

Get to Know your SlipSlider Harmonica

Congratulations on your purchase of a SlipSlider Mk2. Here's some useful information to help you get the most out of this super-expressive new harmonica.

CONCEPT and TUNING

The patent-pending SlipSlider Mk2 comes in the form of the popular classic Hohner Special 20 harmonica – but it has a lot of extra features hidden inside! Magnets in each end of the comb and the two coverplates hold the harp together and locate the lower draw reedplate in the 'home' position, where the harp plays just like any normal diatonic. What makes the SlipSlider radically new is that you can slide the lower reedplate left or right along the underside of the comb. This gives it Amazing Special Powers...

Here's the main idea to grasp: **slide right for all blow bends, slide left for all draw bends**. Sliding the drawplate creates new reed pairs with the blow reeds, which allows the normally un-bendable Richter tuning notes to bend like butter! When you slide the drawplate to the right with your thumb, you can now bend the lower blow notes in holes 2, 5, 6, 7, plus gain big new blow bends in 8, 9, 10. When you slide it to the left you can now bend the high draw notes – impossible on a normal harp! Usually in holes 7, 8 and 10, you will now find them in holes 6, 7 and 9. You also gain huge new draw bends in holes 1-5. Here are tuning diagrams for a C harp so you can see what happens:

Richter Default

BLOW	C	E	G	C	E	G	C	E	G	C
Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
DRAW	D	G	B	D	F	A	B	D	F	A

Draw-shift Right

BLOW	C	E	G	C	E	G	C	E	G	C
Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
DRAW		D	G	B	D	F	A	B	D	F

← New Low Blow Bends → ← Big Blow Bends →

Draw-shift Left

BLOW	C	E	G	C	E	G	C	E	G	C
Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
DRAW	G	B	D	F	A	B	D	F	A	

← Big Draw Bends → ← New High Draw Bends →

Taking hole 6 blow as an example: when you slide the drawplate to the right it pairs 6 blow with the draw note that's normally in hole 5. Since 6 blow is a tone higher than 5 draw, you can blow-bend it down a semitone to the note between them. The same principle applies for 7, 5 and 2 blow: they are now sexy, responsive bendable notes for the first time!

Watch what happens to the high draw reeds when you slide the drawplate to the left. 8 draw is normally paired with the higher 8 blow, meaning it can't bend. But on the SlipSlider you can shift it to the left, so it is now paired with the lower blow note in hole 7. Now you can draw-bend and wail on it exactly as you do in hole 4 (it's the same note).

In addition to these cool new high draw and low blow bends, you also get some wild massive low draw and high blow bends, of up to half an octave. Put all this new bending ability together, and you'll be amazed at the way your harp is transformed, with a huge amount of extra expression!

HOLDING and SEALING

There are many ways to hold a harmonica, and some will work better with the SlipSlider than others. I use a conventional grip with my left hand forefinger on top and thumb on the bottom. Bracing them

against each other I can move the lower plate left or right – this is best seen on the SlipSlider videos. The sliding pressure required is quite low, so there is no need for extra grip aids on the covers.

The SlipSlider is not a conventional harp – it's self-sealing. The moisture from your breath will quickly wick into any gaps between the draw plate and the comb via capillary attraction. You can enhance the seal with natural saliva (try licking!) or dab a VERY LIGHT coat of Vaseline on the underside of the draw reedplate. It will help the sliding action and improve the seal – a win-win!

Make sure to stop your breath momentarily before sliding the reedplate to left or right to avoid vibrating reeds snagging on the comb. You'll soon get used to doing this intuitively.

CARE & MAINTENANCE

Aside from its extraordinary new bending ability, the SlipSlider Mk2 has a unique new feature never seen before: you can remove and replace the coverplates instantly, no screws required! That makes gapping and fine tuning reeds a breeze. In fact the whole harp can be disassembled into four parts in seconds. But before you try any adjustments or disassembly, please view my instructional videos. If in doubt, send your SlipSlider to one of the Recommended Harp Techs on my website.

LEARNING TO PLAY

The SlipSlider is a mix of the old and the new. In the default position it will play just like any standard harp, but the cool new abilities will take a little time to learn. For example, mastering how to bend the new lower blow notes & high draw notes will require you to adjust your bending embouchure slightly. To begin with, just play and explore. Get used to the new sounds and notes available, and the ergonomics of holding and operating the instrument. After a while it will start to feel familiar and you can try new things; you'll be rewarded with exciting, inspiring discoveries - I guarantee!

If you find new sounds that give you a buzz, please share them with others via videos or harmonica chat groups and/or send an email to feedback@brendan-power.com. I'll be fascinated to see the variety of ways that players come up with on the brand-new SlipSlider. Above all, have fun!



GUARANTEE

If for any reason you find fault with a SlipSlider harp or parts thereof after receipt, you must report it in the first week of ownership. Email feedback@brendan-power.com and attach an MP3 sound clip and/or photo of the issue you're experiencing. If the problem can't be fixed by email or phone, what happens next depends on whether you had your SlipSlider fully made by us, one of my Recommended Customisers, or took the DIY option. If we or a Recommended Customiser made your instrument, we/they are responsible for it under relevant Customer Service terms; deal directly with us/them for any matters arising. If you chose the DIY option, we are only responsible for the parts we make – the finishing and assembly are your responsibility. If it is established there is a fault with a complete SlipSlider or parts made by us, the defective item/s must be returned by you in as-new condition no later than 3 weeks after it was received. Once received we will examine the reported issue. If there is indeed a problem, we will then repair or replace and re-ship at our expense, covering your postal cost in addition. If there is no problem with the item, we will re-post at your expense (with postal payment up-front). Assuming we post the unit back, if you decide then not to keep it, it must be returned by you in as-new condition no later than 1 week after it was received the second time. In that circumstance, once we get it back again you will be due a refund minus 30% of the total cost of your order.

How you play and look after the instrument is important for the long life of your SlipSlider Harmonica! Let it dry out after playing and keep it in its protective container when not in use. Check out the helpful playing/assembly videos on the website: www.brendan-power.com/SlipSlider