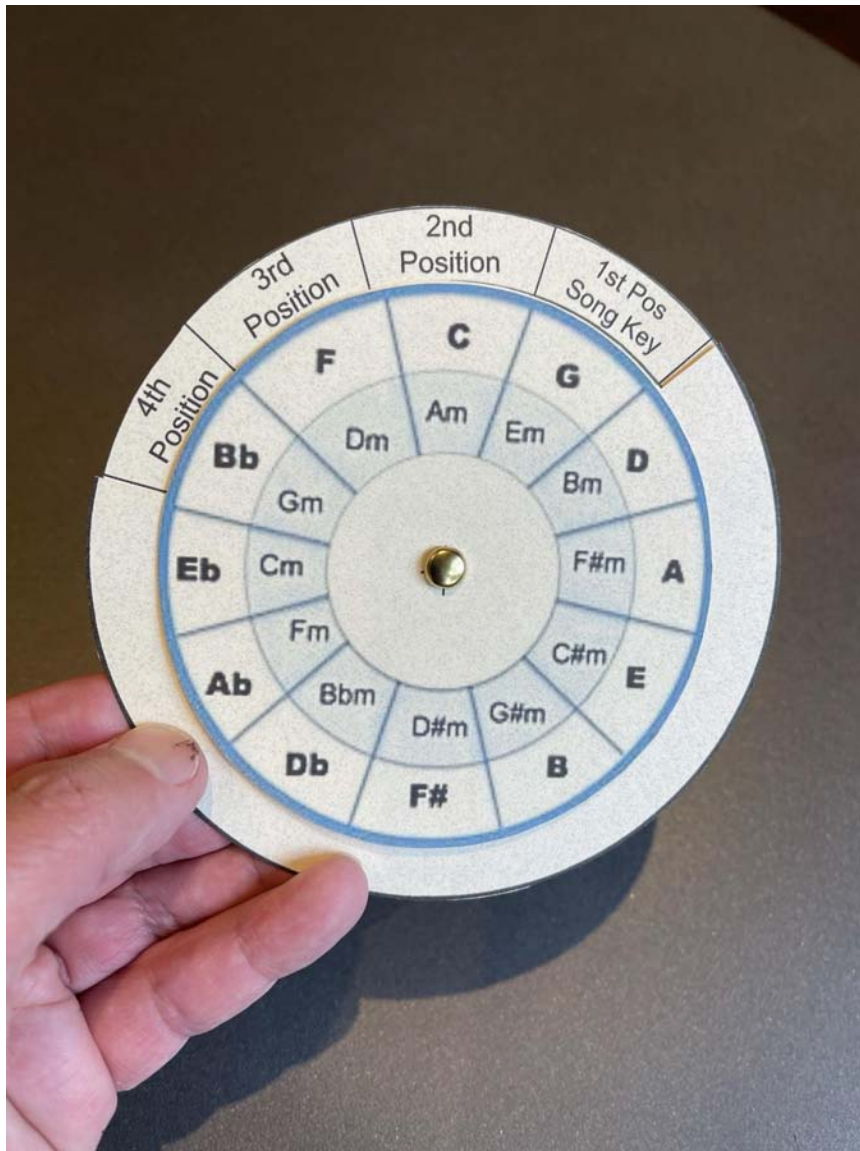


Harmonica Selector and Chord Identifier

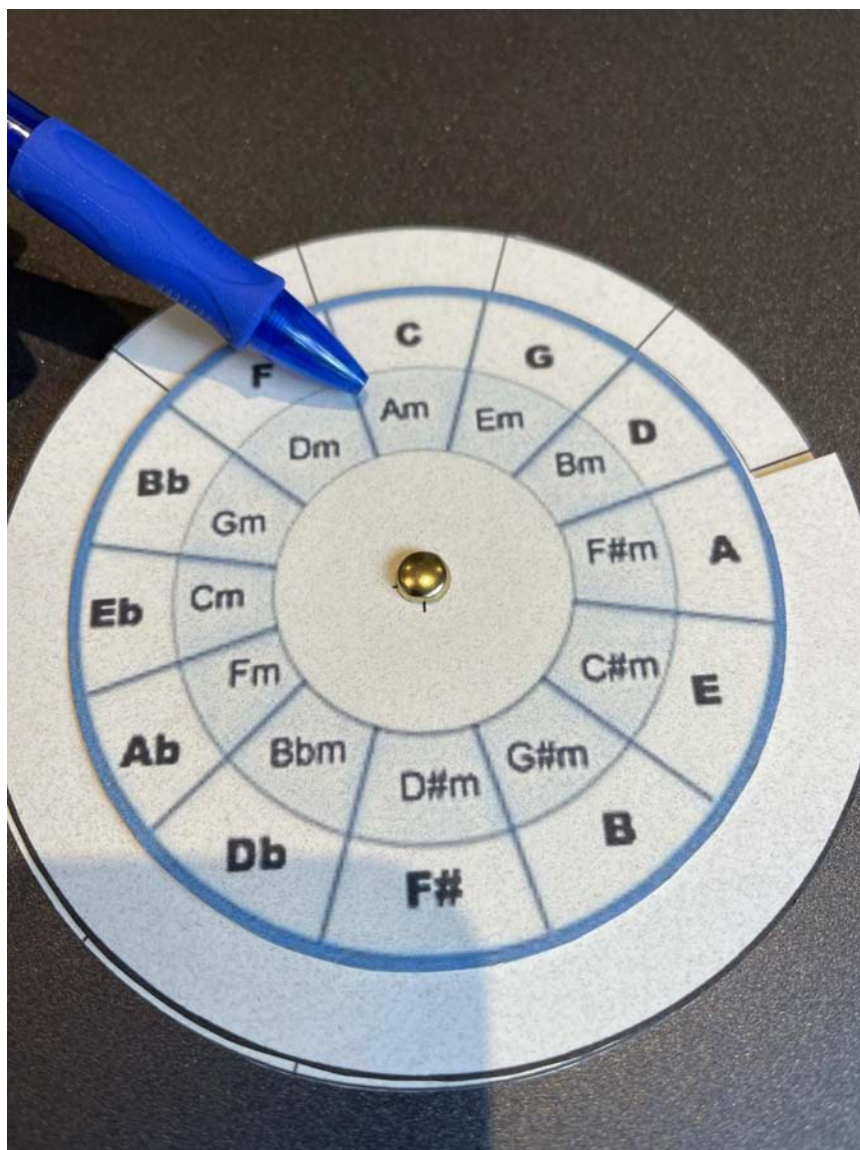
Hello Harp Techs. Have you ever wished for a versatile tool that will help you select the correct Harmonica/Position (modes), identify the three basic Chords, and even inform you of the Relative Minor scale that your song is based on?

Friend and student of bluesharmonica.com, Ron Lew, and myself (Kinya Pollard) decided this “Swiss Army Knife” would be a wonderful thing to carry in our harmonica case, or even mount it on the wall of our practice room. We built it and you can too! This tool is based on the amazing Circle of 5ths. All that is required: Printer, Scissors, Card Stock, and Binding Brad.

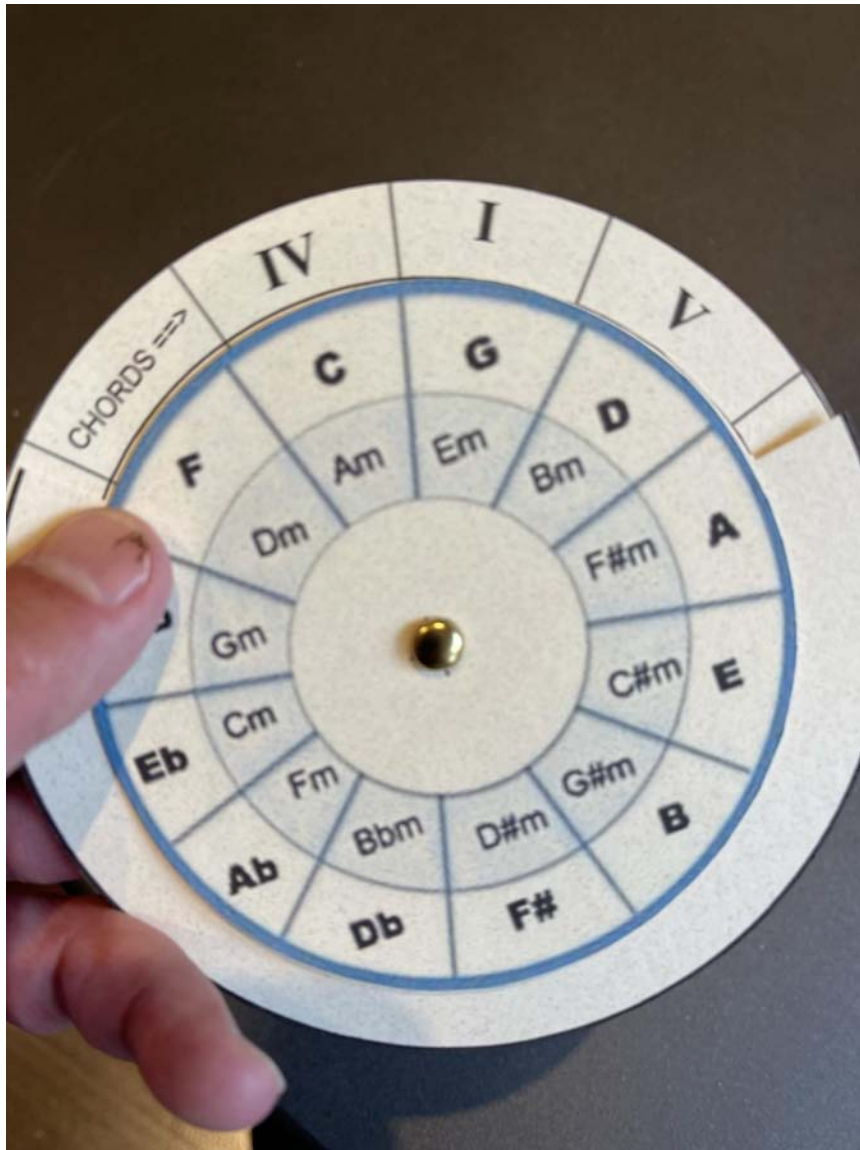


In this view, you can see I am using the tool as a harmonica selector. (1) After I had confirmed the key of the song that my band is playing--which is G, (2) I rotate the outside Circle of 5th wheel and line up “G” under the header; “1st Pos/Song Key.” (3) I glance at the slice to the left; “2nd/Position” and notice C is displayed. This means I can play my C harmonica in 2nd Position (aka Cross Harp, Mixolydian Scale) and it will match the band. (4) Glancing to the next slice;

3rd/Position, I see the F harmonica can be played (Dorian Scale), (5) The last slice will be 4th/Position (Natural Minor Scale).



In this view, I will use the inner Relative Minor circle. Scales inform us which notes are flattened (b) or sharped (#). For those players familiar with their scales, this Relative Minor tool is a quick way to spot familiar scales. For example, the Am scale has zero flats/sharps. This means a Piano Player will only play the white keys in a song written in Am (think "Ain't No Sunshine"). Looking at this chart, I confirm that if I only want to play a song (scale) with zero flats/sharps, I could select the C scale. In fact, I enjoy performing Ain't No Sunshine on my C harmonica ;o)

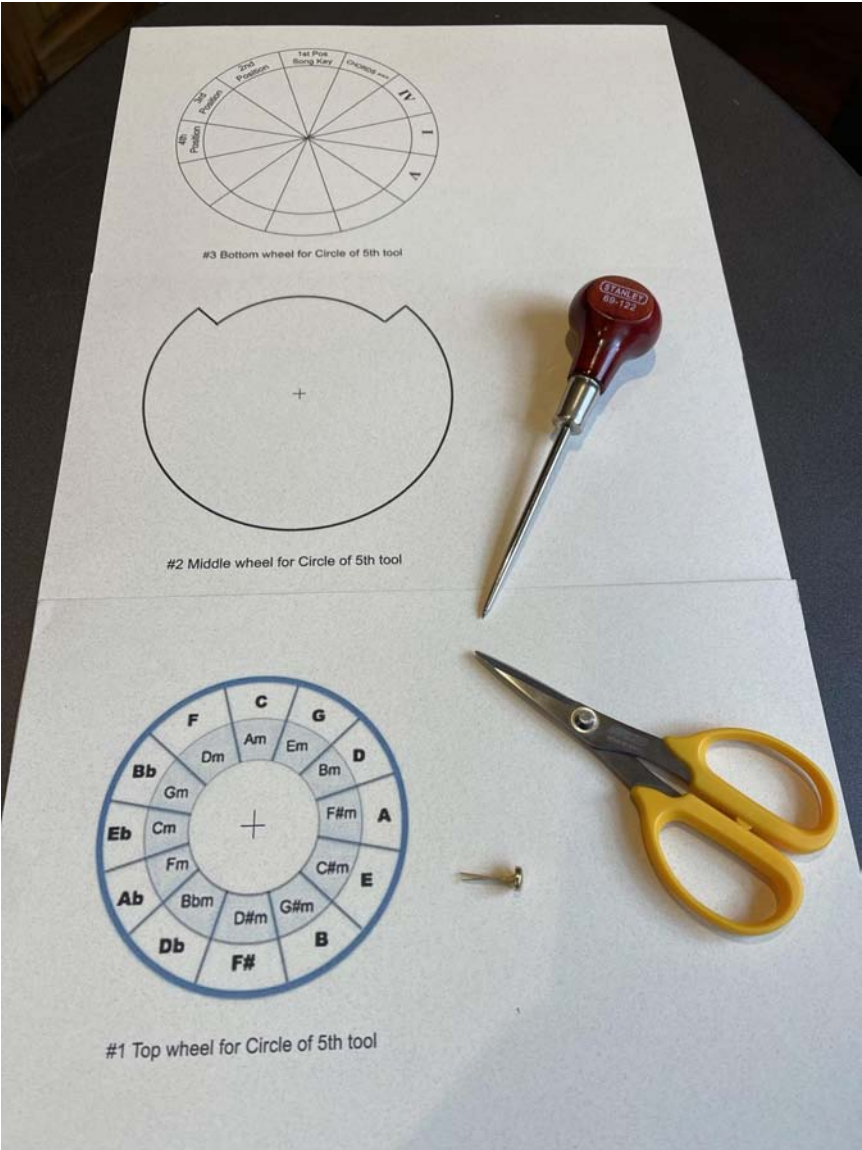


In this view, I am using the Chord Finder tool. A good technique to spice up your solo is during the key changes. Typically for Blues, it will be the I, IV, V chords. Again, the band is playing a song in the key of G; therefore I line up the letter G under the Roman Numeral I. Looking to my left, I see the letter C under the header; IV. Over to my right, I see the letter D is tucked under the header V. Fundamentally speaking--over the I chord--I would build my solo around the G note, on the IV chord--C, and on the V--D note. Pretty cool isn't it?

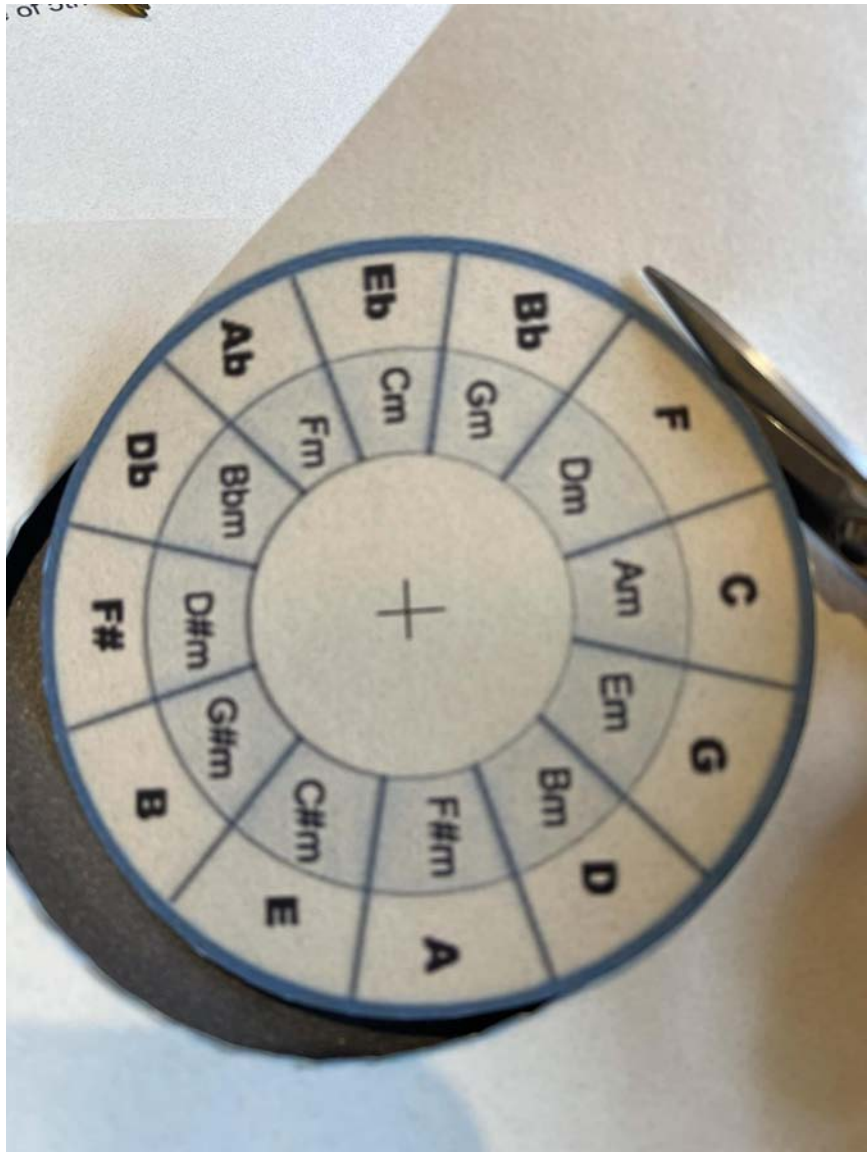
Alright, Alright you scream--how do I build this tool for myself?



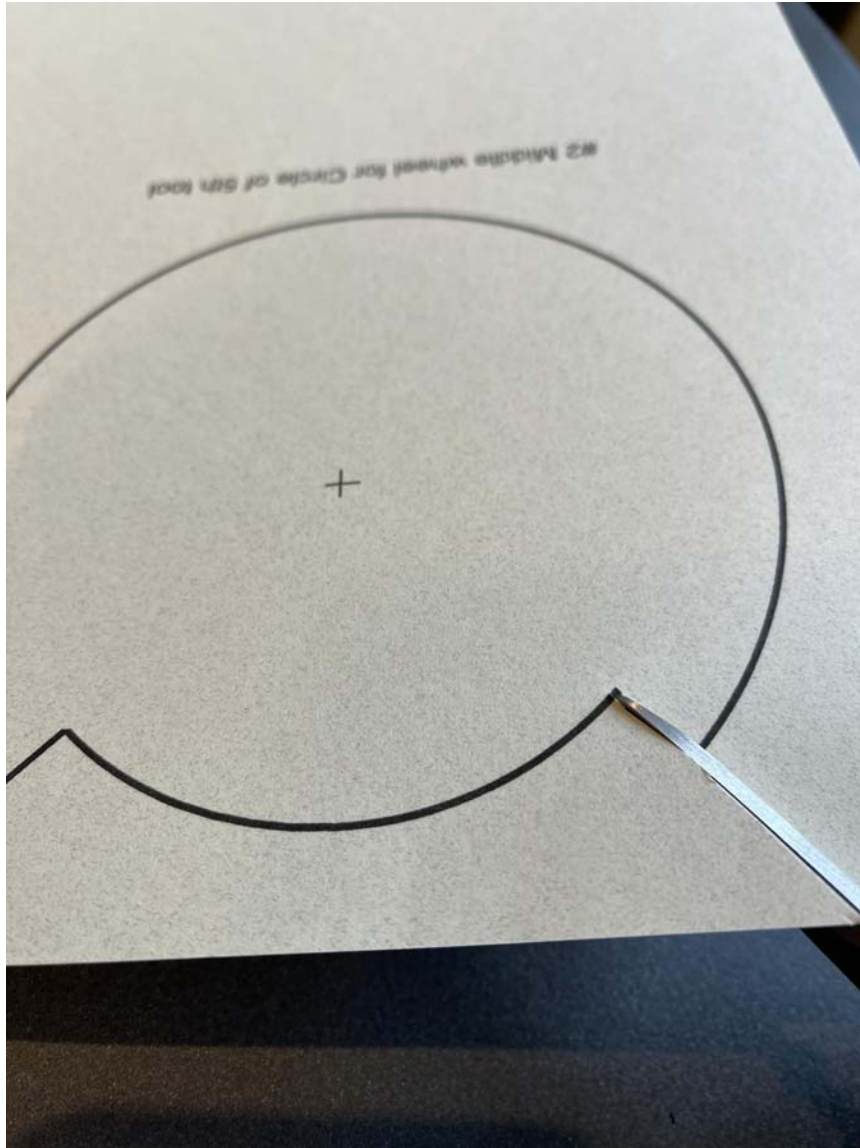
I used this product for my tool, but of course you can print it on regular paper and adhere to cardboard or take it to Staples and have it laminated. The goal is to make it stiff and sturdy so that it will survive the rigors of the road or your practice room.



Download the three attached pdf pages



Carefully cut along the borders



This view shows me cutting out the middle layer



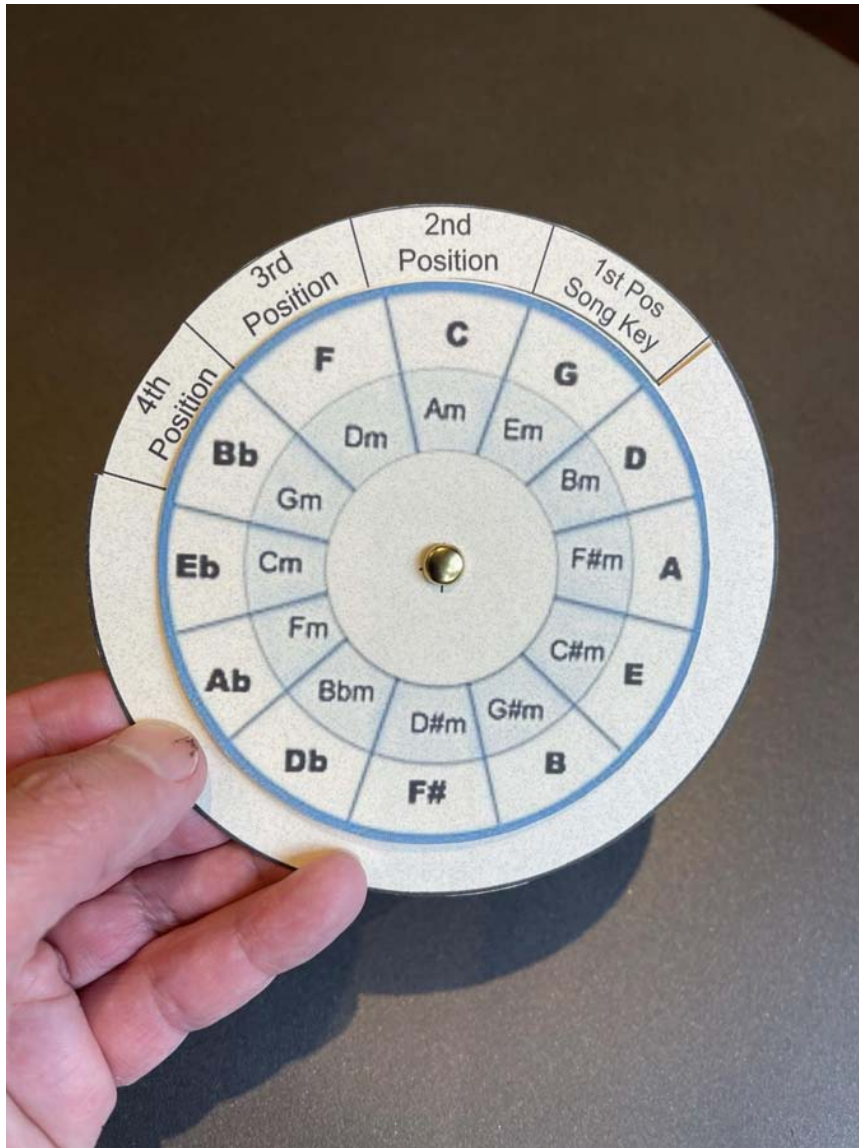
Once you have cut out all the pieces of your tool, puncture the center (have a cardboard box underneath to protect the kitchen table!)



Remember those brass split brads from elementary school?



Pierce the brad through all three layers and press flat



You will be surprised how often you will reach for this Harmonica Selector and Chord Identifier tool!

Your HarpSmith, Kinya