


Tablature for tracks 41–46.

The notes in these patterns tend to arrange themselves in triplet patterns, and there is more than one way to accent the notes. I have grouped the notes as closely as possible to the way I play them on the recordings. In some places, you will find groups of 4 or 5 notes. This is something that is hard to analyze, but it makes sense rhythmically. In other words, it feels right. These groups with the extra notes are at the point where the pattern changes direction because you are at the top of the harmonica. They set you up to go down with a corresponding pattern.

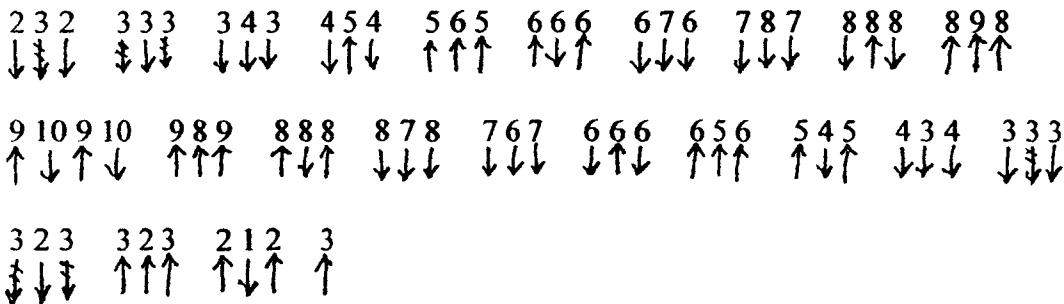
Use the tablature and recordings as a way to get started and for reference, but remember - the real goal here is to play the patterns with a strong rhythm. It don't mean a thing if it ain't got that swing! Once you memorize the pattern, play without the recording. Concentrate on finding the groove and the timing of the notes will sort themselves out as you play the patterns. Try fitting the patterns into different beats and you will really start to master them. Have fun! Focus, but relax. If you want to play music, it really helps to be playful!

How to read the tablature

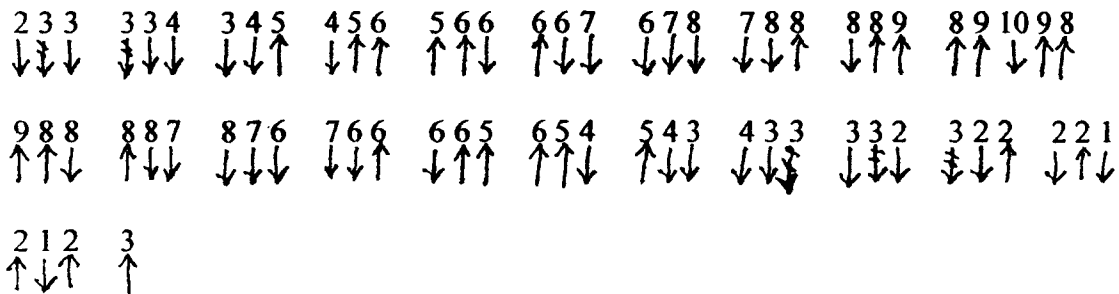
I use the same harmonica tab here as I used for the other page with the scales and rhythms. The arrows point up for blow notes and down for draw notes. A diagonal line across the arrow means a bent note. There is one slash for each half-step of a bend. For example:

2 is 2 draw bent down a whole step, or two half-steps. 2 is 2 blow


Track # 41

2 3 2 3 3 3 3 4 3 4 5 4 5 6 5 6 6 6 6 7 6 7 8 7 8 8 8 8 9 8


Track # 42

2 3 3 3 3 4 3 4 5 4 5 6 5 6 6 6 6 7 6 7 8 7 8 8 8 8 9 8 9 10 9 8


Track # 43 – 1st or 4th position triplet pattern #1

1 111 212 323 323 434 444 545 656 666 767
 ↑ ↓↑↓ ↑↓↑ ↑↑↑ ↓↓↓ ↑↓↑ ↓↑↓ ↑↓↑ ↑↑↑ ↓↑↓ ↑↓↑
 878 888 989 10910 101010 10910 989 888 878 767
 ↓↑↓ ↑↑↑ ↑↑↑ ↓↑↓ ↑↓↑ ↓↑↓ ↑↑↑ ↑↑↑ ↓↑↓ ↑↓↑
 666 656 545 444 434 333 323 212 111 1
 ↓↑↓ ↑↑↑ ↑↓↑ ↓↑↓ ↑↓↑ ↓↓↓ ↑↑↑ ↑↓↑ ↓↑↓ ↑

Track # 44 – 1st or 4th position triplet pattern #2

112 123 233 334 344 445 456 566 667 678 788
 ↑↓↑ ↓↑↑ ↑↑↓ ↑↓↑ ↓↑↓ ↑↓↑ ↓↑↑ ↑↑↓ ↑↓↑ ↓↑↓ ↑↓↑
 889 8910 91010109 1098 988 887 876 766 665 654
 ↓↑↑ ↑↑↓ ↑↓↑ ↑↓↑ ↓↑↑ ↑↑↓ ↑↑↑ ↓↑↓ ↓↑↑ ↑↑↓
 544 443 432 332 321 211
 ↑↑↑ ↓↓↓ ↑↓↑ ↓↑↑ ↑↑↓ ↑↓↑

Track # 45 – 12th position or 3rd position triplet pattern #1

2 222 323 434 444 545 656 666 767 878 989
 ↓ ↓↓↓ ↓↓↓ ↑↓↑ ↓↑↓ ↓↓↓ ↑↑↑ ↓↑↓ ↑↑↑ ↓↑↓ ↓↓↓
 999 10910 101010 10910 999 989 878 767 666 656
 ↑↑↑ ↓↑↓ ↑↓↑ ↓↑↓ ↑↓↑ ↓↓↓ ↓↑↓ ↑↓↑ ↓↑↓ ↑↓↑
 545 444 434 323 222 212 111 2
 ↓↓↓ ↓↑↓ ↑↓↑ ↓↓↓ ↓↓↓ ↓↓↓ ↓↑↓ ↓

Track # 46 – 12th position or 3rd position triplet pattern #2

223 234 344 445 456 566 667 678 789 899 9910
 ↓↓↓ ↓↓↑ ↓↑↓ ↑↓↓ ↓↓↑ ↓↑↓ ↑↓↑ ↓↑↓ ↑↓↓ ↓↓↑ ↓↓↓
 9101099 1099 998 987 876 766 665 654 544 443
 ↑↓↑ ↓↑↓ ↓↑↓ ↓↓↑ ↓↑↓ ↑↑↑ ↓↑↓ ↑↓↓ ↓↓↑ ↓↓↓
 432 322 321 211 111 2
 ↑↓↑ ↓↑↓ ↓↓↓ ↓↓↑ ↓↓↓ ↓

E minor Pentatonic Scale on A harp (2nd Position minor Pentatonic Scale) and the Blues Scale

I tabbed out the scale for the entire harmonica below. (The little circle above the number indicates an overblow or overdraw) The root note is 2 draw. (Track # 54 on CD)

1 1 2 2 3 4 4 5 6 6^o 7 8 9 9 10 10
 ↑ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↓ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↓ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑

Add one more note and you have a blues scale. Once again, the root note is 2 draw. Here it is tabbed out for the entire harmonica. (Track #55 on CD)

1 1 1 2 2 3 4 4 4 5 6 6^o 7 7^o 8 9 9 10 10 10^o
 ↑ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓

As you continue to advance and get comfortable with the other major and minor pentatonic scales, you can begin to modify the other scales that you have learned. Once you get the notes in your head, it becomes easier to begin changing the other major pentatonic scales into minor pentatonic scales or blues scales. And once you know the basic process for creating patterns, you can take these scales and start creating patterns with them.

P.S. Take a Stance!

The following message is one that I sent out recently to my email list that you can join by going to customharmonicas.com and looking under my name in the index on the left. It relates to breathing exercises and how to bring up your consciousness and energy up for anything, including playing the harmonica...

Take a Stance!

I know I promised you short emails, but today I am breaking this rule. Cause I'm a rebel. Don't fence me in. I have nothing to sell today but air. I hope you buy it cause it's freeeee.

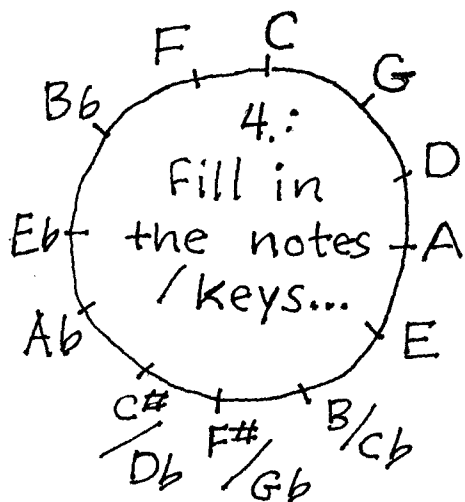
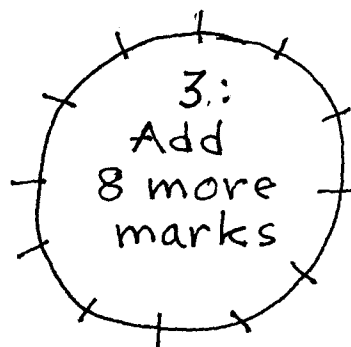
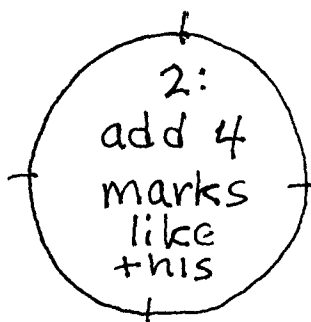
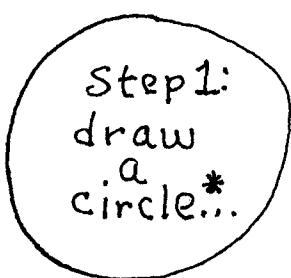
One of the things I do with the harmonica is bring it into the schools in my area with a couple of programs – "The History of the Harmonica" and variations on "Songs and Tales of Trains and Rails". Both of these programs include teaching students to breathe through the harmonica by playing steam train imitations.

By the way, if you want to teach some kids how to play a steam train imitation, I can give you some great ideas...

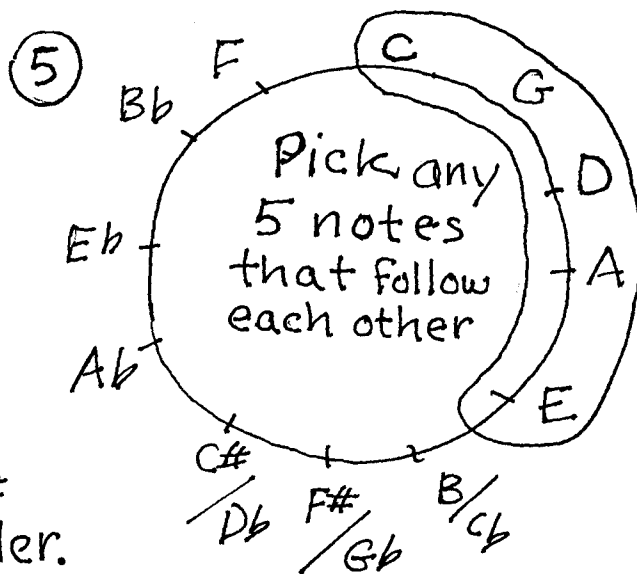
BONUS! - The Circle of Fifths Game

Here is something you can do on the back of a place-mat at a restaurant or in odd moments. Speaking of odd moments, this would be a great way to ruin a date....

Here is the challenge - how fast can you fill in a circle of fifths?



NOW - check this out!



6 Now - re-arrange
in alphabetical order.

C G D A E

→ C D E G A (c) - You now have a major
pentatonic scale!

* use a coin if you like... trace around it.