

TOOLS & AIDS



HOHNER

For this workshop we recommend the »**HOHNER SERVICE SET MZ99331**, which includes all the basic tools necessary for harmonica maintenance as shown in these workshops.

A compact and highly recommendable toolkit for the first steps in harmonica maintenance. The set is suitable for both diatonic blues harps and chromatic harmonicas and enables basic maintenance work such as adjusting reed offsets, tuning and centering reeds, exchanging faulty windsavers and maintaining the slide assembly.

For this Workshop C03 Exchange Reedplates you will need the following tools:

Illus. C03-01



Tool 5: Screwdriver Slot + Pozdrv0
 For both cover and reed plate screws.
 Required in all workshops

Illus. C03-02

C03 - Exchanging Reed Plates

STEP 01 - Remove Covers



Illus. C03-03

This workshop shows you how to exchange reed plates using the example of a Hohner Chromonica 64.

To remove the covers you need to use the straight slot end of the **Screwdriver Slot + Pozdrv0 (5)**.



Illus. C03-04

Unscrew the cover screws

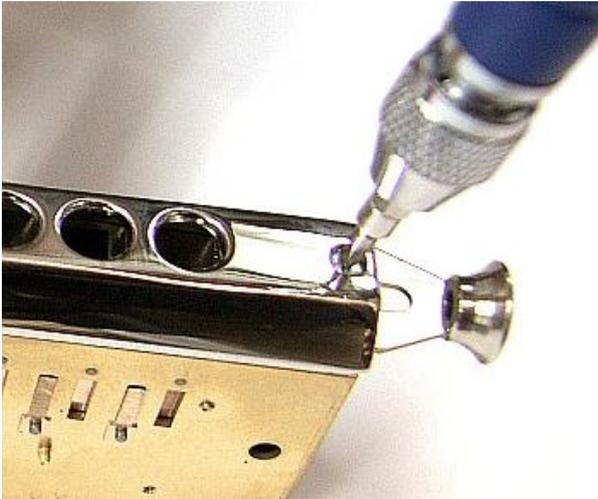


Illus. C03-05

Removing the covers
 Here it's easy for the edges of the covers to catch on reed tips or windsavers.

C03 - Exchanging Reed Plates

STEP 02 - Loosen the Mouthpiece



Illus. C03-06

The mouthpiece screws left and right at the front of the instrument are loosened a couple of turns. Don't unscrew them fully or the mouthpiece will come off.



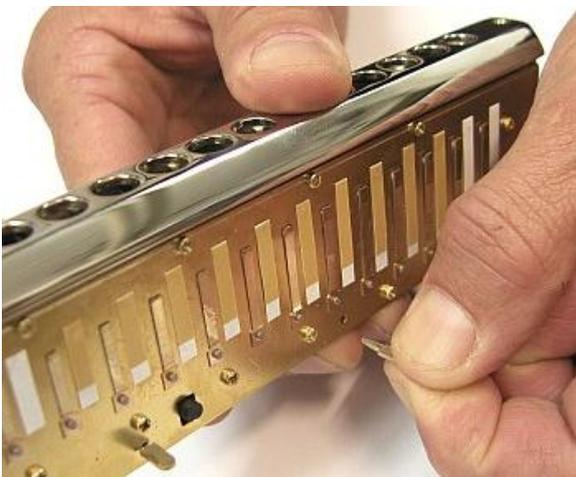
Illus. C03-7

The mouthpiece screws serve to tension the mouthpiece so that the entire length of the slide package is pressed firmly against the front of the body, thus ensuring that the instrument is airtight.

When disassembling the harmonica it's necessary to first reduce this tension, so that the body doesn't warp when the reinforcement provided by the reed plate screws is subsequently removed.

This is particularly important when fitting new reed plates.

STEP 03 - Remove the Cover Supports



Illus. C03-8

The cover supports can usually be removed without the use of tools. Simply pull them out and put them in a safe place.

C03 - Exchanging Reed Plates

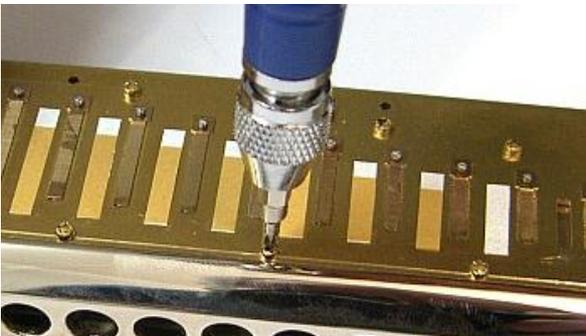
STEP 04 - Changing the Screwdriver Bit



Illus. C03-9

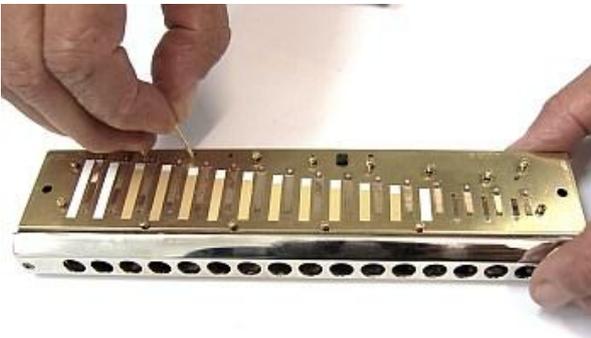
To unscrew the reed plate screws you need to turn the screwdriver head around so that you can work with the Pozdrv0 bit.

STEP 05 - Unscrewing and Removing the Reed Plate Screws



Illus. C03-10

Unscrewing the reed plate screws



Illus. C03-11

Removing the reed plate screws



Illus. C03-12

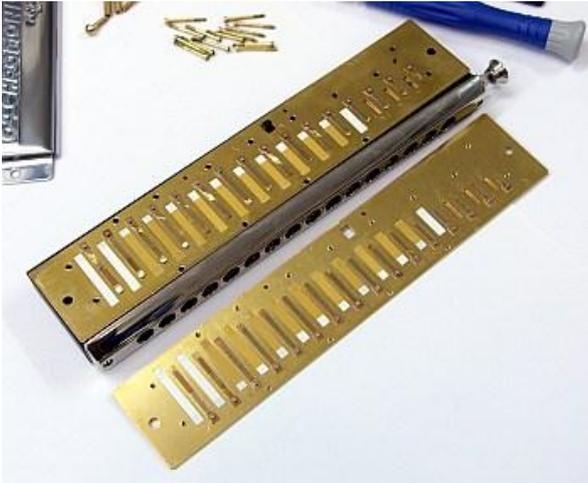
With the exception of the mouthpiece, you have now completely disassembled the harmonica.

Few instruments will be as clean as the demonstration harmonica shown here. It may be advisable to take a look at [»Workshop C02 - Cleaning](#) before proceeding further.

If you shake or knock the harmonica at this stage, the slide spring can very easily jump out of its mounting. Handle with care.

C03 - Exchanging Reed Plates

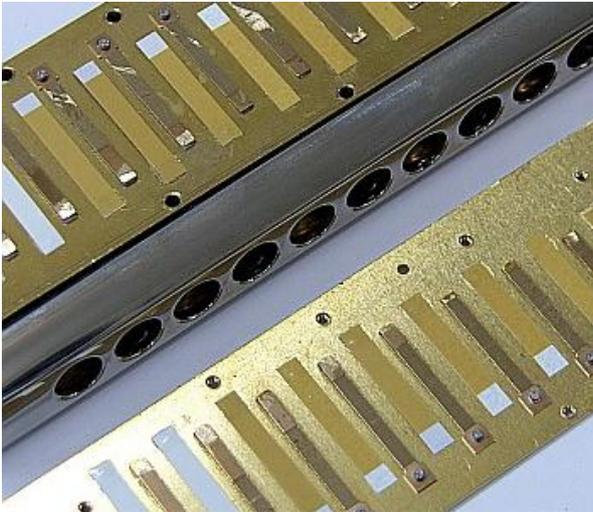
STEP 06 - Assembly



Illus. C03-13

Carefully remove the new reed plates from the original HOHNER spare parts packaging.

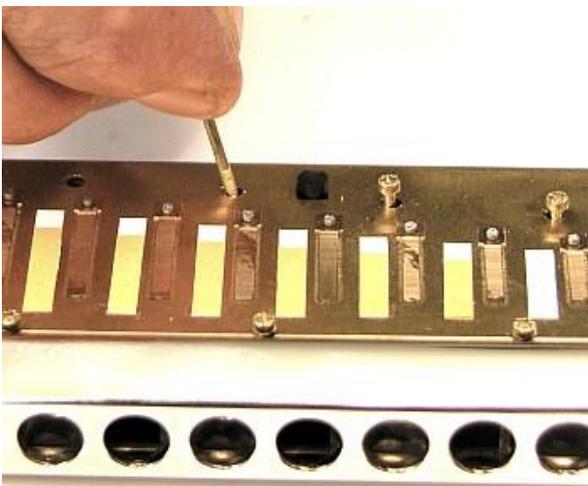
As far as possible, try to avoid contact with the reeds or windsavers while mounting the new reed plates. It would be a pity to have to think about new »Windsavers« at this stage!



Illus. C03-14

The upper and lower reed plates are distinguished as follows:

- The holes in the upper plate are through-holes and are therefore larger than those in the lower plate.
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- The outside face of each reed plate can be recognized by the groove for the cover, which should always be positioned at the front, adjoining the mouthpiece.



Illus. C03-15

The screw holes in the lower reed plate are not threaded. You cut the threads yourself by screwing in the self-tapping screws.

This means that you need to turn each screw with a considerable degree of force at the start of the process. But don't worry, you won't damage them. After about 3 turns, the thread is cut and the screw can be turned easily.

After cutting all threads, tighten the screws gradually in stages, starting in the middle and working outwards towards the ends of the reed plates. To avoid overtightening, stop turning as soon as the screw head has reached the reed plate and you feel firm resistance.

C03 - Exchanging Reed Plates

STEP 07 - Tips for Reed Plate Installation



Illus. C03-15

Assembly:

- Ensure that the reed plates are lying flat on the body along the entire width of the front edge (marked in green, Ill. C03-16).
- On no account overtighten the reed plate screws. This can warp the reed plates, causing air loss and de-centering reeds so that they may brush the slot.
- Don't retighten the mouthpiece screws before all reed plate screws have been screwed in properly.

Note:

Replacement reed plates for chromatic harmonicas CANNOT be fine tuned in the factory.

There is a simple reason for this:

The fine tuning of every pair of reed plates needs to be adjusted to fit the body, the tension of the various screws and even the vocal tract of the player. This can only take place when the harmonica is assembled, which means you will need to consult »[Workshop C07 - Tuning](#)