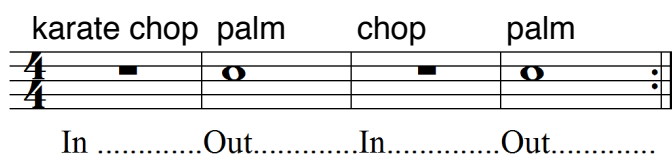


# Trombones - Brass Day 2015

## Part I: Breathing

### 1. Check the sound of your breath - with a “karate chop”

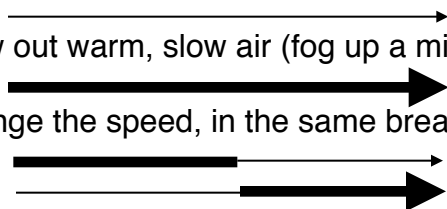
- breathe in past a karate chop and blow wind out onto your palm



Listen to the wind you're making - go for a low, deep, hollow sound (not a high, fast sound)

### 2. Change the speed of the air - to change notes

- blow out cold, fast air (cool off your soup)
- blow out warm, slow air (fog up a mirror)
- change the speed, in the same breath



Think of a garden hose:

- Blow a big hole into your lips and slow down the air for low notes (open ended hose)
- Blow a small hole into your lips and speed up the air for high notes (thumb covering end of hose)

## Part II: Buzzing

Use your mouthpiece by itself to get a focussed buzz going:

- keep your lips closed but teeth open
- start notes with lips closed (Pfffff...) and tonguing (Tfffff...)

### Posture Reminder:

- always sit or stand with good posture
- move your instrument to you, do not move to yourself to your instrument
- set up the music stand so that you can keep good posture, see the music, and

### 1. Buzz a note

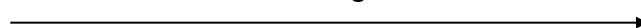
- buzz an easy middle note for as long as you can in one breath



- blow slower, warmer air for a low note



- blow faster, colder air for a high note



### 2. Rollercoaster buzz

- buzz one long note that moves up and down like a rollercoaster



## Part III: Long Tones

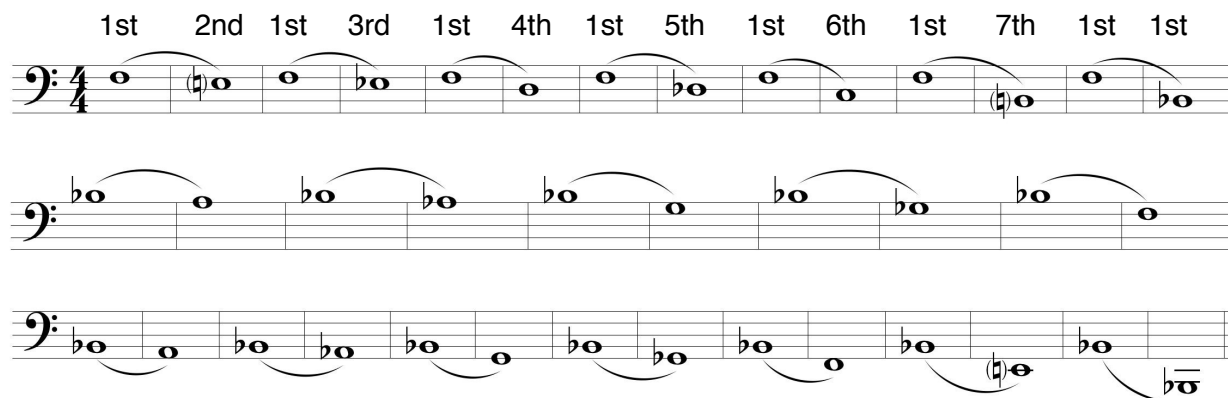
1. Play a note on the trombone for as long as you can in one breath.
2. Switch between low Bb, middle F and middle Bb to practice blowing different airspeeds



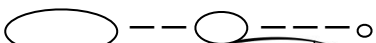
**Experiment:** Try changing your tone. Can you impersonate a pinched tone? Can you make a rich, dark tone?

- Try closing your teeth a bit as you play a long note. Now open your teeth behind your lips a little more than usual.

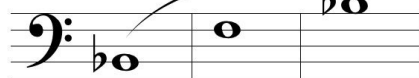
### 3. Long tone pattern:



## Part IV: Lip Slurs

Pitch: Low — Medium — High  
 Air speed: Slow — Medium — Fast  
 Temperature: Hot — Medium — Cold  
 Aperture (hole in lips): 

Music:

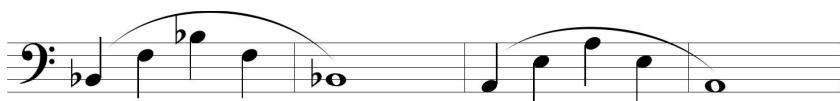


Tongue the first note and then change the notes with just the air and the lips.

### 1. Two-note slur: 1st ----- 2nd ----- (continue)



### 2. Three-note slur: 1st ----- 2nd ----- (continue)



### 3. 4-note slur, 5-note slur (Keep going: 6-, 7-, 8-, 9-, 10-, 11-note slurs)

# Articulation

To start notes clearly, especially after a breath, you must coordinate 3 things:

1. the air - "Fffffff..."
2. the tongue - "Tffffff..."
3. the lips - "Pffffff..."

Think of spitting out a watermelon seed

If your note starts airy, fluffy, or with a crack or split, then these three elements are not lining up

## 1. Focus your articulation

- coordinate the air, tongue, and lips to start each note crystal clear



## 2. Playing fast articulations

- coordinate the air, tongue and lips after each breath
- keep the air moving through all of the notes until the next breath



# Playing Legato on the Trombone

## 1. Legato tonguing

Speak: Ta Da Da Da Da Da...  
 Air only: Tffffff-Dffffff-Dff-Dff-Dff-Dff...



- no space between notes
- the start of the second note is the end of the first note

## 2. Natural slurs and legato tonguing

- Only tongue if you have to tongue to avoid a glissando or a "smear"
- Play each of these with no tongue for the second note:



• Some notes need to be tongued to avoid a smear - **legato tongue**



• Some notes don't need to be tongued at all - **natural slur**



• New notes in the same position don't need to be tongued either - **lip slur**

### 3. Slide speed

- the slide must move lightning-fast and “late,” especially playing legato
- wait to move the slide *as* the next note starts, not *before* the next note starts
- keep the air flow moving forward, especially as the slide is moving
- keep the wrist loose

### 4. Legato playing

Ta Da Da Da Da Da Da                      Ta -----

Ta Da Da---- Ta Da Da----- Da Da-----

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## Scales

Learn scales the following way:

1. Speak the **letter names**, with flats or sharps needed, going up **and down**
2. Name the notes **and show the positions** going up and down
3. Play the notes while **thinking of the note names**

**Musical alphabet:** A B C D E F G A B C D E F G A B C ...

**Order of flats:** B E A D G C F

**Order of sharps:** F C G D A E B

**C = 0**

**F = 1b**

**Bb = 2b**

**Eb = 3b**

**Ab = 4b**

**Db = 5b**

**Gb = 6b**

**Cb = 7b**

**C = 0**

**G = 1#**

**D = 2#**

**A = 3#**

**E = 4#**

**B = 5#**

**F# = 6#**

**C# = 7#**

**Be able to play scales:** Staccato/Regular/Legato/Accented, Soft/Loud, Slow/Fast