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3 Minutes To Blues, Rock & Folk Harmonica: Third Edition



Synopsis

(Music Sales America). David Harp has taught 500,000 people to blow their blues away. Here is the third edition of his bestselling book for harmonica. David's "sampler" including blues, rock, folk, classical, country, gypsy, and celtic harmonica styles is the easiest method ever. After David's "Three Minute Lesson" (as seen on TV), the student will be ready to play their first song or riff.

Book Information

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Photography > Music > Songbooks > Folk & Traditional

Customer Reviews

The other reviewers who gave this product five stars are absolutely right in doing so; this book/CD combination works like nothing else I've seen in actually teaching one to play the harmonica. I tried to learn different instruments over the years, with little progress. Sure, I could spend time technically getting down simple piano or guitar chords and riffs, which I have done in the past, but felt that I really lacked the talent and knack to learn an instrument. Many years ago, I bought a couple of harmonicas, having been told they were "easy" to learn. Well, that was not my experience. In retrospect, that was because most instruction uses the 'German' or tongue-blocking technique, which I always had trouble with. The result was that I would become discouraged and put the harps away. David Harp uses a very different method and it really works. A few weeks ago, I fished my harmonicas out of a drawer and decided to seriously learn the instrument, IF I could find another method of learning. After spending a few hours looking at various books and so forth, I purchased this book/CD combination. And just as reviewer Bobby Standlee (January, 2008) noted, this system really does work. I received the book/CD on Saturday, June 2, and within an hour was playing

Chicago blues, basic rock and country riffs easily. And, again as Mr. Standlee wrote, the CD is the key. I became so encouraged by my fast progress, I couldn't wait to practice more. I found that I learned best by using the CD primarily, with the book basically an augmentation to the CD. While the book does contain lots of useful information not easily gleaned from the CD (such as diagrams on how to properly hold the instrument, tongue placement for bending notes, etc.), one could learn to play with just the CD. It's been a scant three weeks since I started to learn to play, but I already know a number of different riffs, and have made a lot of progress learning to blow and draw single notes, practicing major and minor scales (typical for country music) and learning new songs. One can easily find tablature for harmonicas on-line, and it is not necessary to know how to read music to figure out songs (although it does help). I've learned about 9 or 10 songs not found in the book in the last couple of weeks, and try to learn at least two or three new songs every week. Prior to receiving this book, I would have laughed at the idea that I would be able to do this. The author, David Harp, is providing a service to many with this amazingly easy yet effective method of learning. Yes, one must practice for a long time to be able to make some of the sounds that seasoned harp players can, but if you want to learn to play the harmonica and not worry about embarrassing yourself in front of others, this is the ticket. I've actually just purchased another of Mr. Harp's book/CD combos which focuses on 'the blues'. I heartily recommend!

As a novice I bought "Harmonica for Dummies" which is fine for learning to play melodies with single notes. However, I was left wanting for rhythm and chording. Well that's where "3 Minutes to Harmonica" shines. Load the CD onto your device of choice, put your earbuds in and start wailing on the first listen. A harmonica in the key of C is also included in the package. So if you're considering a harmonica STOP, go no further. Everything you need is right here in David Harp's package. Of course for the price you're not going to get an in depth education, but you will get a great confidence building introduction into the harmonica. This would be a great place to start. If it turns out that you don't like the harmonica you didn't waste much money to find out. If you decide you like it then you can continue with more books and harmonicas. This is strictly for beginners, but great for beginners. This would also make a great gift for children. The book goes well with the CD, but the CD stands on its own. I'm a senior and love it and at the same time could envision a first grader having a lot of fun with the harmonica and CD alone. Who knows, it could be the beginning of a great musical future. This is a great package for the price. I highly recommend it.

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This is the fourth or fifth "How to play harmonica" book I've bought recently. I picked up an inexpensive Hohner, and then got a Special 20 once I knew I liked it. The other books had titles that sounded appropriate for beginners, but had a lot of music theory and frankly were difficult to follow--translating their advice into real-world playing was overly challenging. Then this little volume arrived. It comes with a CD, and actually the CD is the main instructional tool. The book is accompanying information. The promise is that you'll be playing something in 3 minutes...and I can affirm that YES you will be doing so! And feeling good about it. What's concentrated on in here is breathing technique. No worries on playing through a single hole for beginners: everything sounds just fine as chords. Once you learn a technique on one location of the harp, you simply move up and down and repeat for different octaves, and now you've got some different sounds to play. The feeling of immediate satisfaction, that you're actually playing something that sounds good and is useful in different situations, is rewarding. The techniques are not going to be forgotten in a couple days, either. Once you learn them, they stick with you. Highly recommend for beginners...though this can be a difficult product to get. My first vendor said the order was "shipped"...then cancelled saying they couldn't find it (?). The second vendor shipped me their final copy and then were sold out. So best of luck and keep looking--well worth it.

I had previously purchased a beginner's harp book/CD combo (the name escapes me because it was not worth remembering), but this set BY FAR blew it out of the water. I was pleasantly surprised by the quality of the harp that accompanied the book. I also enjoy, as corny as he is, how vocal David Harp is on the disc. It's as if you're receiving real, honest lessons from someone who knows what he's doing. I believe the audio is set so you can shift the balance in the speakers to only hear the music and play along without Harp counting out every note. He gets you set on the basics then gives tricks and tips to enhance your playing technique to add a little personality to your playing. The book comes packed with a wide range of songs and song styles that are fun to play along with, and he encourages improvising and just jamming along with his guitarist or taking turns with him every other measure. I wouldn't consider myself a great player, but I do feel like I have a good grasp on how to play the harp and I can without a doubt create this CD/book.

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