

PARTS & STRUCTURE



The Harmonium is a European instrument that was invented in France during the nineteenth century. In the late nineteenth century, the instrument was brought to India by the British who were ruling India at the time.

The picture below illustrates the different parts of a Harmonium:



Bellow, when pumped is used to force the air through the instrument.

Cover is used to protect the inner workings of the harmonium as well as block higher frequencies and allow lower frequencies to pass.

Coupler Knob, when enabled automatically plays keys an octave higher/lower than the keys being played by the user to create a richer sound.

Handles, one on each side are used to aid in carrying the instrument.

Stoppers are a series of valves which control the way that air flows.

Drones, when open create a particular note that have been pre-programmed.

Keyboard is used to play different notes.

BASIC RULES

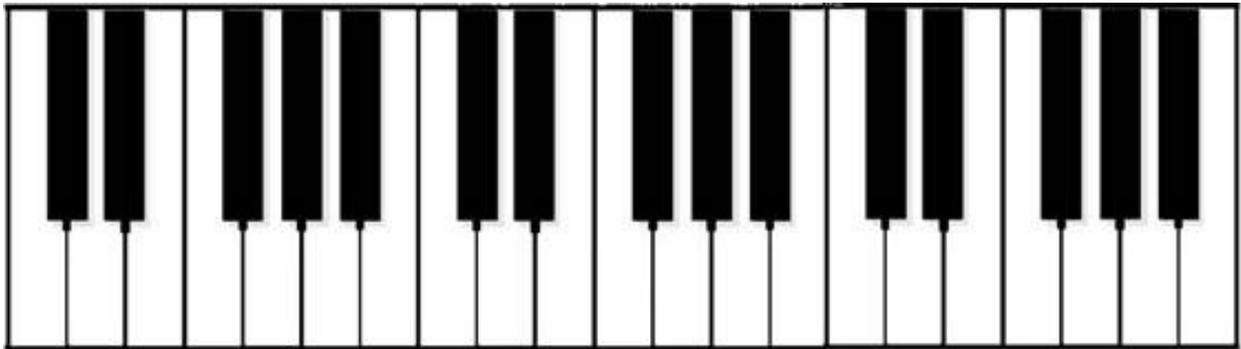


1. Open only one clip on the side of the bellow (pump).
2. If you are right handed, you should pump with your left hand and play with your right hand. If you are left handed, you should pump with you right hand and play with your left hand.
3. Place your fingers on the keys before you start pumping.
4. Do not unnecessarily bang on the keys with your fingers or other objects.
5. Do not open the cover on the top of the Harmonium to expose the mechanism/reeds.
6. Make sure that the appropriate drone/stoppers are in the open position before playing and pumping.
7. Make sure to close the drones/stoppers and place the cover back on the Harmonium after you are done playing.
8. If you see a child playing around with a Harmonium, notify an adult immediately.

KEYBOARD & NOTES



- The Harmonium is composed of 21 white and 15 black keys.
- The black keys sit towards the top and the white keys sit towards the bottom.
- Below is a picture that illustrates a typical Harmonium keyboard:



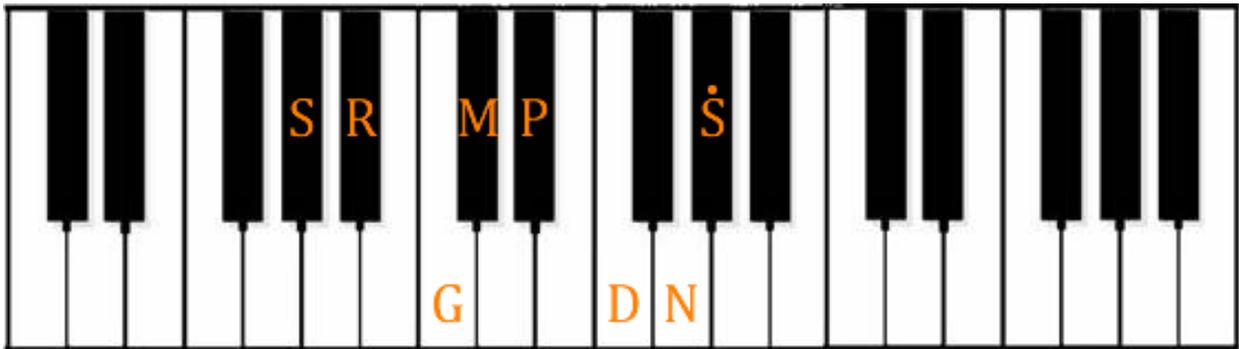
- You have probably seen musicians look at sheets of music for notes when they play an instrument. Something that looks like:



KEYBOARD & NOTES (CONT'D)



- In Indian Classical music, instead of musical notes, a different notation is used. Like this: **Sa, Re, Ga, Ma, Pa, Dha, Ni, Śa** or simply **S, R, G, M, P, D, N, Ś**
- These notes represent one music scale and are known as “shud” or “pure” notes.
Below is a picture that illustrates which keys are shud notes on a Harmonium keyboard:





What is a Sargam?

- A sargam is a way of assigning syllables to names of the notes in a musical scale.
- Sargam is also a singing exercise which involves notes being sung.
- The Aaroh is referred to as singing the notes from low to high scale.
- The Avroh is referred to as singing the notes from high to low scale.

Basic Sargam:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<i>Aaroh</i>	S	R	G	M	P	D	N	Ś
<i>Avroh</i>	Ś	N	D	P	M	G	R	S

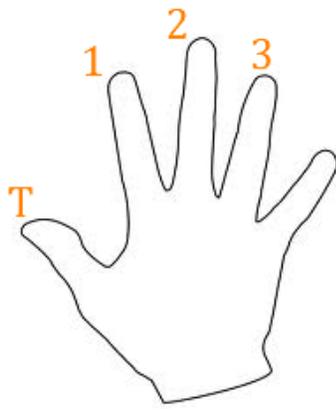
Why is practicing Sargams important?

- It helps improve one's voice and the ability to sing from one note to another with ease and accuracy.
- It helps one's ability to recognize notes when heard.

FINGER PLACEMENT



The proper placement of fingers on the keys is very important as it allows for better maneuverability when playing. The placement of fingers will start to feel more natural with practice.



T	Thumb
1	Index Finger
2	Middle Finger
3	Ring Finger

***Note: Baby finger is rarely ever used.

The table below illustrates finger placement for the basic sargam.

1st	2nd	T	1st	2nd	T	1st	2nd
S	R	G	M	P	D	N	Ś

2nd	1st	T	2nd	1st	T	2nd	1st
Ś	N	D	P	M	G	R	S