7	C# / Db
Eb	Eb7	Ab7	Bbm7	G# / Ab
Bb	Bb7	Eb7	Fm7	Eb
F	F7	Bb7	Cm7	Bb

### Harmonica Tabs

The top of the Blues Harp Chart shows the harmonica tabs for each of the three chords in a typical Blues progression. So for example, the notes that make up the I (one) chord are here on the harmonica:

-2 -3 -4 -5 6 -7 -8 -9 9

### Blues Key

In the Blues Key column are the 12 different possible keys that the Blues can be played in.

### I 7, IV 7, V 7

Under columns I 7, IV 7, and V 7 are the chords that the harmonica plays when playing the harmonica tabs.

### Cross Harp Key

The Cross Harp Key is the key harmonica to use in relation to the Blues Key.

### The Harmonica Can't Play All Dominant 7<sup>th</sup> Chords

A standard blues progression uses 3 chords that usually take the form of dominant 7th chords. These 3 chords consist of dominant 7th chords built on the root or first note of the key, I7, the fourth note of the key, IV7, and the fifth note of the key, V7 or shortened to I, IV, V – 1, 4, 5.

The chords used for Blues in G are G7 (I7), C7 (IV7), and D7 (V7).

Now, although the Blues chords are typically played as dominant seventh chords on guitar or piano, you cannot play all dominant seventh chords for I, IV, V on a single harmonica.

### **Blues In G on the C Major Harp**

Let's look at this with our C major diatonic harmonica.

Playing in second position, our **Blues Key will be G.**

#### **I 7**

When playing in second position on harmonica, I7 is G7.

The notes in the G7 chord are G, B, D, and F and are found here on the harp:

-2 -3 -4 -5 6 -7 -8 -9 9.

#### **IV 7**

Go up a fourth from the I chord. In the key of G, the fourth note is C and IV7 is C7.

The notes in the C7 chord are C, E, G, and Bb.

Blowing on any hole will produce either the note C (1, 4, 7, 10), E (2, 5, 8), or G (3, 6, 9). These 3 notes make up C Major.

This means that you can **blow** anywhere on the harmonica when on the IV chord.

For C7, the 7th is Bb which is not normally on our C harmonica though we can get a low Bb with a single bend on draw 3(-3b) and by overblowing hole 6.

Tabs for IV7 are:

1 2 3 -3b 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

#### **V 7**

Go up a fifth from the root note or a second from the IV chord. For Blues in G the V7 chord is D7.

The notes in D7 are D, F#, A, and C.

The harmonica can't play D7 (V7 in second position) because that would require F#. Our C harmonica has a F natural, not F#.

In this case, the harmonica can play the notes to a Dm7 chord which are here on the C harmonica:

-4 -5 -6 7 -8 -9 -10 10

### **Harmonica Tabs**

**I 7:** -2 -3 -4 -5 6 -7 -8 -9 9

**IV 7:** 1 2 3 -3b 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

**Vm7:** -4 -5 -6 7 -8 -9 -10 10

## **Blues Scale Tabs**

The Blues Scale can be played throughout a Blues progression irrespective of the chord being played whether on the I, IV, or V.

-2 -3b 4 -4b -4 -5 6

For G Blues, the notes are G, Bb, C, C#, D, and F.

## **12 Bar Blues Progression**

I | I | I | I |

IV | IV | I | I |

V | IV | I | V |

Some variations are common: The second measure can be IV. The 12<sup>th</sup> measure often stays on I.

## Major Key Degrees Of Scale

This table displays all 12 Major Keys, the chords built upon each degree of the scale and the draw and blow holes on the harmonica for the chord tones of each chord.

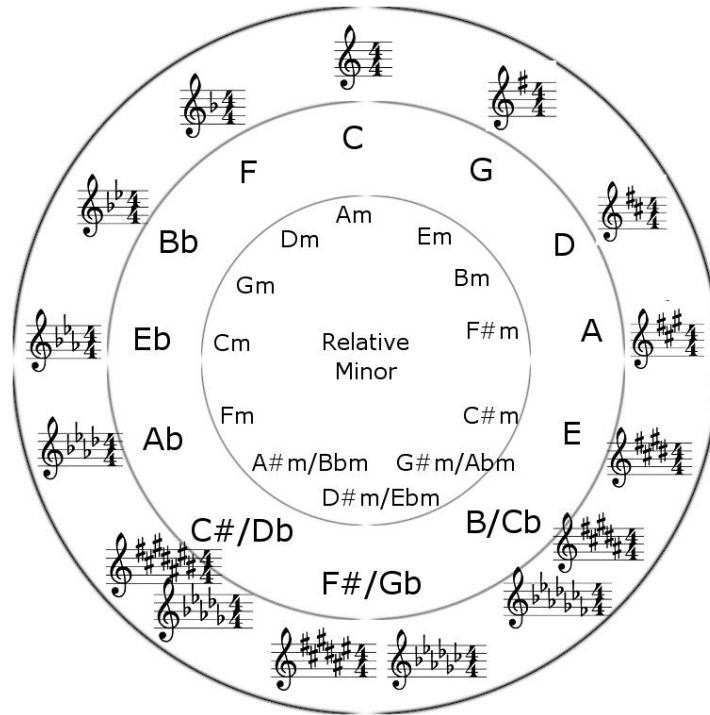
The keys Gb and Db Major have been shaded to show that they are the enharmonica equivalents to F# and C# Major respectively.

This table can be used for a bunch of things

- Help determine the key of a song
- Transpose songs to different keys
- Find the chord tones on harmonica which will make up the majority of the notes in a melody
- Find particular chords on different key harmonicas

	<b>I Major</b>	<b>ii minor</b>	<b>iii minor</b>	<b>IV Major</b>	<b>V7</b>	<b>vi minor</b>	<b>vii dim</b>
Harp Tabs	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	-1 -2bb -3bb -4 -5 -6 -8 -9 -10	2 3 -3 5 6 -7 8 9	1 -2bb -3bb 4 -5 -6 7 -9 -10 10	-2 -3 -4 -5 6 -7 -8 -9	1 2 -3bb 4 5 -6 7 8 -10	-3 -4 -5 -7 -8 -9
C Major	C	D min	E min	F	G7	A min	B dim
G Major	G	A min	B min	C	D7	E min	F# dim
D Major	D	E min	F# min	G	A7	B min	C# dim
A Major	A	B min	C# min	D	E7	F# min	G# dim
E Major	E	F# min	G# min	A	B7	C# min	D# dim
B Major	B	C# min	D# min	E	F#7	G# min	A# dim
F# Major	F#	G# min	A# min	B	C# 7	D# min	E# dim
Gb Major	Gb	Ab min	Bb min	Cb	Db7	Eb min	F dim
C# Major	C#	D# min	E# min	F#	G#7	A # min	B# dim
Db Major	Db	Eb min	F min	Gb	Ab7	Bb min	C dim
F Major	F	G min	A min	Bb	C7	D min	E dim
Bb Major	Bb	C min	D min	Eb	F7	G min	A dim
Eb Major	Eb	F min	G min	Ab	Bb7	C min	D dim
Ab Major	Ab	Bb min	C min	Db	Eb7	F min	G dim

## Circle Of Fourths/Fifths



This image displays the Circle of 4ths and 5ths. When navigating around the circle in a clockwise direction, you are going around the circle of 5ths – each step represents going up a perfect 5<sup>th</sup> interval. Navigating in a counter-clockwise direction is going around the Circle of 4ths – each step represents going up a perfect 4<sup>th</sup> interval.

The Circle is very useful for determining key signatures as well as figuring out the key harmonica to use for different positions.

### **Let's look at the most common positions and song types for a C harmonica.**

Playing in **first position**, the key of the harmonica matches the key of the song and so needs to be C. First position is common for folk, country and rock.

**Second Position** – song key is G; this is common for the blues, rock, and country. For Blues in G go one step around the circle of fourths from G for second position, which is C and so use a C harmonica.

**Third Position** – song key is D minor. A song in the key of D minor could use a C harmonica played in third position. (Starting at D, D is first position, G is second, and C is third position from D).

**Fourth Position** – song key is A minor. A song in the key of A minor could use a C harmonica played in fourth position. (Starting at A, A is first position, D is second position, G is third and C is fourth position from A).

**Twelfth Position** – song key is F. A song in the key of F major could use a C harmonica played in twelfth position.

### **Taken the other way around**

If a song is in the key of **C major**, use a C harmonica in **first position**. You could also use a G harmonica in **twelfth position**.

**For Blues in C**, use an F harmonica in **second position**. The F harmonica produces a C7 chord on -2-3-4-5.

**For a song in C minor**, use a Bb harmonica in **third position** or a Eb harmonica in **fourth position**.



## Wrap Up

Key #1

Pick out the correct key harmonica. The Circle of Fourths/Fifths and Blues Harp Chart were designed for this.

Key #2

Find the holes, draw and blow, that match the notes in the chord. These chord tones will make up the majority of the notes in any melody. Use the Major Key Degrees Of Scale for this.

## About The Author



George Goodman is a musician/farmer/father located in Nanoose Bay, British Columbia on beautiful Vancouver Island. George grew up in a musical family where any manner of instrument was available and completed the Commercial Music Diploma program from Capilano College majoring on Tenor Saxophone. George continues his life-long musical passion by playing solo gigs on guitar, harmonica and vocals, as a member of a number of bands playing rock, folk and blues on saxophone, harmonica, and keyboards as well as an instructor to music students worldwide live online via Skype or locally in-person.

[GeorgeGoodman.com](http://GeorgeGoodman.com) - George has written and produced a growing collection of instructional videos teaching how to play classic rock, blues and folk songs on guitar and harmonica. New videos are uploaded regularly and are all free to view.

[HarpNGuitar.com](http://HarpNGuitar.com) – A unique step-by-step video series that gets you playing guitar and harmonica together quickly and easily by demonstrating the basic principles that will enable you to confidently play your favourite songs on guitar and harmonica. All lessons are in high quality audio and video.

### **Other Books By George Goodman**

[The Guitar and Harmonica Method](#) - provides aspiring musicians with the basic tools and knowledge needed to play guitar and harmonica together, to be able to perform great songs with confidence and to gain a deeper musical understanding.

### **Up Next**

- George continues to work on his upcoming debut solo album scheduled for spring 2014 release.
- More great classic song lessons are also in the works and continue to be produced and released for free on [GeorgeGoodman.com/song-lessons](http://GeorgeGoodman.com/song-lessons).
- [HarpNGuitar](http://HarpNGuitar.com) expansion – new instructional videos are constantly being added to the growing course list.

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