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The Pocket Harmonica Songbook: Compact Reference Library



Synopsis

(Music Sales America). Over 40 folk, blues and country favorites are included in this handy guide for beginning and intermediate players by David Harp. Includes: O When the Saints Go Marching In * St. Louis Blues * Frankie & Johnny * and many more.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The experience and the book were all I expected. Everything was fine.

Great

Low cost and handy. When your heading out for some private harmonica practice in the woods, stick this book in your back pocket.

the notes in the "Amazing Grace" are just wrong. They try to keep all the songs simple and end up substituting notes that just have no correct simple substitution.

good book, just need to find a bit of time to learn how to play better.

I looked at this book through the previews-and noted what I believe is an error in the explanations,

as well as the charts that list the 4th and 5th positions on about page 61 or 62. It appears the 4th and 5th columns in the table were reversed and the proofreaders missed it. i.e.-in the key of C-the 4th position should be A, and the 5th position should be E, but the book shows the 4th position as E and the 5th position as A. I was considering ordering this book for my brother-in-law, who's just learning harp, but I figured if I did, he'd be correcting me for the remainder of my life. I'm not a great harp player-but I was pretty sure I was right on this, and I confirmed my suspicion with David Barrett's book "Essential Quick Charts". I'm surprised no one noticed this before.

This book tries to reinvent how you play harmonica and how harmonica tabs are written, and most of the book is for people that have never touched a harmonica before. It spends 4 pages on how to play harmonica and how to read its own made-up tab. Some of the technical skill tips it has are wrong, like how to play a single hole. Then it spends a couple of pages explaining scales (about half the pages are not about harmonica scales, but scales in general). It also has a very insulting picture explaining how to play a harmonica labeled "If you do not speak english." (on a side note, it is a very tall, thin book so it could fit in your pocket, but it would stick very far out of your pocket. Pocket size usually means fits entirely in the pocket, not this). Pros: fair number of songs Cons: a lot of what it tries to explain at the beginning is either wrong or totally useless the songs are all in its own little tab system, making them hard to read. it is a very odd shape

If you want to grab your harp and blast a few blues riffs with the guys on guitar, this is not the book for you. This is a slim volume, meant to go in your pocket along camping trips or get-togethers if you don't play by ear. It has folk tunes everyone knows, like Tom Dooley and other straight-harp favorites. There is a nod to blues playing by explaining the 12-bar blues, but really, this is a small straight harp cheat-book.

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