

**THE MISSION** - Identify what can be done to sound more bluesy by increasing Blues HorsePower (BHP), by identifying the notes, sounds and techniques that increase BHP, and identify the habits that decrease it. Students learn from the teacher and each other.

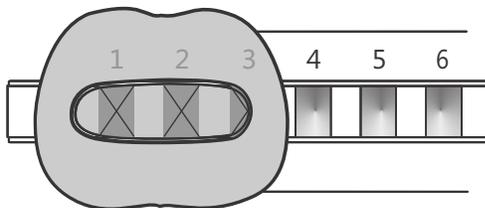
**THE METHOD** - Call & response on a 2 bar phrase. Teacher plays the phrase and the students play it back. When everyone is getting it in time, the call & response advances by the teacher calling upon individual students. The teacher plays the phrase, the students repeat it, and the teacher uses his discretion on commenting or criticizing. If students are struggling with a part of the phrase, it should be shortened to 1 bar or even 1/2 a bar.

## THE GUIDELINES -

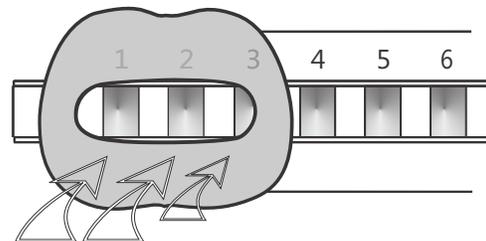
1. Blues HorsePower, BHP, is about notes AND sound.
2. The sound of dirty notes sounds increases BHP over the same clean single notes.
3. The sound of notes vamped/slapped increase BHP.
4. The sound of splits/octaves increase BHP.
5. The sound of chordal effects increase BHP (*tongue shakes, shakes, rapid vamping*)
6. Ornamental bends increase BHP (*bending up into or down out of a note*)
7. Blues scale notes  $b3^*$ ,  $b5$ ,  $b7$  increase BHP (*all inhaling*)
8. Blue pitches  $b3-3^*$ ,  $4-b5$ ,  $b5-5$ ,  $6-b7$  increase BHP (*all inhaling*)
9. Exhaling notes & sounds **decreases** BHP. These are used to dump air. No blues notes.
10. Exhale Push (EP) is **essential** to maximize BHP – (*foundational pillar*)
11. Ghost Chording develops tongue blocking and rhythm & groove - (*foundational pillar*)
12. Don't break the form!
13. Aside from the vamping, one long continual inhale breath should be used.
14. Avoid hole 3. It can sound great, but can also create great damage. \*

\* Hole 3 is the inhaling trouble spot. Clean unbent 3's are NOT bluesy. Dirty unbent 3's are bluesier. The precise half-step bend is very bluesy but VERY difficult to play. A sharp half-step bend sounds bluesier than a flat half-step bend but not as bluesy as the sharp half-step bend played dirty.

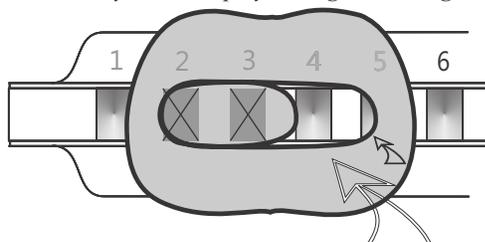
FULL BLOCK (*no sound*)



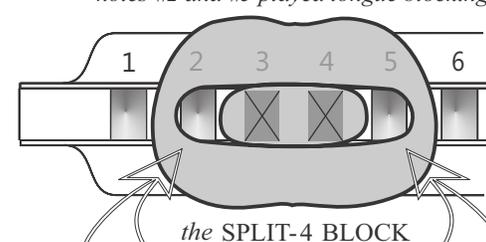
TONGUE OFF (*chord*)



"dirty" hole #4 played tongue blocking



holes #2 and #5 played tongue blocking



# Maximize Your Blues HorsePower

1/31/19

**CLEAN - ORNAMENTAL BENDS**

**DIRTY or CHORDAL EFFECTS**

**DIRTY - MORE ORNAMENTAL BENDS**

**DIRTY - FULL BENDS - BLUE PITCHES**

**TRIPLETS - USING HOLE 3**

**SPLIT 4's & VAMPING - SBW1**

**DOUBLE TIME - BLUE PITCH on HOLE 5**

**FULL BEND on HOLE 2**