

TROMBONE SKILLS CHECKLIST

ASSEMBLY

- 🍌 Open case with the “lid-side up,” on the floor—be careful!
- 🍌 Join the slide and bell sections at approximately a 90° angle. Tighten firmly, but do not overtighten.
- 🍌 Gently twist the mouthpiece in place. Do not “tap” on the mouthpiece, or it will become stuck.
- 🍌 Tuning slide (top) should always be pulled out about ½ to ¾ of an inch.

CARE

- 🍌 Wipe off the **exterior** of the instrument with a soft cloth after each use (remove finger oils).
- 🍌 Clean out the **mouthpiece** and **lead pipe** (soap/water/brush) at least once per week.
- 🍌 Always protect the **slide** by using the slide lock when not playing. Occasionally wipe the slide clean with a soft lint-free cloth, then apply a few drops of new oil. If you choose to use slide cream instead, simply apply the cream and occasionally mist with water.

NOTE: Wash the **inside of the instrument** (including the slide) every month or two using your snake brush and warm, soapy water. Lay all parts out on a towel to dry. Grease the tuning slide & re-install. NEVER: set your instrument on a music stand or chair, balance it on the floor, store extra items in the case that might press against the instrument and cause damage, play the instrument right after eating/drinking/chewing gum (rinse your mouth with water before playing).

POSTURE/BREATHING

- 🍌 Sit up straight, feet flat on the floor, on front 6-8 inches of the chair
- 🍌 Arms relaxed and held out slightly from torso (arms should not touch your body).
- 🍌 Hold the instrument slightly less than parallel to the floor. Leave plenty of room in front of you!
- 🍌 Take deep, “tummy” breaths --let “old air” out before inhaling. Breathe through the mouth, not nose.

HAND POSITIONS

- 🍌 Hold the instrument in the left hand with index finger on or near the lead pipe.
- 🍌 The left “thumb pit” contacts the bell brace. Fingers 2-4 go through the “square” in the top of the slide.
- 🍌 Hold the slide with the right thumb and first two fingers (not entire fist).
- 🍌 Keep the right hand fingers and thumb away from bell—do not touch bell to “mark” 3rd/4th positions.
- 🍌 Keep the right hand roughly perpendicular to the slide, and play using a loose & flexible wrist motion.
- 🍌 Demonstrate the correct locations for each slide position: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, (7)

TONE PRODUCTION

- 🍌 Correct embouchure (mouth muscle) formation:
 - Whistle & smile at the same time; imagine tasting a sour lemon (without wrinkling your nose).
 - **Corners** firm and down. **Cheeks** “glued” to teeth. **Chin** smooth and flat.
 - **Teeth** will be kept slightly **apart** (never clenched shut).
 - Place the mouthpiece in the **center of lips**, 50% on upper lip and 50% on lower lip (approx.).
 - **Relax** throat, jaw and chin muscles.

- Deep breath! Fill lungs from the bottom up, like a glass of water. Inhale “HOW”, exhale “TOO”.
- 🍎 Wet your lips!
- 🍎 Create a smooth, clear BUZZ sound on the mouthpiece alone. 1) mid-range tone, 5 seconds long 2) mid-range tone that rises, then falls 3) “siren” sound (low-high-low) 4) play a familiar tune.
- 🍎 Good, clear “TOO” sound on repeated notes, always starting with TIP OF TONGUE on upper gum line.
- 🍎 Mirror check: ELIMINATE bunched-up chin, puffy cheeks, embouchure leaks, droopy posture, etc.
- 🍎 Hold a tone for 6 seconds or longer (any note). Next goal: 10 seconds.
- 🍎 Low notes: TOH vowel, hot/soggy air, corners relaxed; middle range notes: TOO vowel; high notes: TEE vowel, fast/cold air, smaller “buzz area”, corners contract.
- 🍎 Pass “chin test”: play 10 or more 8th notes while touching your chin with your free hand. GOAL: ZERO chin movement.

SCALES (found on page 42 of the Standard of Excellence book)

CONCERT B-FLAT MAJOR SCALE

- 🍎 Notes 1-5, half notes ↑ and ↓.
- 🍎 Notes 1-8, half notes ↑ and ↓.
- 🍎 Notes 1-8, quarter notes (as written) ↑ and ↓.
- 🍎 **Arpeggio**, quarter notes.
- 🍎 **Thirds**, quarter notes.
- 🍎 **MASTER LEVEL**: Full scale with arpeggios and thirds (both lines), 100 bpm or faster.

CONCERT E-FLAT MAJOR SCALE

- 🍎 Notes 1-8, half notes ↑ and ↓.
- 🍎 Notes 1-8, quarter notes (as written) ↑ and ↓.
- 🍎 **Arpeggio**, quarter notes.
- 🍎 **Thirds**, quarter notes.
- 🍎 **MASTER LEVEL**: Full scale with arpeggios and thirds (both lines), 100 bpm or faster.

CONCERT F MAJOR SCALE

- 🍎 Notes 1-8, quarter notes (as written) ↑ and ↓.
- 🍎 **Arpeggio**, quarter notes.
- 🍎 **Thirds**, quarter notes.
- 🍎 **MASTER LEVEL**: Full scale with arpeggios and thirds (both lines), 100 bpm or faster.

CONCERT A-FLAT MAJOR SCALE

- 🍎 Notes 1-8, quarter notes (as written) ↑ and ↓.
- 🍎 **Arpeggio**, quarter notes.
- 🍎 **Thirds**, quarter notes.
- 🍎 **MASTER LEVEL**: Full scale with arpeggios and thirds (both lines), 100 bpm or faster.