

THE HAL LEONARD COMPLETE  
**HARMONICA**  
**METHOD**

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## CHAPTER 1

# How the Chromatic Harmonica Works



Sound is produced in the same manner as the diatonic harmonica. Air passes over two brass reeds: one reed vibrates when air is blown (exhaled) through the harmonica and the other reed vibrates when air is drawn (inhaled) into the harmonica.

The differences between the chromatic and the diatonic harmonica are as follows:

- Construction.
- Note layout.
- Tonality.
- Holding the chromatic.

### Construction

The chromatic is actually two harmonicas in one, due to the slide that completely changes the notes. When the slide is out (the rest position), the chromatic harmonica is tuned to the key of C. When the slide is pushed in, the chromatic is tuned one-half step above to C#. This gives the chromatic the potential to be played in *any* major or minor key. The difference between the various chromatic harmonicas is the number of octaves they cover.

### Note Range

There are basically five Hohner chromatic harmonicas:

- Chrometta #250—two octaves.
- Chromonica #260—two and one-half octaves.
- Super Chromonica #270—three octaves.
- Chrometta #255—three octaves.
- Super “64” Chromonica #280—four octaves.

### Tonality

Due to its construction, the air chamber, reeds and mouthpiece on the chromatic is potentially two to four times the size of the diatonic. This creates a distinct tone that is much bigger and warmer than the diatonic.

### Holding the Chromatic

Fig. 1A shows the left-hand position for holding the chromatic harmonica. Fig. 1B shows the starting hand position for holding the chromatic. To push in the slide, position the index finger on your right hand so that the fleshy area between your first and second knuckle is over the tip of the slide.



Fig. 1A



Fig. 1B



# Dixie

By Dan Emmett



Key: C major  
All Chromatic Harmonicas  
Curled Tongue

Brightly

I — wish I was in the land of cot-ton, old times there are not for-got-ten.)  
Dix-ie Land where I was born in, ear-ly on one frost-y morn-in'. } Look a-

C F

3 2 1 1 1 1 2 2 3 3 3 2 3 3 3 3 3 3 4 5 5

way! Look a - way! Look a - way! Dix - ie Land. In — Land. Then I

C G7 C C

6 4 3 5 3 2 3 1 2 1 3 2 1 3 3

wish I was in Dix - ie. Hoo - ray! Hoo - ray! In Dix - ie Land, I'll

F D7 G7 C

5 6 5 4 3 5 3 5 3 5 3 5 3 5 6 5 4

take my stand to live and die in Dix - ie. A - way, a - way, a - way down South in

F C G7 C

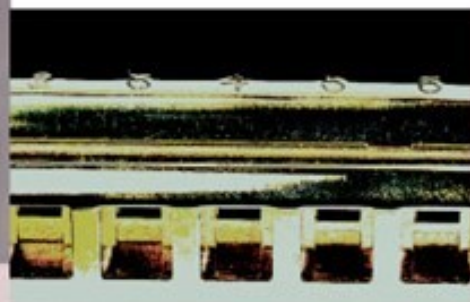
3 4 5 3 3 2 5 2 2 1 2 1 2 1 3 3 2 5 6

Dix - ie. A - way, a - way, a - way down South in Dix - ie.

G7 C

5 4 2 1 2 1 3 3 6 2 5 5 4





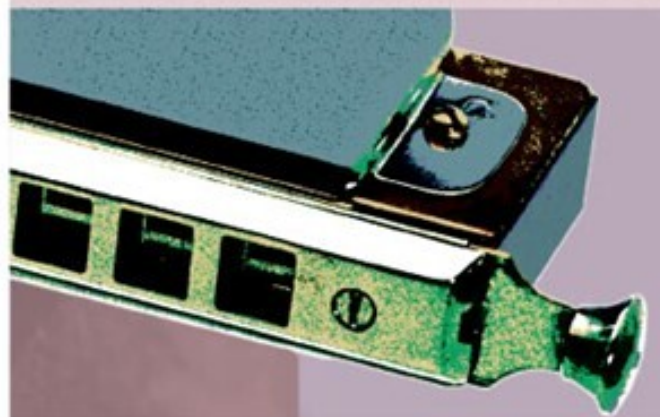
The Hal Leonard Complete Harmonica Method - The Chromatic Harmonica takes you from the basics on through to the most advanced techniques available for the contemporary harmonica player. Each section contains appropriate songs and exercises that enable you to quickly learn the various concepts presented. In addition, references are made to the numerous Hal Leonard songbooks, thereby giving you the widest selection of music expressly arranged for the chromatic harmonica. Every aspect of this versatile musical instrument is explored and explained in easy-to-understand detail with illustrations, including:

Cross-referencing to Hal Leonard Publications containing harmonica arrangements in all styles of music

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