# **Key to Chromatic Harmonica Tab**

## The Basics

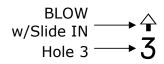
Arrows indicate breath direction.

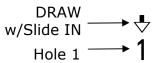
BLOW  $\longrightarrow$   $\bullet$  Hole 5  $\longrightarrow$   $\bullet$ 

Numbers indicate which hole to play.

DRAW  $\longrightarrow \ \bullet$ Hole 6  $\longrightarrow \ \bullet$ 

A hollow arrow indicates a note played with the slide pressed in.





**FOR MORE** 

Where is Hole 1?

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The font used for this tab is called **Chromatic Sans Dot**. For more information or to purchase this and other harmonica tablature fonts, please visit <a href="http://www.angelfire.com/music/harmonicainfo/">http://www.angelfire.com/music/harmonicainfo/</a>

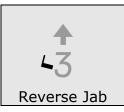


**EXIT** 

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## Slide Symbols











### **Motion Symbols**





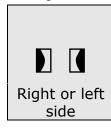
## **Embouchure Symbols**



\*5

Tongue

Slap

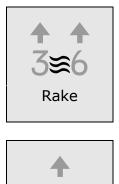


5\*\*\*\*·

Tongue Lift



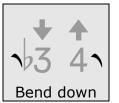


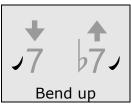


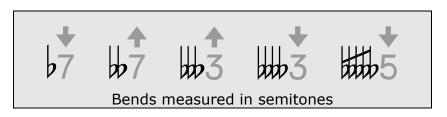




## **Bending Symbols**







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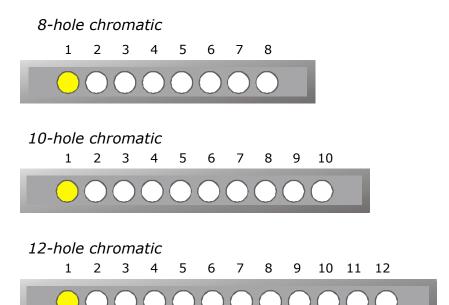
**Embouchure Symbols** 



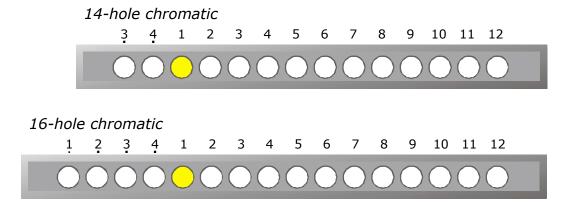


# Where is Hole 1 on my chromatic?

Middle C, indicated by a yellow dot, is always Hole 1.



Notes below middle C are numbered 1 2 3 4. These are found on harmonicas with 14 and 16 holes.



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## Slide Symbols

The slide button on a chromatic harmonica raises the pitch of a note by one semitone. The following symbols indicate certain ornamental effects that can be created using the slide. These include:

Slide jab A note that is played with the slide in can be approached from below, jabbing in the slide as the note is initiated.	<b>1</b> 2
Reverse jab  A note that is played with the slide out can also be approached with a reverse slide jab, starting with the slide out and releasing it as the note is initiated.	<b>+</b> <b>-</b> 2
Slide bump  During a note that is played with the slide out, the slide can be bumped in and then allowed to return, momentarily raising the pitch and then returning it. This is also called a mordent.	<b>7</b>
Slide dip  During a note played with the slide in, the slide can be released to the out position and then quickly pressed back in, momentarily lowering the pitch and then returning it. This is called a slide dip or reverse mordent.	* <del>*</del> 7
Slide trill  To play a slide trill, wiggle the slide in and out at a rapid, unmeasured speed.	6

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# Motion symbols

The following symbols indicate certain ornamental effects that can be created using the slide. These include:

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Rip	
A note may be approached by an upward glide in pitch achieved by glissing the mouth to the right across several holes to arrive at the target pitch:	~ <b>6</b>
A note may also end with an upward gliss:	<b>*</b> 2
A note may be approached from a higher pitch by glissing from the right:	<b>1</b>
A note may also end with an downward gliss:	<b>+</b> 6 *-
A slide-out note may be approached glissing with the slide in, then releasing it for the target note. An ending gliss may also use the slide-in position.	* <sub>~</sub> 7
A slide-in note may be approached by glissing with the slide out, then pressing it in for the target note. An ending gliss may also use the slide-out position.	± . 8 8 ± . •
Shake or Warble	
A note in one hole may be alternated with the hole to the right in a fast unmeasured motion	5≢

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# Embouchure symbols, Part I

The slide button on a chromatic harmonica raises the pitch of a note by one semitone. The following symbols indicate certain ornamental effects that can be created using the slide. These include:	<b>+</b> 5
Split interval	
When played with a tongue block, the chromatic can play two notes several holes apart, with the intervening holes blocked by the tongue. The intervening blocked holes are indicated with black lozenges:	2
Right or left side  At times it is important to indicate whether a tongue-blocked note is played from the right side of the mouth or from the left:	
Tongue slap A single note may be initiated by starting with a chord, then slapping the tongue down to isolate a single note:	<b>↑</b> *5
Tongue lift	+
A single note may be alternated with a chord by lifting the tongue in a rapid repeated unmeasured motion:	<b>5</b> ***
Split lift	+
A split interval may be alternated with a chord by lifting the tongue in a rapid repeated unmeasured motion:	5*** 0 2

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# Embouchure symbols, Part II

Rake An entire chord may be rapidly "strummed" by moving the tongue from side to side alternately sounding two adjacent or overlapping groups of notes:	<b>+ +</b> 1≋5
Shimmer Two distinct notes in non-adjacent holes may be alternated rapidly with tongue motion. The intervening notes remain blacked by the tongue:	<b>♦ ♦</b> 2 <b>5</b>
Double Shake A split interval can be alternated with the interval one hole to the right. The embouchure remains fixed while the harmonica is moved rapidly to the right and back in a rapid unmeasured motion.	<b>→</b> 5    5    2
Tremulando  A single note may be repeated in a rapid unmeasured way either by pronouncing consonant like T-K-T or D-DL, or by flicking the tip of the tongue laterally on the back of the lips:	<b>†</b>   5

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## **Bending Symbols**

Bending can slide the pitch of a note up or down a small amount, or it can change the note to another pitch one or more semitones lower than the usual pitch of the reed.

Bent pitches  The pitch of a reed may be lowered to a specific pitch. The flat symbols is used to indicate this, with one flat per semitone of lowered pitch, up to five semitones:	+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +
Slide up  A note might be initiated with a slight bend that is then released as the note is played. This is indicated with a little upward scoop before the note:	<b>*</b> J2
A bent note may also be released at the end with a rise in pitch:	<b>1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1</b>
Slide down A note might end with a slight downward glide in pitch:	<b>+</b> 6 \
A note that is played bent may be initiated at a higher pitch and then lowered to the target pitch:	<b>1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1</b>

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