

Diatonic Harmonicas

The commonest type is the diatonic or Richter harmonica, named after Joseph Richter from Bohemia, a folk musician who developed this tuning system around 1825. These instruments are often generically referred to as Blues Harps, reflecting the popularity of the HOHNER model Blues Harp. The diatonic harmonica is a single voice instrument and usually has 10 channels, each with one blow and one draw note. It is mainly used in the blues, where the HOHNER Marine Band has played a vital role.

The HOHNER Marine Band is the original blues harmonica and can be heard on virtually all recordings by blues legends such as Little Walter Jacobs, Sonny Boy Williamson I & II, Sonny Terry, Big Walter Horton and many more. Richter harmonicas are also frequently used in styles as diverse as pop, rock or country and, in recent years, increasingly in jazz. Due to their diatonic tonal layout, the player generally needs several instruments in different keys.



BLUES HARP™

FREE LESSONS!

With EVERY Harmonica in new Packaging



- Over 1,500 video lessons
- Lesson plans for all skill level players
- Exercises and music notation, downloadable PDFs
- Downloadable MP3 study songs recorded at multiple tempos
- Renowned forum experts and contributors like Joe Filisko, Winslow Yerxa, Greg Heumann and Kinya Pollard

Diatonic Harmonica Selection Guide

Model	Blues	Country & Western	Pop & Rock	Jazz	Folk	Speciality	
Thunderbird ★★★★★	●					●	All Marine Band series harmonicas feature a wood or bamboo comb and are built in a „sandwich“ configuration.
Crossover ★★★★★	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Deluxe ★★★★★	●					●	
1896 Classic ★★★★★	●					●	
Rocket ★★★★★			●			●	These harmonicas represent major milestones in harmonica development.
Rocket Amp ★★★★★			●			●	
Special 20 ★★★★★		●	●		●		
Golden Melody ★★★★★		●		●			
Meisterklasse ★★★★★			●	●		●	The MS or Modular System features fully compatible components which are interchangeable between all models within the MS series.
Blues Harp ★★★★★	●						
Pro Harp ★★★★★			●				
Big River Harp ★★★★★		●					
Blues Bender ★★★★★	●						These harmonicas represent the best value and price in the HOHNER line.
Silver Star ★★★★★			●			●	
Blues Band ★★★★★	●						
Hot Metal ★★★★★			●				
Pocket Pal ★★★★★		●			●		



BOB DYLAN SIGNATURE SERIES

What happens when the worldwide leader in high quality harmonica manufacture gets together with one of the most legendary and influential figures of popular music worldwide?

They make history!

The HOHNER company and Bob Dylan are proud to present their exclusive Bob Dylan Signature harmonica model.

“Throughout his career, Bob Dylan has had a special relationship with the HOHNER company and has always used HOHNER harmonicas in his music.”

A great opportunity for music lovers and Bob Dylan fans!



Bob Dylan Signature Single

Original Bob Dylan Signature Harp with gold-plated reed plates in C-Major and exclusive stainless steel covers with special embossing. Specially imprinted Doussie wood comb and robust case with Bob Dylan imprint in silver.

Bob Dylan



Matthias Hohner **MARINE BAND** Made in Germany

When Jacob HOHNER filed the patent application for his new harmonica design on January 30th 1896 in New York, nobody could have dreamed of the extent to which he would affect the future of music. Originally conceived as a folk instrument, the Marine Band has had a considerable influence on the development of blues, folk, rock and pop music.

In the early 20th century, huge numbers of Marine Band harmonicas were already being exported to the USA. Here they were eagerly adopted by Afro-Americans, who discovered hitherto unknown playing techniques which enabled them to find their own new forms of musical expression on the instrument.

The music which today we call the blues evolved out of their work songs. The Marine Band can be heard on virtually every recording by blues legends such as Little Walter Jacobs, Sonny Boy Williamson I & II, Big Walter Horton, Sonny Terry, Jimmy Reed or Big Mama Thornton. The blues would not be what it is today without the Marine Band harmonica, but it was not exclusively a blues instrument. This model was also the first choice of artists such as Johnny Cash, John Lennon or Bob Dylan. The Marine Band became a true people's instrument and was played in every conceivable situation, from the back porch to the street corner to the concert hall. It contributed to the success of countless hit records, TV and film themes and has even been immortalized in literature. This astonishingly compact little instrument defines how the majority of people perceive the harmonica to this day. All Marine Bands are made in Germany.



Quality Handmade in Germany

To build the instruments of the HOHNER Classic diatonic range such as the models of the Marine Band series and the Special 20 or Golden Melody, reed profiles are milled by hand into strips of brass in the HOHNER factory in Trossingen before the individual reeds are punched out using state of the art die stamps (photo 1).

Reed slots are punched into the reed plates with a degree of accuracy unparalleled in harmonica manufacture to create a perfect fit between reed and slot. The reeds are then riveted by hand to the plates in order to ensure the exact alignment necessary to create a top quality instrument (photo 2).



The third photo shows the tuning process, where the pitch of each individual reed is carefully adjusted to match the pitch of the identical reed in the master plate, which can be seen fixed to the tuning table behind the plate being worked on.



Malcolm Allison aka Hank Williamson 'The Boss Hoss'



Klaus Mojo Kilian



Little Walter



Greg Szlap



Joe Marhofer



» Since 1896, the harmonica of Legends! «



» Marine Bands with extended range. «



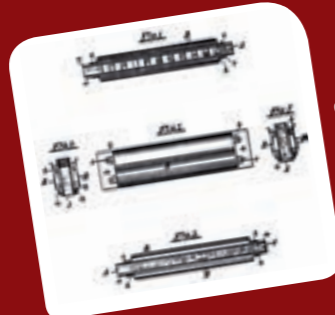
» Back to the roots - state of the art! «



Marine Band 1896

The Marine Band is the original blues harmonica. Today it is still manufactured in much the same way as when it was first introduced in 1896. Its uniquely authentic sound has defined the role of the harmonica in the blues tradition and made it the benchmark by which all others are judged. The archetypal blues harmonica with the traditional HOHNER tuning.

- Original cover design from 1896 ensures the classic blues sound
- Greatly reduced swelling behavior through double-coated pear wood comb



On January 30th 1896 the patent application for the Marine Band was filed in the USA

Marine Band 364/365/SBS

When Sonny Boy Williamson II played his well known piece "Bye Bye Bird", the harmonica he used was a model called the 'Echo Vamper'. This was the British version of the Marine Band 364/365/SBS offered here, the construction of which has not changed since (with the exception of the cover engravings).



Giles Robson

Marine Band Deluxe

The Marine Band Deluxe brings the incomparable sound of the Marine Band 1896 into the 21st century with a variety of improvements which optimize handling and ensure greater volume and faster response, while retaining the rich and powerful HOHNER sound.

- Improved cover design gives greater volume and stability while preventing reed rattle.
- Completely assembled with screws for easy maintenance.
- Pear wood comb is triple-lacquered, minimizing swelling and ensuring greater volume and faster response.
- Reed plate edges and channel openings with new Ultraglide coating are rounded off for greater playing comfort.
- Sturdy zipper case allows moisture to evaporate while keeping dust out.



Victor Puertas



Mikael Fall



Tomislav Goluban



CROSSOVER

Matthias Hohner MARINE BAND Made in Germany

With the Crossover we have expanded the Marine Band series to introduce a new, top-of-the-line professional quality instrument for the discerning player in modern blues, rock, jazz, soul or funk. The revolutionary laminated bamboo comb (patented) is completely sealed, making it water repellent and exceptionally stable. In combination with the screw together assembly the Crossover is extremely airtight, with fast, even response and a raspy, powerful sound which is exceptionally well suited to amplified playing as well as acoustic styles. The modern compromise tuning is ideal for single note playing in different positions in a wide range of contemporary styles, while still retaining a full chord sound, making the Crossover an optimal addition to the great Marine Band range and the first choice for today's professionals.



» The world finest harmonica, period. «

Marine Band Crossover

- Patented multi-layer bonded bamboo comb for bright, powerful tone.
- Comb completely sealed to prevent swelling.
- Modern compromise tuning for all contemporary styles.
- Reed plate edges and channel openings with new Ultraglide coating are rounded off for greater playing comfort.
- Sturdy zipper case allows moisture to evaporate while keeping dust out.



Nicolas Smoljan, © Celeste Urrega



Daniel Granado



Tiffany Harp

Patented Bamboo Comb Construction
Crossover and Thunderbird both feature HOHNER's patented comb technology. Thin, triple laminated layers of bamboo are both harder and denser than pear wood, giving greater volume and brighter tone as well as increasing form stability.



Lacquered outer surfaces ensure an airtight seal between reed plates and comb. The use of bamboo, a rapidly renewable raw material, makes the Marine Band Crossover and Thunderbird particularly sustainable.

Thunderbird

Matthias Hohner MARINE BAND Made in Germany

Tuned one octave lower than standard harps, the Marine Band Thunderbird opens up previously unknown creative possibilities for the player to discover new worlds of tone with the meanest, fattest low-pitched sound around.



The Thunderbird's unique cover design is based on an innovation pioneered by renowned customizer Joe Filisko. The front of the bottom cover is raised at the lower end and tapers off towards the high end. This gives the draw reeds sufficient space to vibrate freely at even the lowest pitches without striking the cover, thus eliminating reed rattle. The Thunderbird boasts a full, powerful sound unparalleled among low-pitched harmonicas. Its revolutionary construction also incorporates the patented laminated bamboo comb first used in the Crossover.



» Blowin' up a storm! «

Marine Band Thunderbird

- Available in 9 keys (LF, LE, LD, LC, Lbb, LA, LG, LLF).
- Special new reed profiles ensure fast response and high volume even at extremely low pitch.
- Full, powerful sound through patented laminated bamboo comb and revolutionary cover design.
- Fully sealed bamboo comb prevents swelling.
- Reed plate edges and channel openings with Ultraglide coating are rounded off for greater playing comfort.
- Sturdy zipper case allows moisture to evaporate while keeping dust out.



Steven Troch



Howard Levy
GRAMMY Award Winner 2012



Dennis Gruenling



Joe Filisko

HARMONICA MASTERS Workshops



The Harmonica Masters Workshops have been taking place in Trossingen since 2003. Initiated by musical director Steve Baker, with world-class instructors and a full supporting program of sessions and concerts, they are now regarded as the leading educational event for blues and jazz harmonica in Europe.

www.harmonica-masters.de



Matthias Hohner **PROGRESSIVE** Made in Germany

The instruments of Hohner's Progressive Line all set new standards in harmonica design: the Golden Melody, with its graceful 1950s retro look and tempered tuning, the Special 20, the world's first harmonica with recessed reed plates, which has inspired countless imitations, or the new Rocket, the loudest and most comfortable plastic body harmonica on the market today!

Whether harmonica pioneers such as Howard Levy and Carlos del Junco, individualists like Mariano Massolo, young live-wire performer Rachelle Plas or up-and-coming jazz virtuoso Konstantin Reinfeld, all of them find their favorites in the Progressive Line.

All models in the Progressive Line are made in Germany



Carlos del Junco



Mariano Massolo, © Celeste Urrega



Konstantin Reinfeld



Rachelle Plas

Rachelle Plas, © Virgine Leroux

new



» Comfortable, Responsive & Loud «



Rocket
The Rocket represents a new breakthrough in diatonic harmonica design. The ergonomically designed comb has rounded sides and edges for maximum comfort. Wide open cover plates and channel design enhance projection to ensure maximum loudness. The Rocket allows players to express a powerful, dynamic sound.

- One of the loudest harmonicas through optimized cover plate and channel design
- First harmonica from serial production with rounded comb sides, edges and corners for maximum comfort
- Sturdy zipper case allows moisture to evaporate while keeping dust out
- Available in 12 keys (G, Ab, A, Bb, B, C, Db, D, Eb, E, F, F#)

Rocket Amp
With the Rocket, HOHNER has developed one of the world's loudest and most comfortable harmonica models. The green „Amp“ version is technically identical but features covers without side vents, which facilitates a tight enclosure when cupping the harmonica with a microphone for amplified playing.

- Available in the keys of G, A, Bb, C, D, E and F



» Superior response and warm dark sound. «

Special 20
The Special 20 has reed plates which are recessed into the injection moulded plastic comb, creating a projecting mouthpiece which offers unparalleled playing comfort. Rounded covers with closed sides give a warm, powerful tone which has made the Special 20 a favourite among rock and country players as well as blues musicians, with a rich chord sound thanks to the traditional HOHNER tuning.



» Innovation for melodic playing. «

Golden Melody
The stylish design is classic 1950s, completely harmonious and without any sharp corners. The covers descend vertically down to the front of the comb and enclose it completely, right up to the rounded ends, making the instrument exceptionally comfortable to hold as well as giving it a unique sound. The Golden Melody is the only HOHNER Richter model tuned to equal temperament, making it ideal for single note playing in all keys and ensuring its lasting popularity among jazz and melody players including world-renowned overblow specialists Howard Levy and Carlos del Junco. Also available in C-major only in a special edition with gold anodized covers.