



bluesharmonica.com

# Tongue Blocking Study 1

BluesHarmonica.com Support Material  
Written by David Barrett

## Section 1 – Technique

### Ex. 1.1 – Tongue Agility

Properties: As stated Example 1.2 below, use a light touch and have your lips over four holes at all times.

### Ex. 1.2 – Standard Tongue Block

Properties: Place your lips over a four-hole span, using a light touch on the face of the harmonica. Use the top of your tongue just passed the tip (called the blade of the tongue) with a light enough touch that the convex shape of your tongue does not completely flatten on the face of the harmonica. Cover the left three holes with your tongue, leaving the right-most hole to sound a single note. Move the harmonica latterly—the focus is to generally move the harmonica, not the face or jaw. (Lower Holes: To play hole 3, your tongue centers on hole 1, covering holes 1 and 2 and some of the wood to the left of hole 1. To play hole 2, narrow your mouth slightly and center your tongue on the wood to the left of hole 1, covering hole 1 and the wood to the left of hole 1. To play hole 1, your mouth is commonly over holes 1 through 3, covering holes 2 and 3 with your tongue. An option is to move to the left so that your mouth is only over hole 1 and taking the tongue off of the face of the harmonica).

### Ex. 1.3 – Shake (Trill)

Properties: Start by playing the bottom note and then move to the right, then back to the left... repeating in a smooth rhythmic fashion.

