VG Harmonica

Plugins and standalone application.

Discover the heart of jazz and blues with VG Harmonica, a versatile virtual instrument built from high-quality harmonica samples.
Fully compatible with MIDI keyboards, wind, and breath controllers, it offers five expressive sound sets to capture a wide range of playing styles.

It works with Windows and Mac as a standalone and will run as a plugin in all major DAWs (Cubase, Logic Pro, Ableton, etc.) as VST/VST3/AU.

System Requirements:

Windows 7+, MacOS 10.14+
Disk Space: 2GB
RAM: 8GB
Supported by all major 64-bit VST3/AU compatible DAW's

If you want to use 64-bit plugins in a 32-bit VST host, you can use jBridge (Windows) or jBridgeM (Mac) to convert 64-bit plugins to 32-bit and vice versa.

- More than 320 unique samples
- Compatible with breath controllers (TEControl, MRTAudio), wind controllers (AKAI EWI4000s, EWI5000, Solo, Roland Aerophone AE-10, AE-20, Pro AE-30, Yamaha WX, Yamaha YDS, Berglund NuEVI, NuRad, EMEO, Robkoo R1, Clarii mini, etc.), and MIDI keyboard controllers.
- Each note was individually sampled to achieve maximum realism
- Custom designed, unique GUI
- Recorded sample quality: 24 bit / 44.1 kHz
- Aftertouch, Mod Wheel, and Keyswitches are the key features to morph and perform sounds while playing
- Articulations: Falls, Squeezes, Soft attack, Accented attack, Bend
- Expressive effects: Expression, Attack, Vibrato, Growl, Wah
- Reverb, delay, stereo control to fit the instrument in every mix

Installation Instructions for VG Harmonica Application and Plugins on PC

1. Download the `VG Harmonica Setup.exe` file and save it to a convenient location on your computer.
2. Double-click the `.exe` file to open it and confirm the installation process.
3. Once the installer finishes, a shortcut to the "VG Harmonica" application will appear on your desktop. Double-click the shortcut to open the application.
4. A message saying "Choose Sample Folder" will appear when the application opens, Click it to select the folder containing the sound samples.
5. A file selection window will open. By default, the sound samples are located at the following path:
   `C:\Program Files\VGInstruments\VG Harmonica`
6. Click once on the "VG Harmonica" folder to select it, then click the "Select Folder" button.
7. Close the message that appears, close the application, and then reopen it.
8. The installation is complete, and the application is ready to use!

By default, the files will be placed in the following paths:

Sound sample files, application file - VG Harmonica.exe and Uninstall.exe:
C:\Program Files\VGInstruments\VG Harmonica\
C:\Program Files\VstPlugins\VG Harmonica.dll
C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST2\VG Harmonica.dll
C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3\VG Harmonica.vst3

If necessary, you can move the files to other folders.

Installation Instructions for VG Harmonica Application and Plugins on Mac

1. Download the `VG Harmonica Setup.pkg` file and save it to a convenient location on your computer.
2. Double-click the `.pkg` file to open it and confirm the installation process
3. Once the installer finishes, you will find the "VG Harmonica" application in the "Applications" folder.
4. When the application opens, a message saying "Choose Sample Folder" will appear. Click it to select the folder containing the sound samples.
5. A file selection window will open. By default, the sound samples are located at the following path:
   `Macintosh HD\Library\Audio\VGHarmonicaSamples\`
6. Click once on the "VGHarmonicaSamples" folder to select it, then click the "Open" button.
7. Close the message that appears, close the application, and then reopen it.
8. The installation is now complete, and the application is ready to use!

By default, the files will be placed in the following paths:
Sound sample files:
Macintosh HD/Library/Audio/VGHarmonicaSamples/
Macintosh HD/Library/Applications/VG Harmonica.app
Macintosh HD/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST3/VG Harmonica.vst3
Macintosh HD/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST/VG Harmonica.vst
Macintosh HD/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components/VG Harmonica.component

If necessary, you can move the files to other folders.

If you can't find Macintosh HD, open Finder, go to Finder → Preferences → General, and ensure the "Hard disks" option is checked to display it on the desktop.

HARMONICAS

To select the main instrument, click the corresponding button. You can also choose the instrument by using your midi keyboard. If the "KSw Oct" button shows a value of "1", then the following key combinations are used to select the main instrument:
For "Harmonica 1" press three keys simultaneously: C1, D1, and E1.
"Harmonica 2" - D1, E1, F1.
"Harmonica 3" - E1, F1, G1.
"Harmonica 4" - F1, G1, A1.
"Harmonica 5" - G1, A1, B1.
If the "KSw Oct" button shows a value of "0", then the following key combinations are used to select the main instrument:
For "Harmonica 1" press three keys simultaneously: C0, D0, and E0.
"Harmonica 2" - D0, E0, F0.
"Harmonica 3" - E0, F0, G0.
"Harmonica 4" - F0, G0, A0.
"Harmonica 5" - G0, A0, B0.

CONTROL
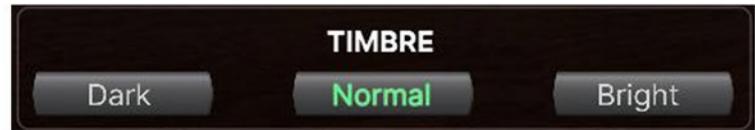**Keyboard, Wind, Breath** buttons change
performance modes:
Playing on keyboard instrument / Playing
with wind or breath controller (TEControl,
EWI, Aerophone, Yamaha WX, Robkoo R1 etc.)

TIMBRE
Dark, Normal, Bright
Make the tone darker or brighter using
these buttons.

EFFECTS 1:
Reverb, Delay and Stereo
switch corresponding effects on/off.
Reverb Level
change the level of the Reverb effect.
Reverb Size
adjust the size of the simulated room.
This affects the duration of the reverb trail.
Reverb Damp
control high-frequency reduction in
the reverb tail for a warmer, natural sound.
Delay Level
change the level of the Delay effect.
Stereo Spread
collapse (counter-clockwise) or expands
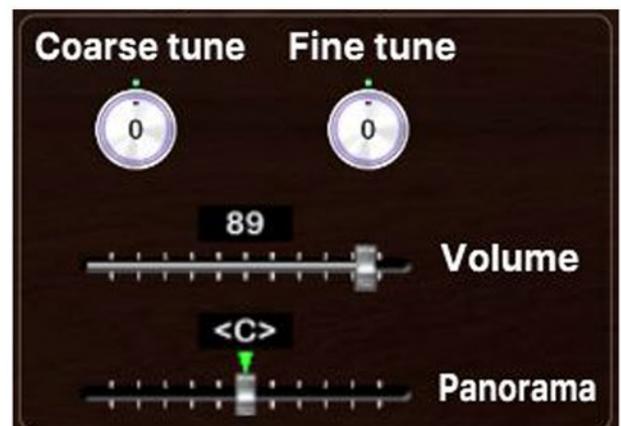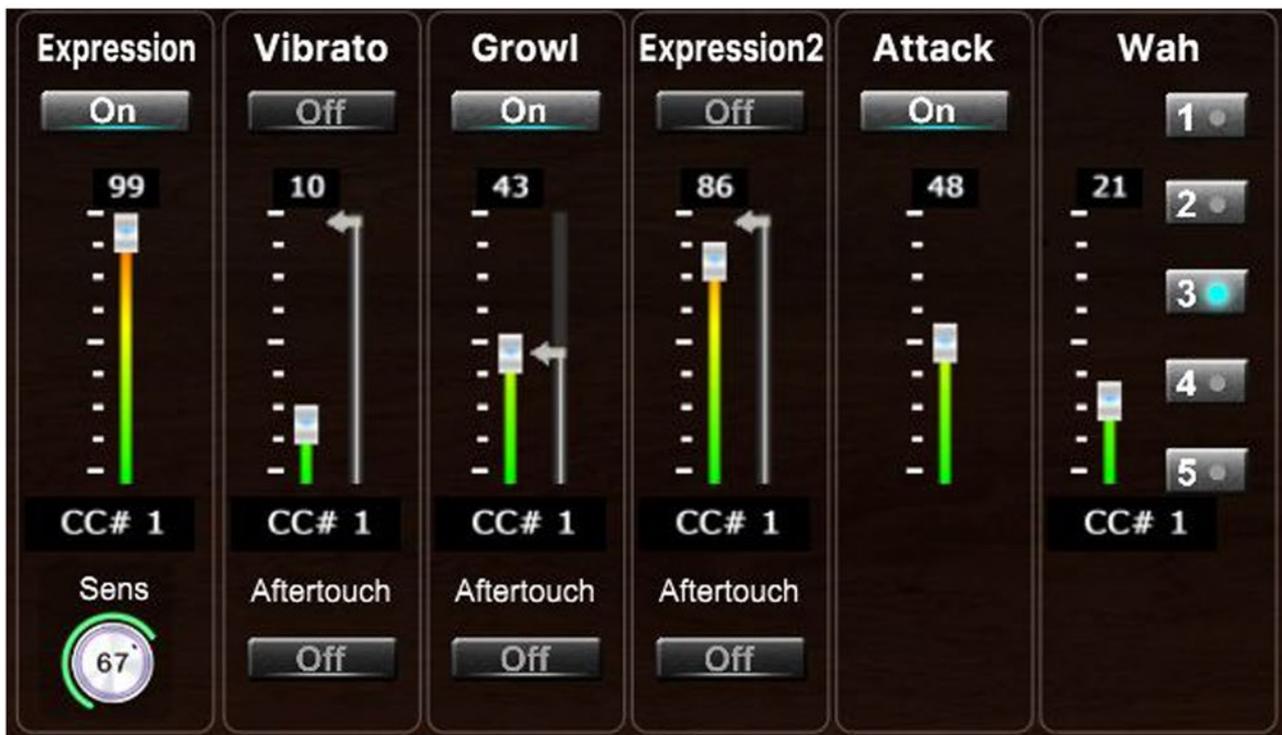(clockwise) your signal's stereo base.

Blues
Add a subtle hand wah effect, mimicking
the expressive sound of blues harmonica.
Easily controlled using the Mod Wheel.

Use the controls on this panel to make coarse
or fine adjustments to pitch and to modify
overall volume and pan.

EFFECTS 2
Expression, Vibrato, Growl, Expression2, Attack, Wah
Switch corresponding effects on/off.
This panel allows adding effects to your sustain samples via a fader or mod wheel for dynamic performances.

The **Expression** and **Expression2** effects enhance the brightness and richness of the sound.
The **Vibrato** effect adjusts dynamically based on the position of the mod wheel or the breath intensity when using a breath or wind controller. We recorded some samples with natural vibrato to preserve sound quality. Therefore, you may occasionally hear a slight pulsation even if the "Vibrato" button is OFF.
The Growl effect emulates the tongue growl technique, a common sound production method used by harmonica players.
The **Attack** effect adds emphasis to the beginning of each note.
The intensity of the accent can be adjusted using the corresponding fader.
The **Wah** effect emulates the sound produced by guitar Wah pedals. You can activate one of the preset Wah settings by pressing any buttons numbered 1 to 5.
To disable the effect, press the active button again. The Wah effect is controlled using the mod wheel or breath intensity on a breath or wind controller.

You can change the sensitivity of the "Expression" fader by adjusting the "Sens" knob.

For the Vibrato, Growl, and Expression2 effects, there are additional sliders located to the right of the faders that allow you to set the maximum intensity for the corresponding effects.

Set Control Change (CC) number in CC# box in accordance with your MIDI (Breath, Wind) controller settings. Typically, this is 1, 2, or 11.
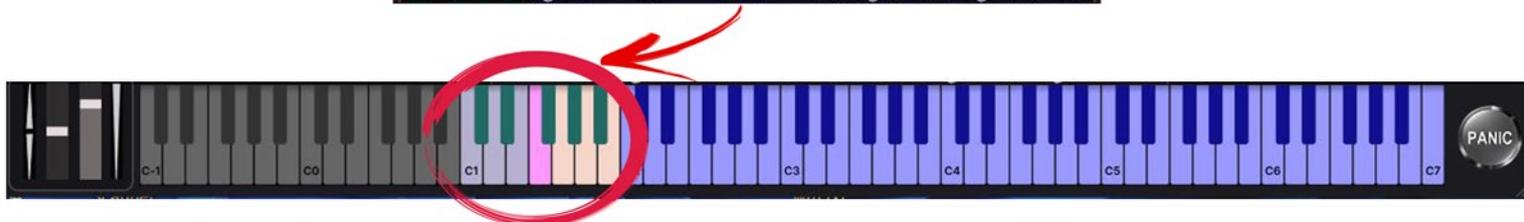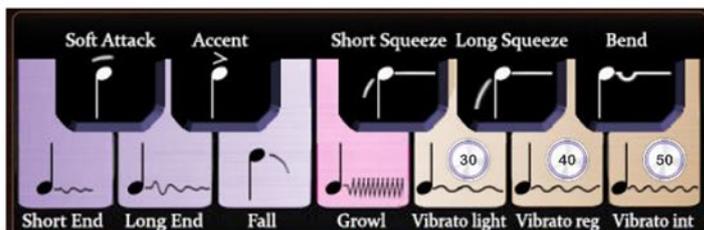To adjust this parameter, click on the number and drag it up or down.

Aftertouch ON/OFF buttons switch corresponding effects on/off.
Vibrato, Growl, and Expression2 effects will be triggered when the aftertouch is on.

Keyswitches and Keyboard Layout
It displays all currently available articulations and corresponds to the C1 to B1
key range on your MIDI keyboard.

Articulations that start a phrase.
These articulations will only be in effect while the keyswitch is held.
C#1 Soft Attack
D#1 Accented Attack
F#1 Squeeze Short
G#1 Squeeze Long
A#1 Bend

Articulations that end a phrase.
First hold the main note in the C2 - C6 range, then press a keyswitch
corresponding to the selected articulation.
C1 End Short
D1 End Long
E1 Fall Short

When you use these keyswitches, the sound will completely fade out.
To restore the sound's volume, you need to release all keys for a brief moment.

Sustain notes with the Sustain notes with the Vibrato and Growl effects.
To add a Vibrato effect, press and hold one of the three keyswitches: G1, A1, or B1.
G1 - light vibrato,
A1 - regular vibrato,
B1 - intense vibrato.
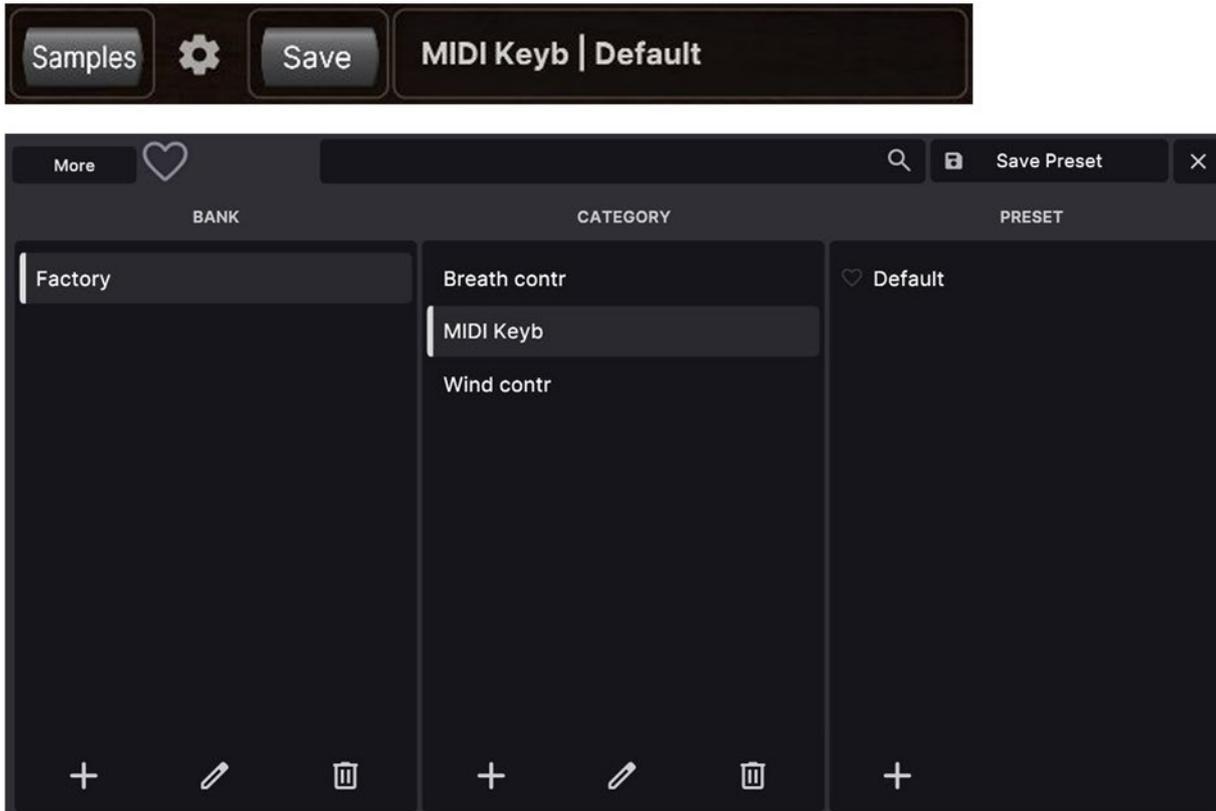To add a Growl effect, press and hold F1.

These knobs change the intensity of the vibrato.

Clicking the "Panic" button will stop all sound playback.

Settings and Preset Menu

In the preset menu, you can select any of the factory presets,
save your own custom presets, or delete them.

Clicking on the "Settings" icon opens a window where you can configure audio
drivers, buffer size, sample rate, MIDI input and output devices, MIDI channels,
and other system settings related to audio playback and MIDI connectivity.
With the "Lazy Load" option enabled, samples will load into RAM gradually as you
start playing them.

Clicking the "Samples" button opens a window showing the current location
of the audio samples.

Common Issues and Solutions

When using any DAW, **always use realtime export** (realtime bounce) when rendering
your MIDI track with the VG Harmonica plugin to an audio track.
This will help prevent errors that sometimes occur when using keyswitches.

Do not use keyswitches to switch between different sound sets (Harmonica 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
on the same MIDI track. Instead, create a new track and load another instance
of the VG Harmonica plugin with the desired sound set.