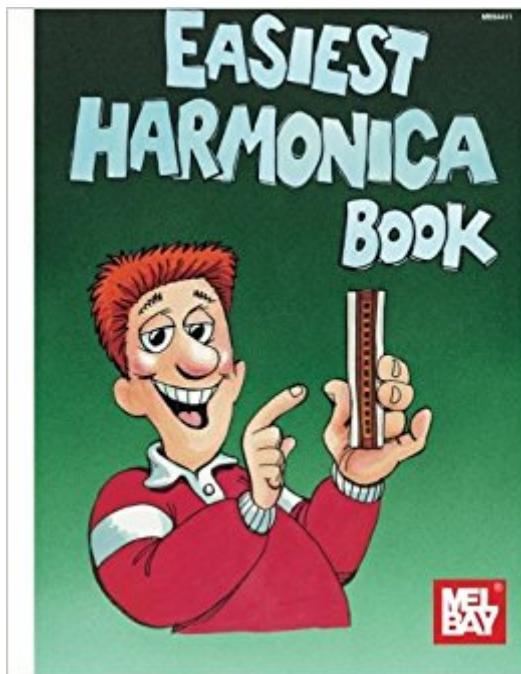


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# Easiest Harmonica Book



## Synopsis

A step-by-step method for playing harmonica solos. The format is simple and visually attractive. Through graded lessons, the student is taught how to find and play the individual notes on the diatonic harmonica, as well as learning to read simple musical notation. Includes a diatonic note chart. The songs include chords for accompaniment.

## Book Information

Paperback: 20 pages

Publisher: Mel Bay Publications, Inc. (July 13, 1993)

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Average Customer Review: 3.0 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

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## Customer Reviews

William Bay is president of Mel Bay Publications, Inc. He is an accomplished guitarist and trumpet player and has performed on both instruments in a wide variety of professional settings. He is experienced as a performer and composer of music ranging from jazz and rock to the classics and sacred. He received his bachelor's degree from Washington University in St. Louis and his master's from the University of Missouri. Bill has received international acclaim for his innovative teaching methods, and he has authored over 200 books with sales in the millions.

I have recently begun playing the harmonica and I purchased numerous books and "how to manuals" because when I am interested in a subject I go "Hog Wild" and try to become an expert in the subject I am studying. I hate to mention it but "Mel Bay's Easiest Harmonica Book" was the absolute worst manual of the bunch I purchased lately. This short (20 page) guide covered how to hold the harmonica, tone information, reading harmonica music, Diatonic note chart, types of notes and playing the notes. It also had simple tunes to play on the harmonica. Some of them includes the following:Lightly Row, Aunt Rhody, Jingle Bells, Oh when the saints, Blow the man down, Oh

Susanna, America, Kum ba yah, Shenandoah, She wore a yell ribbon and several other songs. Unfortunately, the flaw I found in both of the Mel Bay's harmonica books I purchased is that they fail to include the words to the songs. In this respect I am very disappointed in Mel Bay's music song manuals. Further, in my opinion this IS NOT the easiest harmonica book. As I have mentioned before, out of all the harmonica guides I have purchased lately, this one was the least helpful. Rating: 3 Stars. Joseph J. Truncate (Author: Never Trust a Politician: A critical review of politics and politicians).

I assumed that this book, as a Mel Bay publication, would be reasonably informative for (as the title implies) a beginner. The first few pages are reasonably helpful - essentially covering the playing of basic triads. In covering the playing of single notes, however, the book describes only the tongue blocking method - not even mentioning the pursed lip (pucker) method (which is commonly accepted as the easier method and hence perhaps more appropriate for a beginner.) On page 6 there is a note chart for the C harp. The 9 draw hole is erroneously identified as an E, when in fact it is an F. On that page and throughout the rest of the book the music notation is an octave lower than the tablature as written. This kind of error makes the book extremely misleading for the casual reader. In short, avoid this one. There are other beginning harmonica books that are reasonably good, This one is terrible!!

The Mel Bay's Harmonica Book is written in simple terms and illustrations. It is easy to understand and with your new harmonica's it teaches you to be able to enjoy playing and with the knowledge of what you are doing. If you love music you will love making your own music with learning to play the harmonica.

No short cuts to practicing with a harp to learn but has enough basics to get you started.

Save your money , this book is nothing but tab songs. very little teaching you how to play a harmonica. .get instant harmonica by Patrick Byrne. this is a great book for learning the harmonica.

The very thin book (20 pages) devotes pages 2-6 to actually teaching you how to hold the harmonica, use tones, block tones and read music. This very simple instruction was all covered in the piece of paper that came with the harmonica we bought previously. The rest of the book is all tab which I'm sure you could find free online. Oh, and we were also a little annoyed that the price

printed on the book is \$2.95. This is a used copy and has a copyright date of 1990, but if you use "Look Inside" and scroll to the back cover, you can see that the list price on the newer book is only \$4.95. Lame. Will have to try another book and won't even waste money on return shipping for this one.

none

This was a gift for my grandson, who found the format just right for a beginner with a new harmonica. If you want to pick up the basics and try out the music in the back, this book is perfect.

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