

Trombone Lesson Plan

Embouchure & Buzzing

- Natural unexpressive facial expression
- I – M – P
- Make buzzing sound without mouthpiece

Add mouthpiece

- 50/50 – mouthpiece centered over both lips
- Firm corners slightly lowered, flat chin
- Only enough pressure to seal mouthpiece rim to lips
- Make some sirens – move pitch up and down

Hand position & Posture

Always lock slide lock

Never trust slide lock

- Left Hand
 - Make finger gun
 - Thumb cradles lower bell brace
 - Index finger should rest on mouthpiece body
 - Remaining 3 fingers comfortable grasp inner slide brace on the hand slide (closest to mouthpiece)
 - Pinky can be used as slide lock
- Don't let trombone rest on shoulder when in playing position
- Hold elbows out slightly away from body
- Slight downward angle
- Right Hand
 - Responsible for hand slide and spit valve.
 - Pointer and middle fingers side-by-side resting on pad of thumb
 - Place hand in that position onto the lower portion of the outer hand slide brace (closest to the ground when in playing position)
 - Pinky and ring finger rest gently on the underside of the slide
 - Palm faces the mouthpiece (as much as comfortable)
- Loose wrist movement – glides freely

Making sound on instrument

- Good posture – sitting up straight on edge of chair
- Bring up instrument to playing position – keep slide lock locked
- Form embouchure, inhale relaxed air from corners of mouth
- Buzz into mouthpiece – pretending to blow out candles across the room
- Steady and fast air should produce one of three notes: low Bb, fourth line F, or Bb above the staff in bass clef (low – middle – high) (dah – dooh – deeh)

Slide Positions

- 1st – all the way in
- 2nd – can see about an inch of side tubing
- 3rd – just before the bell
- 4th – just past the bell
- 5th – between 4 & 6
- 6th – comfortable arm's length (most people)
- 7th – all the way out, just past the stockings (raised area)