

Well-known tunes to play in Major 7th / Country Tuning, 2nd position

Happy Birthday
God Save The Queen
Battle Hymn of the Republic
Sailors Hornpipe
Cheek to Cheek
My Darling Clementine

Where to use it otherwise

This tuning is ideal for accompanying all types of tunes in major keys where the melody is based on the major scale. It's not much use for standard blues unless the accompaniment features the II / V / I type chord sequences often used in jazz . The easiest way to figure out whether to use it or not is to check these three related points:

1. Is the dominant chord (V) major? In blues that's rarely the case, but it's the norm with most folk, country, pop or jazz tunes. Major 7th tuning offers a major dominant V chord, as the major 7th in 5-draw is the major 3rd in that chord.
2. Does the vocal melody use the notes of the major scale? If so, blues scale licks won't sound very good.
3. Does the accompaniment also use the parallel minor chords? Examples would be Heart of Gold, I'm on Fire or As Long As I Can See The Light, but this feature is extremely common outside the pure blues field.

So if your ambition is to learn traditional blues harmonica styles, this isn't for you. But if you're interested in playing or accompanying tunes in many contemporary styles (Americana, country, ballads, pop) it will open up new horizons for you.

This tuning also adds a new dimension the 5th position (Em on a CT harp in C), as the altered note F# in 5-draw is the 2nd in the Em scale, thus avoiding the "Spanish" sound of the F note found here in standard tuning.