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# Equipment Top Picks

## New Amps & Mics

BluesHarmonica.com Support Material

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### Small Amps



**Price**  
\$99

**Amp Make/Model**  
**Fender**  
**Champion 20**  
1x8" Speaker, Solid State, Effects

#### Key Features

Great starter amp—the whole package for a very low price. If you're looking for something that can be used in a duo or rehearsal (louder) setting, upgrade to one of the amps listed below.



\$349

**Laney**  
**Cub 10**  
1x10" Speaker, Tube  
**#1 PICK**

Most pleasing, warm tone of all the amps tested. Has gain control for added distortion (bonus for newer players). Sounds great with large selection of mics. Use of external reverb or delay pedal would be a nice addition. Upgraded Weber speaker makes amp louder. Use the speaker out to power the 2x12" Cub Cab (\$249) to make amp slightly louder and more resonant.



\$480

**Sonic Pipe**  
**Windy City +**  
1x10" Speaker, Tube

Most classic tone (similar to popular Masco rigs). Easiest for new players to achieve good tone. Sounds great with large selection of mics. Best amp for recording. Use of external reverb or delay would be a nice addition.



\$899

**Fender**  
**Princeton Reverb '68 Custom**  
1x10" Speaker, Tube, Reverb

Similar warm, pleasing tone as the Laney Cub 10 (slightly less distorted), but slightly louder and more resonant. Loud enough to perform a small gig with (though not as safe as a Fender Bassman, it's proven it can get the job done when mic'd through the PA).



\$499

**Fender**  
**Pro Jr**  
1x10" Speaker, Tube  
**HONORABLE MENTION**

Though not as preferred as the Princeton—this is a loud, small amp at a good price. Newer players will struggle to achieve a good tone (amp has cleaner sound), but experienced players who like a more natural sound (less distortion) will appreciate it. Use of external reverb or delay would be a nice addition.

## Mics



**Price**  
\$54  
**Mic Make/Model**  
**Superlux**  
**D112C**

### Key Features

Green Bullet 520DX knockoff. Though it doesn't sound quite as good, it's much cheaper and slightly easier to hold. A good starter mic for the price.



\$159  
**Hohner**  
**Harp Blaster HB52**  
**#1 PICK**

The new standard for a new mic. Easiest of all mics to hold, strong output, and good overall tone.



\$189  
**BlowsMeAway Productions**  
**Bulletini**

Small mic (slightly too small for some) with strong output and best-in-class bass. Add \$30 for volume control.



\$289  
**BlowsMeAway Productions**  
**Custom Wood Mic**

Comfortable, lightweight mic with the same element as the Bulletini. You can also choose (for additional cost) vintage elements (commonly Astatic Crystal or Shure CR/CM).



\$258  
**BlowsMeAway Productions**  
**Ultimate 57**

Bullet-like tone with a powerful presence and bass response (especially with small amps). Best suited for more progressive/rock players and those who like to play through effects pedals (traditional blues players commonly don't prefer this mic). Take Bulletizer off and you have a vocal/instrument mic.



\$349  
**Dyna-Mic**  
**Firebird**  
**#1 PICK (For Rack Playing)**

A great sounding (through PA and tube amp) microphone for rack playing that has a system that doesn't get in the way of your lips while playing.

**Reminder** – When you get into the \$250 price range, you can purchase a vintage body (such as the most common Astatic JT30) with a vintage element (most commonly the Shure CR/CM or Astatic Crystal) from a vintage mic seller. This is what most professional players use. The Hohner Harp Blaster HB52 and BlowsMeAway Productions line of mics (Bulletini, Custom Wood Mic, and Ultimate 57) are all considered pro mics as well (most classic blues players prefer vintage mics, but these four mics are respected mics by contemporary players).