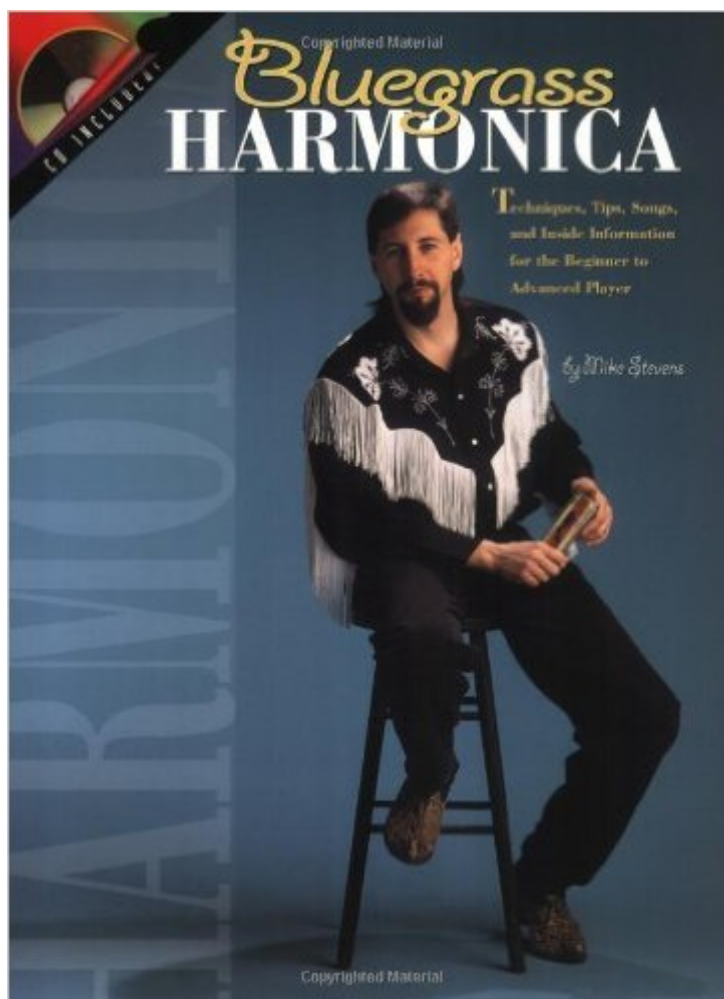


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# Bluegrass Harmonica



## Synopsis

(Harmonica). Extraordinary harpist Mike Stevens has been named Central Canadian Bluegrass Entertainer of the Year five years in a row. In this book, he teaches all the techniques, tips and inside information you need to know to play bluegrass harmonica. He covers: holding the harp, lip pursing, tongue blocking, draw bending, vibrato, attacking the notes, wind chops, and a lot more. The CD features practice tunes for beginning, intermediate and advanced players, including two versions of some of the intermediate and advanced tunes: one at standard tempo, and one slowed down for easier learning.

## Book Information

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Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.2 x 12 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (4 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

Make no mistake Mike Stevens is an impossibly good player. However, this book is not a great instruction book. I wanted to like it--it has many nuggets of really good information, along with tabs for some impossibly complicated things. But Stevens really needs an editor and producer, and, really, a plan. This book could have been so much better. He isn't very systematic, and his discussion of techniques is way too brief to prepare you to play the examples he gives. Any book that requires blow-bends to play the easiest song in it is simply not for beginners. For the hard songs you are going to need overdraws and overblows. He gives maybe three paragraphs on these techniques, and then you are on your own. It's a little ridiculous to discuss how to get a single note out of your harmonica on one page, and then, on the very next page, be discussing how to do blow-bends. He also plays his examples too fast--even when he is trying to play slowly. For example,

he runs through three octaves on the harmonica in under ten seconds. Another example of how this book falls short: He tells you to listen to some banjo rolls and emulate them. This is a great idea, but a much better approach would have been to work through a couple of examples step by step and then say, "You could do this for any banjo roll. Just listen really carefully." But because he doesn't walk you through it--or even give examples--he makes it harder than it needs to be. After only a dozen pages or so, you get the the main part of the book and CD, which are simply tabbed out versions of the incredibly difficult solos on his records. I've been playing harmonica for a year or two, and am decent, but these are pretty difficult--even those labeled "beginner".

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