



PLAY MELODICA WITH BOTH HANDS!

Japanese style

Volume I

GIANLUCA BARBARO

WITH A SHORT ESSAY BY ALAN BRINTON

Gianluca Barbaro

Exercises to

PLAY MELODICA WITH BOTH HANDS!

Japanese Style

An adaptation of the famous F. Beyer's
"Preparatory School for Piano"
op. 101

With a short essay by Alan Brinton
Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at Boise State University

Volume 1

Beginner to Intermediate

Melodicamente 1

Table of Contents

The melodica (by Alan Brinton).....	i
Introduction.....	vii
How to hold the melodica.....	ix
A note for pianists.....	x
Elements of Music.....	1
Value of the Notes and Rests.....	3
Time Signatures.....	4
Accidentals.....	5
Finger numbers.....	6
Keyboard of melodicas with 4 Octaves.....	7
Exercises for the Touch of the Right Hand.....	8
Exercises for the Touch of the Left Hand.....	9
Exercises for Both Hands Together.....	10
For the right hand alone.....	11
For the left hand alone.....	14
For two hands.....	18
Exercises for Both Hands.....	24
Exercises in eight-notes.....	41

SAMPLE PAGE

THE MELODICA¹

by **Alan Brinton**, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at Boise State University

The melodica as we know it today is a piano-style keyboard wind instrument. It is, like the accordion and the harmonica, a free reed instrument. Each key has its own reed that is sounded when the flow of air blown into the instrument is released by depressing the key. The melodica is often said to have been invented by **Hohner** in 1953, although the first Hohner Melodica, the HM-900 soprano, had a button-style keyboard and first appeared in 1958. "Melodica" is the Hohner brand name, but "melodica" has become the most popular generic term for the instrument. The preferred generic name in Japan is the "keyboard harmonica," for reasons that will be explained shortly.



The Hohner HM-900

¹ Copyright notice: all pictures in this essay, except the last one, were taken from "The melodica annex" by Alan Brinton, <https://lucy421.smugmug.com/Other-1>
The last picture (Japanese classroom) was taken from "A day in the life at a Japanese day care" by Washington Post, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6rfQI4tyLg8>

INTRODUCTION

Holding and playing the melodica in a “Japanese style” means using both hands as shown in the picture on the right. The left hand is reversed compared with the usual position on a piano keyboard, thus all the left fingerings are reversed as well.

When standing, we must use a shoulder strap to hold the instrument but, when sitting, it is also possible to hold it between the chest and the leg, without a strap.

The main advantage of such a posture (compared to having the melodica on a desk in front of us) is that it allows for two-handed playing:

1. while standing (e.g.. in a concert or rehearsal);
2. without a desk.

The “Preparatory School for Piano” method book by F. Beyer is a well-know resource for piano beginners: the author intended this method for children, but it is useful for beginning adults as well. After a few adaptations for the melodica, it becomes a valid tool also for experienced pianists who need to teach their brains how to “reverse” the left hand. The first volume of the present study contains all the introductory materials presented in the original Beyer book plus the first 64 exercises. A second volume will contain the remainder of the original book.



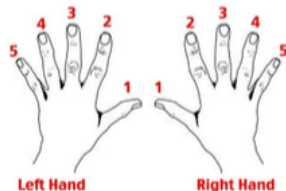
SAMPLE PAGE

Enharmonic.

Black keys.

White keys.

FINGER NUMBERS



SAMPLE PAGE

Comodo.

60. *mf* *cresc.* *dim.*

f *dim.*

mf *cresc.* *dim.*