

Get to Know your SlipSlider Harmonica

Congratulations on your purchase of a SlipSlider, or the parts to make your own. Here's some useful information to help you get the most out of this radical new harmonica.

CONCEPT and TUNING

The SlipSlider comes in several brands and models, and the range is expanding - but they all share the same basic construction and mode of operation. The upper blow reedplate is fixed to a special patent-pending comb, with narrow partitions on its lower surface. The lower draw reedplate is attached to a thin sheet of super slippery Teflon, and is a completely separate unit. The two halves of the harp are held together and located in position by four magnets. In the neutral position the harp plays as normal. 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 Special Powers...

Here's the main thing to grasp: **slide right for all blow bends, slide left for all draw bends**. This creates new reed pairs, which allows the normally un-bendable Richter harp notes to bend like butter! When you slide the drawplate to the right with your thumb, you can bend the lower blow notes in holes 2, 5, 6, 7, as well as the usual upper blow bends in holes 8, 9, 10. When you slide it to the left you can now bend the high draw notes! Normally in holes 8 and 10, you will now find them in holes 7 and 9. They blend seamlessly with all your other draw bends in holes 6,4,3,2,1. Here are some 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	D	F	

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	D	F	A	

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. Same principle applies for 7, 5 and 2 blow: they are now sexy, responsive bendable notes for the first time.

The same thing 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). You'll be amazed at the way your harp is transformed!

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. I recommend you use the included grip tape/adhesive dots and stick them on your overplates in places that work well with the way you hold the harp (they will come off without leaving a residue). With a bit of experimentation you'll soon find the best solution for your hand position.

Don't be alarmed if you can see light between the two halves of the harp when you look from behind! The SlipSlider is not a conventional harp – it's self-sealing. The moisture from your breath will

quickly fill gaps via capillary attraction. You can enhance the seal with natural saliva (try licking!) or use chromatic harmonica slide oil or Vaseline. Just dab the Vaseline on the narrow tines of the upper comb, don't smear it on, and use a very light coat. It's really effective!

If you disassemble your SlipSlider, make sure to get the two halves as flat and straight as possible when you put it back together – watch my assembly video to see how to do this. DON'T tighten up too hard on the magnet screws; magnets are brittle, and they will crack with too much pressure. If that happens they're easy to replace – just check the links on the SlipSlider webpage.

CARE & MAINTENANCE

Like any harmonica, your SlipSlider should be treated with care. Keep it clean and try not to drop it! When you've finished playing, let the harp dry out and then replace it in its protective container.

All harmonicas require some maintenance after a while, and the SlipSlider is no exception. Before you attempt any adjustments or disassembly, I recommend you fully view my instructional videos on correct procedures and handling. These will give you lots of useful tips and help you avoid costly mistakes. 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 lower blow notes and high draw notes – that 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!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brendan Power". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. Below the signature, there is a horizontal line that is slightly curved at the ends.

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