

## Make A Popsicle Stick Harmonica

**Step 1:** Gather materials

- 2 popsicle sticks
- 2 strips of paper
- 1 rubber band
- 2 pieces of tape long enough to wrap around

**Step 2:** Take the first popsicle stick and wrap the two strips of paper around the stick near each end. (optional: tape the paper strips)

**Step 3:** Stretch the rubber band long ways around the popsicle stick (NOTE: the rubber band must lay flat on the popsicle stick)

**Step 4:** Put the second popsicle stick against the first popsicle stick with rubber band. Tape the sticks together near the ends with the 2 strips of tape.

**Step 5:** Take a big breath, form your lips into a “who” shape and blow between the popsicle sticks.

Slow air and loose corners of your mouth = low notes

Fast air and tight corners (like when you smile) = high notes

**Step 6:** Make some music, practice, and have fun!

**Bonus challenge:** Can you play the melody to “Mary had a little lamb”? or “Happy Birthday”?

## What is a Harmonica?

Also known as the mouth organ, or a free reed wind instrument, the harmonica consists of metal reeds set in slots in a small metal-enclosed wooden frame. The harmonica is notably used in blues, American folk music, classical music, jazz, country, and rock genres.

The player blows air through the slots causing the reeds to vibrate and make sound. You can play different notes on a harmonica by blowing air in and out of each reed slot.

**Bonus Fact:** Woodwind instruments like clarinets, saxophones, oboes, and bassoons also have reeds that vibrate to make sound.



## How does a Popsicle Stick Harmonica make sound?

A popsicle stick harmonica makes sound by blowing air between the popsicle sticks and causing the rubber band to vibrate. Just like the reeds in a real harmonica and a woodwind instrument.



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