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Practical Applications #2

Embouchure Boot Camp

A Progressive Daily Routine for the Serious Instrumentalist

Trombone



Christopher Fogderud - PC Summer 2011

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WARNING!!

YOU ARE ABOUT TO ENLIST IN A HIGHLY EFFECTIVE PROGRAM. IF YOU ARE NOT PREPARED FOR THE FOLLOWING SIDE EFFECTS, CLOSE THIS OPERATIONS MANUAL AT ONCE!

SIDE EFFECTS OF USING THIS BOOK AS DIRECTED:

- 1.A sudden belief that your band director has started to pick easier music
- 2.A sneaking suspicion that band rehearsal has gotten shorter because you haven't even broken a sweat yet.
- 3. A profound distortion of reality what was once fast music is now quite slow and easily played
- 4. "Buff-ness" is evident in the area of the lower face.
- 5. An increased sense of confidence accompanied by a strong desire to play more exciting and challenging music.
- 6. In short YOU WILL BECOME A BETTER PLAYER!





To the enlistee:

Welcome to Embouchure Boot Camp, Private! By enlisting in Boot Camp, you have shown that you are a serious musician who is looking to improve your playing. Before you begin, the Drill Sergeant has some orders:

General Orders No. 1-5

Embouchure Boot Camp - Rules and Regulations

- 1. The musical drills contained in this Boot Camp Operations Manual must be practiced DAILY. You will not find success by returning casually to these exercises. They must be played every day with PURPOSE. Plot your progress using the PROMOTION CHART on page 6. Boot Camp is not a casual experience; it involves commitment...YOU MUST ENLIST!
- 2. None of the drills in Embouchure Boot Camp should be played for the sake of "getting through them." True improvement will result when the drills are played thoughtfully while taking each of the Drill Sergeant's Orders (listed at the beginning of each section of the manual) into careful consideration. The drills must not just be played, but played correctly.
- 3. ALL drills that contain metronome markings MUST be played with a metronome.
- 4. The exercises and drills in the Boot Camp Operations Manual do not consist of an entire practice session. They are meant to give the player a consistent and thorough routine that is played every day before etudes, solos and literature are practiced. The number of drills that are done each day will vary depending on time constraints. A normal routine should take 30 minutes. If the private has only 10 minutes on a particular day, then 1 drill from every section of the manual should be played. At no time should 0 drills be considered - see General Order No. 1.
- 5. A private lesson teacher is strongly encouraged to progress through this manual. However, many situations arise and every effort has been made to give detailed and concise instructions for every drill. If you read these carefully and put them into practice, you should be able to put yourself through boot camp.

Your band is proud of the commitment and dedication that you have already shown by enlisting in Embouchure Boot Camp. You will need to continue to show these traits in order to progress through Boot Camp. Who knows, if you work hard and follow the rules and regulations listed above, you might graduate boot camp with the rank of Command Chief Master Sergeant. Only one question remains: Do you have what it takes?

Sincerely,

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Drill Sergeant Embouchure Boot Camp





To the enlistee:

Consider these guidelines to help yourself stay on track for daily practice:

- ₩ Set a regular time to practice.
- Find a comfortable, well-lit, quiet place to practice, preferably the largest room in the house to help with sound development.
- Practice standing up, not sitting.
- ₩ Use your metronome consistently.

Practicing in short amounts daily is much more preferable than cramming. Developing instrumental technique is much like an exercise workout-teach your muscles by doing a little bit daily.

- Take frequent breaks if you are more advanced and practicing more than 45 minutes per day. Sessions of playing longer than 45 minutes can cause muscular problems such as tendonitis or carpal tunnel syndrome if one does not rest frequently.
- Don't forget that the ultimate goal is not to produce the notes you see on the page as you would type in words on a keyboard. The goal is to produce beautiful music. Never forget to <u>listen</u> to yourself and make <u>music</u> as you practice. Try to mimic the sounds of your favorite players.

To the Commanding Officers of the Household (i.e. Parents):

Congratulations, your student has just enrolled in Embouchure Boot Camp! In order to give your student the best opportunity for success, please consider the following guidelines to assist in the quality of their practice.

- Stay connected. Encourage your student to practice and reward his/her hard work with recognition. Instruments are not quiet, so be sure to support your student's practice time even if you are reading or watching TV.
- Give your student a place to practice that is free of distractions, preferably in the largest room in the house. This will help develop projection by practicing filling up a large space with sound.
- Allow the student to leave the instrument out so it is easily accessible for practice. The safest way to do this is to purchase an instrument stand. Your enlistee will practice more often if the instrument is visible and handy.
- Help your student to stay on track by reminding him/her to practice in a way that helps them to realize their goals. Use language like, "I know it has been a busy day, but if you practice today, you will stay on track to achieve your goal of getting placed in the top band next year."





PROMOTION CHART



Every drill in this book is intended to be played every day as part of a daily practice routine. However, it is more than likely that this will be impossible for the Embouchure Boot Camp enlistee to achieve immediately. Therefore, it is necessary to plot a course through the book starting with the rank of "Private" and ending with the rank of "Command Chief Master Sergeant."

Each exercise in Embouchure Boot Camp is preceded by a military rank insignia. This denotes the difficulty level of each exercise and helps the enlistee (you) chart your progress through boot camp. The chart below lists what Embouchure Boot Camp exercises that need to be performed in order to achieve the different military ranks. All ranks should drill each warm-up (Breathing, Mouthpiece Buzzing, Stretch Drills) every day.

Good Luck on your journey from Private to Command Chief Master Sergeant!

Insignia	Rank	Lip Slurs	Single Tonguing	Double Tonguing	Technical Exercises	Scale Exercises	Date of Pro- motion
*	Private	*	*	*	*	*	
	Private 1 st Class				***		
	Sergeant						
	Staff Sergeant						
	Technical Sergeant						
	Master Sergeant	ALL Tech Srgt Drills at 90% of Top Speed					
	Senior Master Sergeant						
	Chief Master Sergeant						
	Command Chief Master Sergeant	ALL Exercises Performed at Top Speed					





BREATHING



Breathing is the MOST important aspect of brass playing and is the FIRST thing you should practice every day. Great breathing will aid in fixing every playing problem. However, most players never practice their breathing! This breathing drill helps to practice controlling the large amount of air needed to play. The most important part of this drill is to STAY RELAXED. This is especially important during the "suspend" portion of the drill. Suspending the air is NOT holding your breath. Your throat should stay open during this entire drill. Suspend the air by simply not breathing in or out while keeping your muscles totally relaxed. Sniff a small amount of air at the nose to be sure that you are suspending your air and NOT holding your breath.

Drill Sergeant's Orders:

- ➤ Do all five parts of the drill one after another to achieve maximum relaxed respiration. Finish the eight-count drill and go on immediately to the four-count and so on...
- **W** The first part of your body to expand during inhalation is your mid-section.
- During the eight and four-count inhalations, suck in the air at the lips as if you were sipping a milkshake through a straw, slow and steady.
- ₩ For the eight and four-count exhalations, put your embouchure into the playing position with the opening small enough to provide resistance. Blow steadily all the way to the end.
- For the one count inhalations, your mouth should look like you are eating a hot potato in order to inhale quickly.
- Remember to breathe or exhale all the way to the end. Do not allow yourself to stop the breathing motion during this exercise.
- SUSPEND your air; don't hold your breath.

Inhale	Suspend	Exhale	Frequency	
8 counts	8 counts	8 counts (pp)	Do this 2 times	
4 counts	4 counts	4 counts	Do this 3 times	
1 count	4 counts	4 counts	Do this 3 times	
1 count	4 counts	1 count	Do this 4 times	
1 count	(none)	1 count (fff)	Do this 7 times	

Set your metronome to: =60



Some players find it useful to pretend to pull back a bow during inhalation (ready), remaining in the fully extended position during the "suspend" portion (aim), and watching the arrow fly through some far-away target during exhalation (fire!).





MOUTHPIECE BUZZING

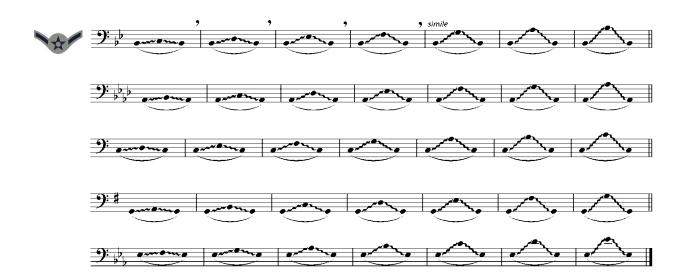


Your first playing of the day should be done on the mouthpiece. The instrument itself just acts as an amplifier for the sound that you produce on the mouthpiece. Therefore, if you have a full rich sound on the mouthpiece, you will have a full rich sound on the instrument. Mouthpiece exercises should be done at a full dynamic level. They are the perfect follow-up to the breathing drill because you will not be able to achieve a full buzzing sound without great breath support, where you can at times get away with less than great breath support while paying the instrument.

Drill Sergeant's Orders:

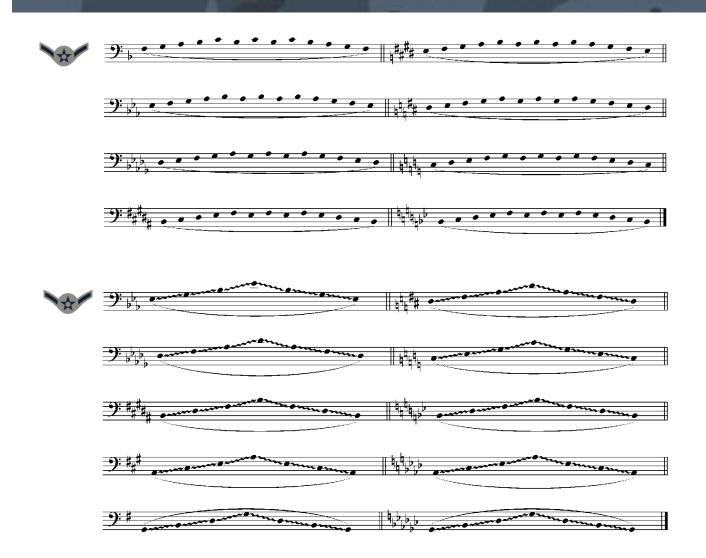
Support your sound at ALL times!

- ✓ Use a piano help with the pitches in each exercise. Play the pitches on piano first, then mimic with the mouthpiece. If you don't have a piano handy, play a reference pitch on you instrument first. (Don't worry about the transposition)
- ₩ Play each drill at a forte dynamic level.
- > Concentrate during the entire drill on achieving a full, even buzz on every note.
- In order to achieve a full buzz, keep a steady embouchure and anchor the mouthpiece on the bottom lip. Use less pressure on your upper lip than on your lower lip. This allows the more pliable lip (upper) the freedom to buzz resulting in a bigger, more focused sound.
- The glissandos are an essential part of this drill. Make them as slow and even as you can. This way you practice bending pitches - a skill necessary to playing in tune in an ensemble.











Jay Friedman

YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT

Great improvement can be achieved by simply listening to great trombone players and trying to mimic their sound.

Listen to one of the greatest trombone players performing today - Jay Friedman. Jay has been the principal trombone of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra since 1964!

In the recording on the right, Jay performs the famous solo in Mahler's Symphony No. 3.

CHECK IT OUT!!







STRETCH DRILLS

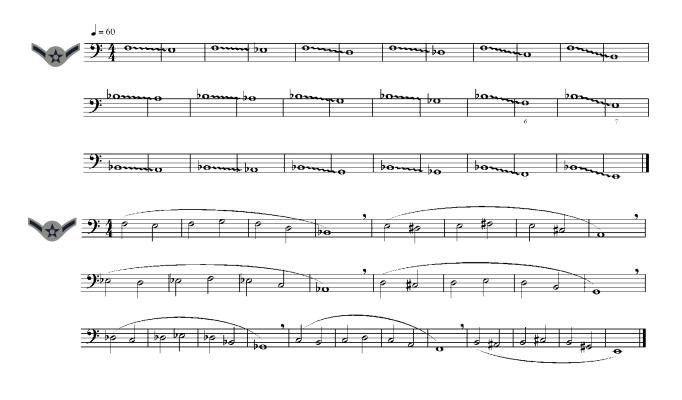


The first notes you play on the instrument should be very relaxing. After your embouchure is warmed-up after the mouthpiece buzzing drills, your lips are ready to produce the first tones of the day. The first notes should start in the comfortable middle range and gradually stretch to the outer registers of the instrument, much like an athlete preparing for a big game. Musicians are, after all, athletes of the small muscles.

Drill Sergeant's Orders:

- ₩ Support your sound at ALL times!
- ₩ Play all stretch drills at a comfortable mezzo forte dynamic.
- We Make sure to keep your air moving forward on the glissandos in the first drill. A crescendo won't be played, but it should be thought.
- The glissando should be played for the entire 4 counts of the measure. This is a transition from the slow even glissando on the mouthpiece to a slow and even glissando on the instrument.
- ₩ Play the first drill with a metronome.
- On the second drill, concentrate on keeping a full sound in all ranges. This drill is meant to be played in free time. If a note does not feel comfortable, hold it until it does.
- ➤ Think about how your favorite trombone player would sound on these warm-ups. These drills are simple for a reason - so you can think about one thing and one thing only ...





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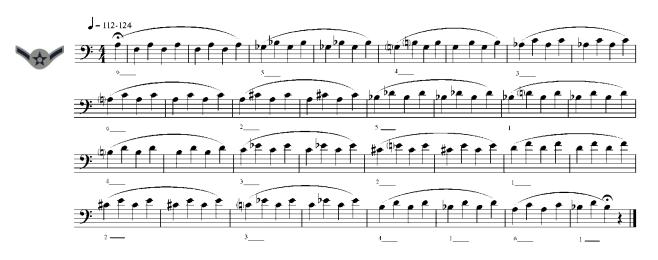
LIP SLURS



Lip slurs are one of the most essential drills in Embouchure Boot Camp. These drills are basically weight lifting for your embouchure; however, care must be taken to use the correct muscles while lifting the weight (slurring to the higher note).

Drill Sergeant's Orders:

- W Support your sound at ALL times!
- Drills must be played with a metronome, making every effort to change pitches precisely on time.
- ₩ All notes must be slurred NO TONGUING
- ✓ Use the first fermata note to "set" the embouchure for the highest note in the slur. (Set the mouthpiece on the bottom lip first) Effort needs to be made to keep the embouchure at this firmness. The lower note is achieved not by loosening the embouchure, but by thinking "oh" inside the mouth. In order to play the higher note, think "ee" inside the mouth. With a consistently firm embouchure, the pattern of "ee-oh-ee-oh" creates the lip slur.
- If soreness is felt after the drill, it should be felt in the corners of the mouth - not the center. If you feel soreness in the center of your mouth, concentrate on playing the lip slurs with the least amount of mouthpiece pressure possible.
- ★ As you get more advanced, concentrate on keeping as open as you can inside your mouth. This means you must have a very strong embouchure and great breath support, but will produce a more beautiful sound.





Christian Lindberg

YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT

Listen to one of the greatest trombone virtuosos ever - Christian Lindberg.

In the recording on the right, "The Virtuoso Trombone," Christian performs a huge variety of music. It contains showpieces like "Blue Bells of Scotland" and "Czardas", but also has the important Hindemith Trombone Sonata and some ballads as well.

CHECK IT OUT!!

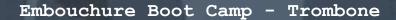




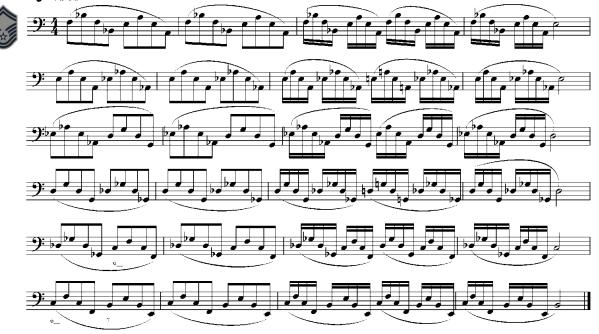
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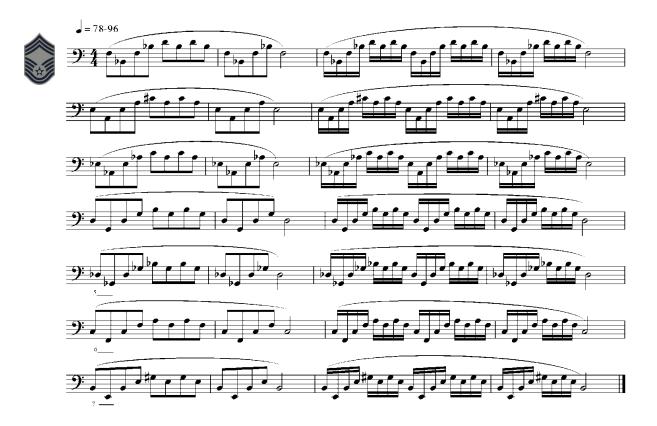
Embouchure Boot Camp - Trombone

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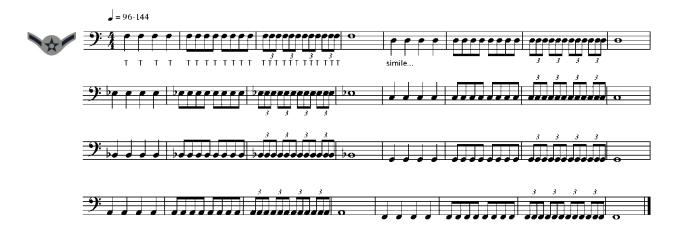
SINGLE TONGUING



Articulation refers to how the player begins and ends a note. Tonguing is a specific kind of articulation that creates a clear start to each note. There are two primary forces at work in this drill that you must coordinate: your air and your tongue. The air must stay constant throughout the exercise while the tongue gently flicks the air-steam.

Drill Sergeant's Orders:

- Support your sound at ALL times! Think about increasing your air speed all the way to the last note.
- ₩ Drills must be played with a metronome.
- Think "tu" for a clear start of each note. Focus on making the "T" very fast but light. The note should start with the "T" articulation then move quickly to a full sound.
- ➤ Tongue BEHIND your top teeth, not in between the teeth. It is "tu," NOT "thu."
- ₩ Perform this drill at many different dynamic levels

















Douglas Wright

YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT

Listen to one of the most beautiful trombone sounds ever - R. Douglas Wright. Doug is the principal trombone of the Minnesota Orchestra and was also the trombone player for the famous Empire Brass Quintet. He has also appeared in an Aerosmith MTV music video ... how many trombonists can say that!

The recording on the right, features some of the most amazing brass quintet playing that you will ever hear.

GET THE CD!







DOUBLE TONGUING



Double tonguing allows the player to attain a much more rapid articulation than single tonguing. It is achieved by alternating the "tu" articulation with a "ku" articulation. Make sure to start out very slow. Speed is not as important as clarity.

Drill Sergeant's Orders:

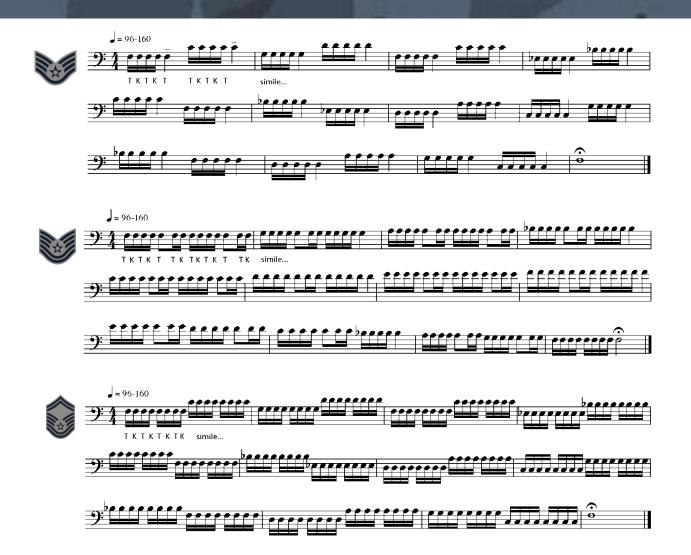
- Support your sound at ALL times! Think about increasing your air speed all the way to the last note.
- ₩ Drill must be played with a metronome at many dynamic levels
- Air pattern each drill away from the instrument first, making sure to use lots of wind. Put your hand 12 inches away from your face and feel the air hit your hand.
- Focus on getting the "ku" articulation to sound just like the "tu" articulation. The secret is to try and make the K sound of the "ku" articulation as fast as you can. It might be necessary to think about accenting the "ku" articulation in the beginning.
- ★ The first drill must be played three times. Focus on creating the same sound, no matter what the articulation.

= 72-112











Joseph Alessi

YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT

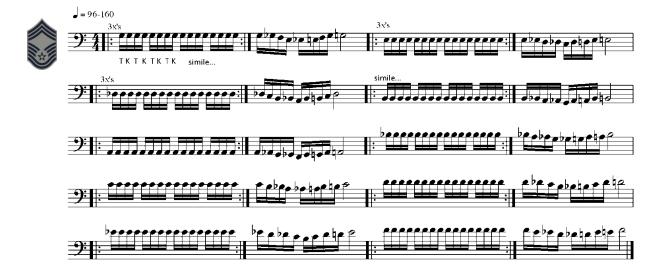
Listen to one of the most influential trombone players performing today - Joseph Alessi. Joe is the principal trombone of the New York Philharmonic.

In the self-titled recording on the right, Joe performs some of the most important trombone solos. Solos that you will be able to play after Boot Camp!

CHECK IT OUT !!









Minnesota Orchestra Low Brass Section Kari Sundström and Doug Wright, trombones; David Herring, bass trombone, Steven Campbell, tuba

YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT

Check out the hometown team! You can listen to all the recordings in the world, but there is nothing that compares to hearing great music played live. Take a trip down to Minneapolis and hear the Minnesota Orchestra's wonderful low brass section.

How would these great players perform the drills in this book?





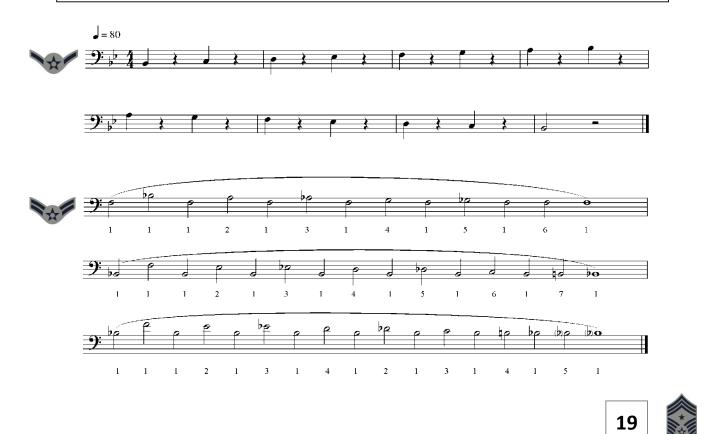
TECHNICAL DRILLS



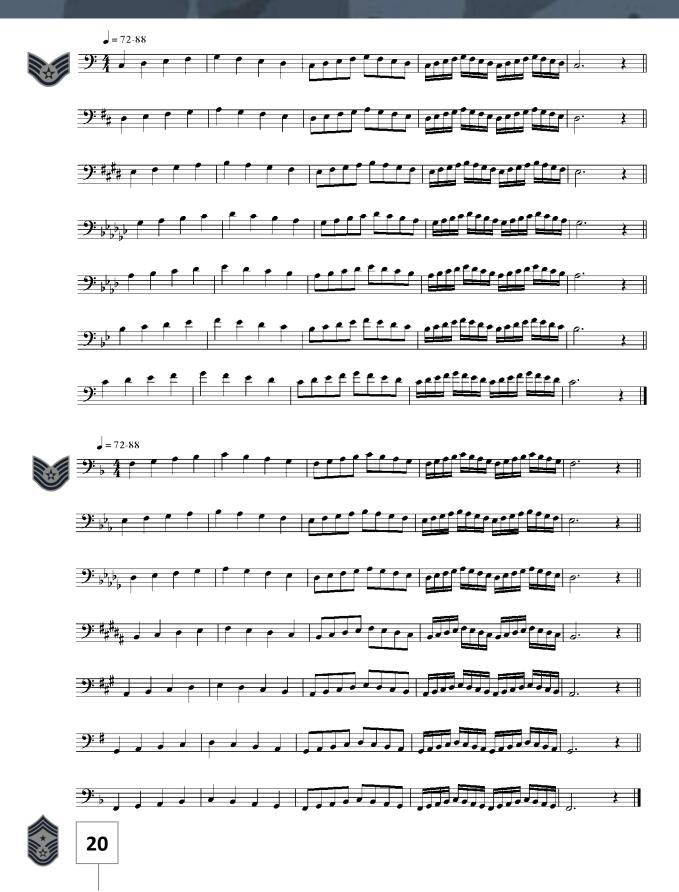
So far in your routine you have worked the embouchure and the tongue. The unique challenge that faces trombone players is to coordinate all of this with the slide. The following drills are created to develop a slide technique that doesn't take away from all of the hard work that you just put into tone and tonguing. Most players incorrectly assume that slide problems are caused by a slow, late slide. The biggest problem is that the slide moves **too early**, causing a scooping sound between notes. Since the slide must remain in the correct position for a particular note until that note is finished, it pays to practice moving the slide *as late as possible*.

Drill Sergeant's Orders:

- TAKE CARE OF YOUR SLIDE!! It is impossible to play with great slide technique when your slide doesn't move properly. Playing with a stiff, uneven slide is the equivalent to a NFL running back trying to play with 20 lb. weights on his shoes!
- The slide should feel as if it moves to the next note when you begin that note. In other words, it moves as late as possible.
- > Don't move your slide during the rests.
- ₩ Make the slide light and quick, never jerky or forced.
- $\$ Drills MUST be practiced with a metronome.
- ➤ The second drill focuses on the "natural slur" on the trombone. This is when the slide is moving outward, and the pitch is moving upward. The reverse of this is also true. Do not use your tongue on the second exercise! Try moving your slide at varying speeds until you find what works for you. You may be surprised by what you learn!







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MAJOR SCALE DRILLS

These drills are the final challenge for your daily routine. Without exercising your abilities in every musical language (key), you will be limited in what you can accomplish as a musician. Scales are the building blocks of all of the music that we play. If you know these scales, everything becomes easier. Music will become easier to play because you have seen the notes before. Basically, when you practice scales, you are travelling into the future. You are making it easier to play music that you will see later. Cool!

Drill Sergeant's Orders:

Support you sound at ALL times!

- Practice all scales with a metronome marking that you are comfortable with and gradually increase the tempo.
- Practice 2 scales a day for 6 days. This way you can get through all 12 in a week! (Gb Major and F# Major are enharmonic scales, meaning that they are spelled differently but sound the same and have the same fingerings. So even though there are 13 scales listed, there are technically only 12 different pitch levels.)
- ✓ Practice your least favorite scales the most! Chances are that you will have your favorite and least favorite scales. Chances are even better that your least favorite scales are the ones that need the most practice. Don't just practice the scales that make you feel good, practice the scales that will make you a better musician.







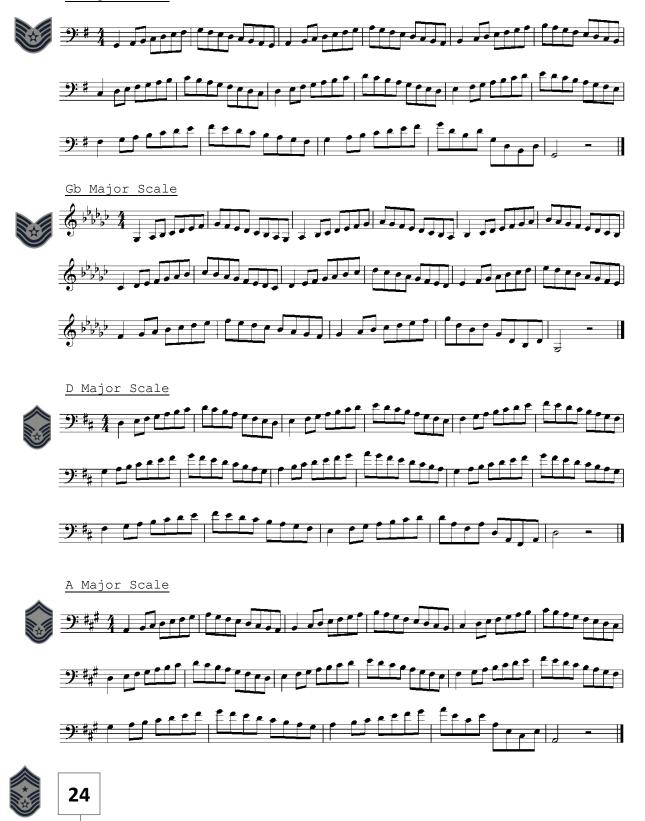
F Major Scale





Embouchure Boot Camp - Trombone

G Major Scale



Embouchure Boot Camp - Trombone







MINOR SCALE DRILLS

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Many students get around to practicing their major scales; many choose to forget about the minor scales. Once again, without exercising your abilities in every musical language (key), you will be limited in what you can accomplish as a musician. The minor scales drills below utilize the melodic version of the minor scale. This means that there is a raised 6th and 7th tone ascending and the entire natural minor scale descending. Since the natural minor scale is just the major scale starting on the 6th note, you have already practiced the natural minor scale. It is the most efficient use of time to drill the melodic minor scale in these studies.

Drill Sergeant's Orders:

Support you sound at ALL times!

- Practice all scales with a metronome marking that you are comfortable with and gradually increase the tempo.
- Practice 2 scales a day for 6 days. This way you can get through all 12 in a week! (Eb Minor and D# Minor are enharmonic scales, meaning that they are spelled differently but sound the same and have the same fingerings. So even though there are 13 scales listed, there are technically only 12 different pitch levels.)

Once again, practice your least favorite scales more than your favorite scales.
 Focus on centering your tone on each note. These scales are more unfamiliar than the major scales so effort must be made to get them "in your ear."

G Minor Scale











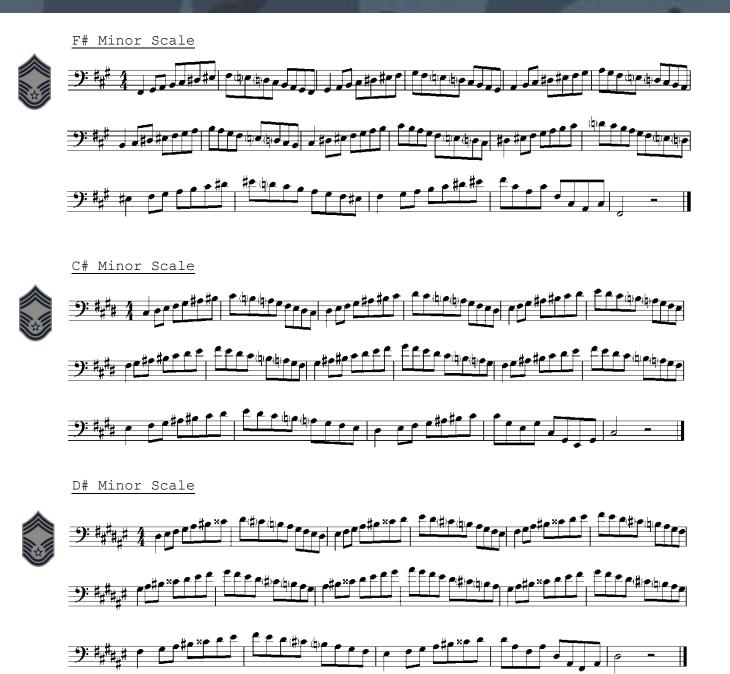
D Minor Scale



Embouchure Boot Camp - Trombone

E Minor Scale









ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Very few of the exercises contained in this book are completely original. Most have been compiled and adapted from proven exercise books from the entire spectrum of brass playing and from the many clinics and supplementary material from the American Band College Summers of 2010 and 2011. Effort was made to pick the most necessary exercises and adapt them to each instrument in the series. The following resources proved immensely helpful:

Advanced Method Vol.1 for French Horn - Rubank
Advanced Method Vol.1 for Trombone and Baritone - Rubank
Advanced Method Vol.1 for Trumpet - Rubank
Advanced Method Vol.1 for Tuba - Rubank
The American Band College Summer 2010 Notebook and Clinics
 Sam Pilafian and Patrick Sheridan - Tuba
 Bruce Heim - Horn
The American Band College Summer 2011 Notebook and Clinics
 Randy Adams - Trumpet
 Jeff Bianchi - Horn
Michael Levine - Trombone
Complete Conservatory Method for Cornet - J.B. Arban
Six Days "Daily Routines for Trombone" - Scott Moore

Technical Studies for Cornet - H.L. Clarke

Technical Studies Book 1 - Allen Vizzutti

