# Sample pages from... Brad Edwards

# Trombone Craft

Complete Version (Volumes 1-3 combined)

# A musical approach to building tone and technique

Tenor Trombone (with F-attachment)

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### **Trombone Craft Complete**

We all need to build tone and technique. Why not do it in a musical way? Instead of pounding away at a mindless scale pattern, why not play a piece that uses lots of scales? Unlike other technique books, this book was designed for trombone from the ground up.

#### Quick summary:

Motivation through musical interest

If students like a piece musically, they are more likely to spend extra time polishing it.

Ideas are linked and reinforced

After a page helping students develop D in alternate 4th, two short pieces in E-flat major are presented.

Pieces of reasonable length

In a lesson, time is precious. These exercises get to the point quickly using short exercises and half-page etudes.

• A greater variety of key signatures

*Doesn't get stuck in that B-flat / E-flat rut.* 

• Help with rhythm

Some pages focus in on common rhythm trouble spots, such as the dotted-eighth sixteenth.

Cross-referencing to other books

A big time-saver in lessons! Quick, where can you find etudes that help build the D-flat major scale? After the two that appear in this book you'll see cross-references to: Bleger's 31 Studies #12; Hering's 40 Progressive Etudes #28 and #36 and Voxman's Selected Studies, p.22

Patterns to be memorized

Scale and arpeggio patterns with musical shape.

- Length: 50 pages
- Special appendices to help with special areas including:
  - o **Developing the legato tongue** {appendix one}
  - o **Developing the high range** {appendix two}
  - o **Developing the double tongue** {appendix three}
  - o **Scale Patterns** {appendix four}

OK, so you don't want to miss out on the traditional "grunt work" of scale patterns, don't worry.

• Long Tones and Tuning Exercises {appendix five}

Includes exercises to be played over a tuning drone and exercises designed for use with a tuner.

o *Flow Exercises (sing, buzz, play)* {appendix six} Good for warming up, warming down, improving tone, reducing tension.

#### **How to Order Trombone Craft Complete:**

Available for \$35. This book can be ordered using PayPal through the BoneZone.org website. Questions? Email me: brad "at" bonezone.org

#### **Foreword:**

It was with great pleasure that I accepted Brad Edwards' request to write this forward for his wonderful book. When I listen to my colleagues at the New York Philharmonic warm up and practice on a daily basis, I realize that we all share one thing in common; a steady diet of logical exercises and scale patterns. Faithfully repeated, those "go to" technical routines maintain my colleagues' high level of artistry. This collection of excellent exercises by Brad Edwards gives new fuel to propel our daily routines. Professor Edwards presents these studies using the same concepts of natural slurs and alternate positions that I use in my own playing. To my amazement, I consistently find in my experiences teaching around the world how often trombonists neglect using natural slurs. Too frequently, players do not even know what a natural slur is or where it occurs on the horn.

Practicing with attention and care is not unlike taking a daily vitamin. A regular visit to this book will undoubtedly help you to play more evenly and consistently and, when used in the precise way that Edwards suggests, will result in your overall improvement. Strengthening your embouchure, increasing your flexibility, improving your slide technique, improving your intonation are direct benefits, plus those resulting from exercises he created for the extreme low and high range. I have been using this collection for quite some time and travel with it often as it fits very nicely in my gig bag. I highly recommend this book to all students and professionals. Bravo Professor Edwards!

Joseph Alessi Principal Trombone, New York Philharmonic Juilliard School

#### **About This Book:**

Why write another technique book? I've seen many books of technical studies but have yet to encounter one that builds technique in a way that is both methodical and musically satisfying. Technique only has value in serving a musical goal. Another concern with many of the existing technical studies, such as the revered Arban's Method, is that they were originally written for other instruments and don't always address the specifics of our instrument, such as alternate positions or optimal tessitura.

#### My goal:

# Create musically satisfying material specifically designed to build trombone technique.

*Trombone Craft: Complete* combines three separate volumes published previously. It is designed as a progressive method targeted to high school or college trombone students but can also be useful for professionals as well.

Trombone Craft represents the conclusion of a 'trilogy' of sorts:

- 1. Lip Slurs
- 2. Simply Singing for Winds
- 3. Trombone Craft

These books are meant to complement each other in helping trombonists build a solid, well-rounded technical and musical foundation.

#### **How to Use this Book:**

Here are some general guidelines:

- 1. <u>Technique serves the musical goal</u>. With any of these studies, make a *musical* statement. Be a performer, not a machine.
- 2. <u>Tension is the enemy</u>. Don't just play fast and tense; be very aware of your tension level. Seek to play effortlessly.
- 3. <u>Be Patient</u>. Start slowly and build up. Don't choose a tempo that leads to a sloppy outcome. It takes as long as it takes.

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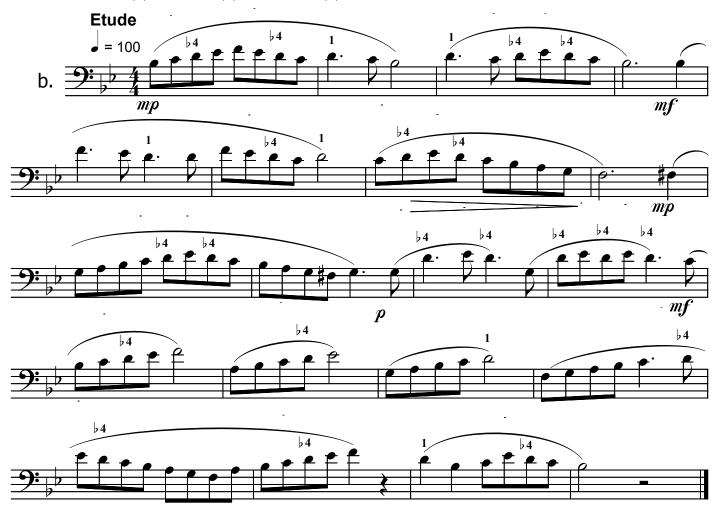
#### #1.2 Tech Builder: D in lowered 4th position

The 6th partial D in 4th position (lowered because it is usually sharp) is a useful passing tone or neighbor tone in the vicinity of E-flat.

**Tuning Exercise** (Use a tuner but don't stare at it. Listen first, then look)



There is only one rule when choosing positions: <u>use what will sound best</u>. Here's the catch: an alternate position might not sound better until you've practiced it enough! In general, alternates might be better for notes that are (1) smoother, (2) shorter, and (3) softer.



#### **#1.3 Two Pieces in E-flat major**

Not all of the alternate positions have been marked in. Apply what you have learned to decide when to use D in lowered 4th.

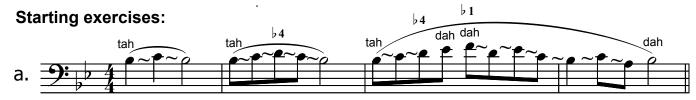


<u>See also:</u> Bleger 31 Studies #7, Bordogni Melodious Etudes, Bk. 1 #6, #31; Hering 40 Progressive Etudes, #22; Kopprasch 60 Studies, Bk.1 #9 [tenor clef],

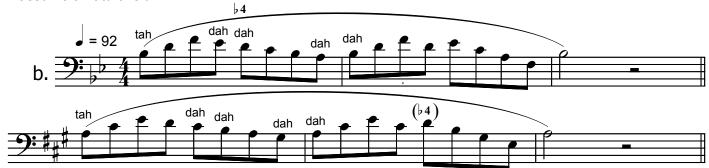
#### **#1.4 Tech Builder: Using Natural Slurs in Legato**

There are two schools of thought concerning the use of natural slurs: (1) legato tongue everything for consistency and (2) use natural slurs whenever possible to keep the tongue out of the airstream. I advise this: when practicing, use natural slurs because they will help you refine embouchure control. When performing, use whatever sounds best.

In these exercises, play close attention to the articulation marks. The tilde symbol (~) indicates a natural slur between notes. When playing a natural slur, move the slide quickly and lightly without tonguing.



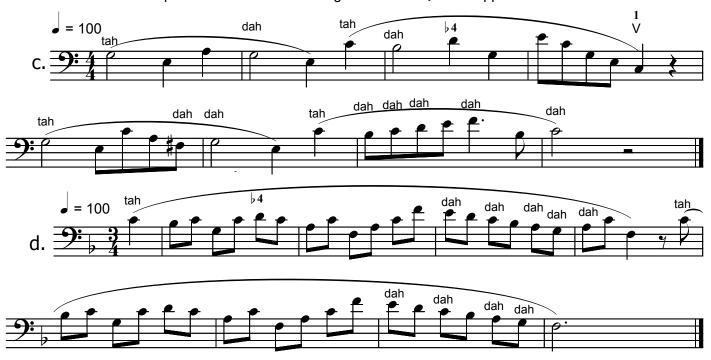
To keep the page from getting too crowded, I won't use the "~" anymore. If you don't see "tah" or "dah," assume a natural slur.



Yes, that D in 4th is a bit unusual but it offers the advantage of a natural slur to the following B.



Here are two short excerpts from the famous Bordogni vocalises. Lots of opportunities for natural slurs.



#### **#1.12 Intervals: Expanding Patterns up to One Octave**

Remember these words of wisdom: "Practice fast, progress slow. Practice slow, progress fast." Check your embouchure corners in a mirror as you play this. Strive for an "efficient" embouchure which doesn't move too much as you articulate leaps. You'll probably see some movement. Over time, see if you can get the same results with less movement. Be patient, it takes time.



#### #1.15 Rhythm Builder: The Dotted Eighth-Sixteenth Rhythm

Few rhythms are performed incorrectly as often as the dotted-eighth sixteenth. The most common error is a "one-size-fits-all" sixteenth note which ends up being too fast in slow tempos and too slow in fast tempos

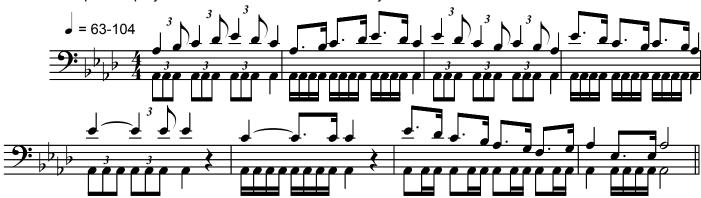
#### **Basic rhythm exercise**

Try this at a variety of tempos. Make sure the sixteenth note is accurate.



#### **Accuracy Duet**

Have a partner play the bottom line to ensure accuracy.



#### **Etude**

It is often harder to maintain accuracy on longer strings of dotted rhythms.





<u>See also</u>: Bleger 31 Studies #19; Blume 36 Studies #11, #12, #21; Bordogni Melodious Etudes #28 (#30); Hering 40 Progressive Studies #26; Kopprasch 60 Selected Studies, Bk. 1, #26; Tyrell 40 Progressive Studies #7; Voxman Selected Studies p.14. Free sample pages - Trombone Craft

# 22. #1.21 Two Pieces in D-flat Major



See also: Bleger 31 Studies #12; Hering 40 Progressive Etudes #28 #36; Voxman Selected Studies, p.22 Free sample pages - Trombone Craft

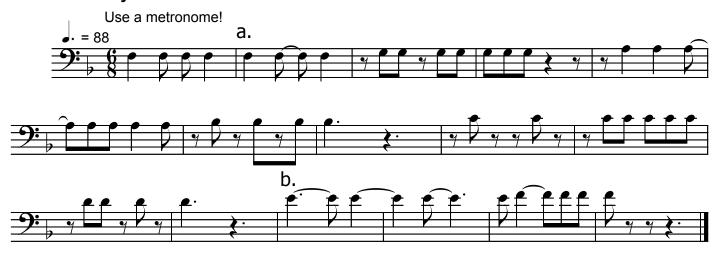
#### #2.3 A Piece in Two Keys: A-flat and A major

Can you play this just as well in the sharp key? **3** = 92 mp See also: Tyrell 40 Progressive Studies #14 = 92 mp

<u>See also</u>: Bordogni Melodious Etudes, Bk.1, #33 #50 #56; Tyrell 40 Progressive Studies, #25; Voxman Selected Studies p.43;

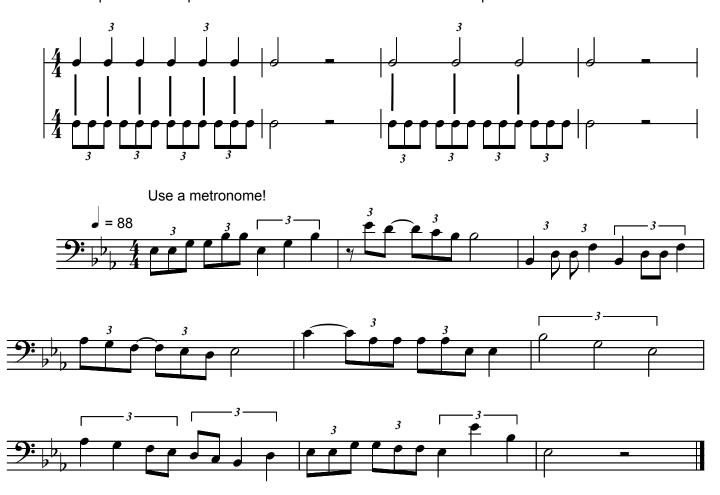
#### #2.7 Rhythm Builder: 6/8 Syncopations, Quarter Note Triplets, Half Note Triplets

#### **Basic Rhythm Exercise**



#### **Developing the Quarter Note and Half Note Triplets**

The trick to placing the second and third notes of these longer triplets is simply to know where each note falls in relation to the beat. Some fall as triplet pick-ups to a downbeat ("ba-oom") and others fall as the triplet after the downbeat ("oom-ba"). Notice in the Basic Rhythm Exercise above that letter "a" is the same as a quarter note triplet and letter "b" is the same as a half note triplet.



#### **#2.14 Memorize This: Melodic Minor**

From here on, you will begin to see tenor clef more often.

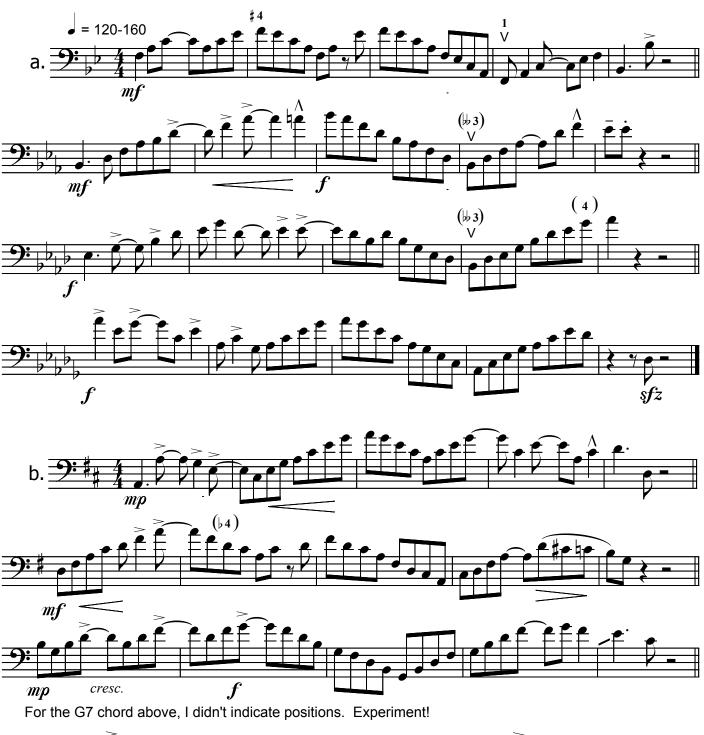


### #2.15 "Two-Line" Tunes: Melodic Minor



#### #2.23 One-Line Tunes: Dominant 7th Chords with Syncopation

These lend themselves well to swung eighth notes and semi-legato tonguing. You can also substitute key signatures for extra practice (for example, line 2 in E instead of E-flat)





#### #3.1 Two Pieces in C Major



 $\underline{\text{See also}}\text{: Bordogni/Rochut,} \\ \text{Melodious Etudes Bk. 1, \#9, \#37; Tyrell 40 Progressive Studies, \#6; Voxman Selected Studies, p.18}$ 

#### #3.8 Rhythm Builder: Beat Subdivisions

To help develop the 'feel' of the quintuplet, try thinking of a word with five syllables. I prefer to use "university." This word breaks naturally into a 2+3 grouping. For a 3+2 feel, you might try, "merrily rolling."



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#### #3.12 Rhythm Builder: Metric Challenges

Newer compositions often use unusual and/or changing time signatures. The assumption with shifting meters is a constant subdivision throughout, such as steady eighth or sixteenth notes.



For some reason, composers often notate in a manner that is impressive to the eye but hard on the brain. Here is the exact same rhythm notated differently. It looks more sophisticated but won't sound different.



Compound time signatures are a conveniant shorthand to make the page less crowded. "A" and "B" sound the same.



#### **Etude**

If you're confused, write in vertical lines for groups of two and triangles for groups of three. Professionals do this, why not you?



#### #3.15 "Two-Line" Tunes: Broken Arpeggios

You can practice these fast and sloppy or slow and accurate. Which do you think yields more benefit?



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### #3.21 Three Short Pieces with Diminished 7th Chords



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#### **Appendix 1: Developing the Legato Tongue**

#### **App 1.1: First Exercises**

Think of a very light "d" in "dah" with minimal interruption in the air. Use only enough "d" to prevent it from sounding like a long tone.

#### Blowing, then buzzing on the mouthpiece

Just blow air (no buzzing). Use the back of your hand to feel a steady breeze.

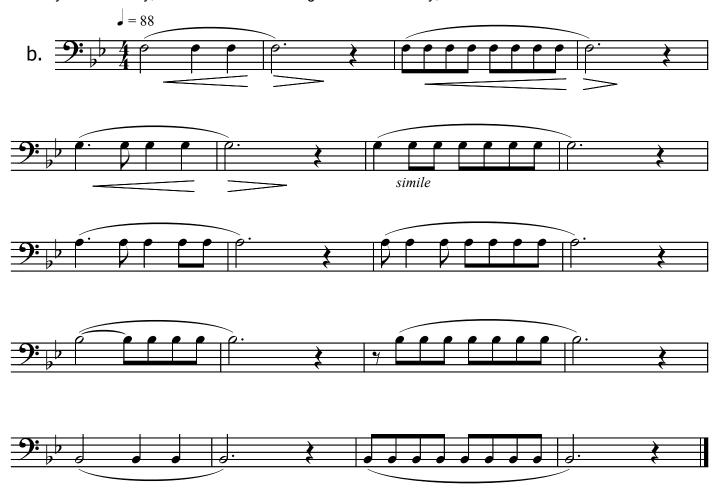


Buzz the mouthpiece with steady air blowing against back of the hand.



#### On the trombone

Play with a steady, beautiful sound. As singers sometimes say, "Put the vowel on the downbeat."



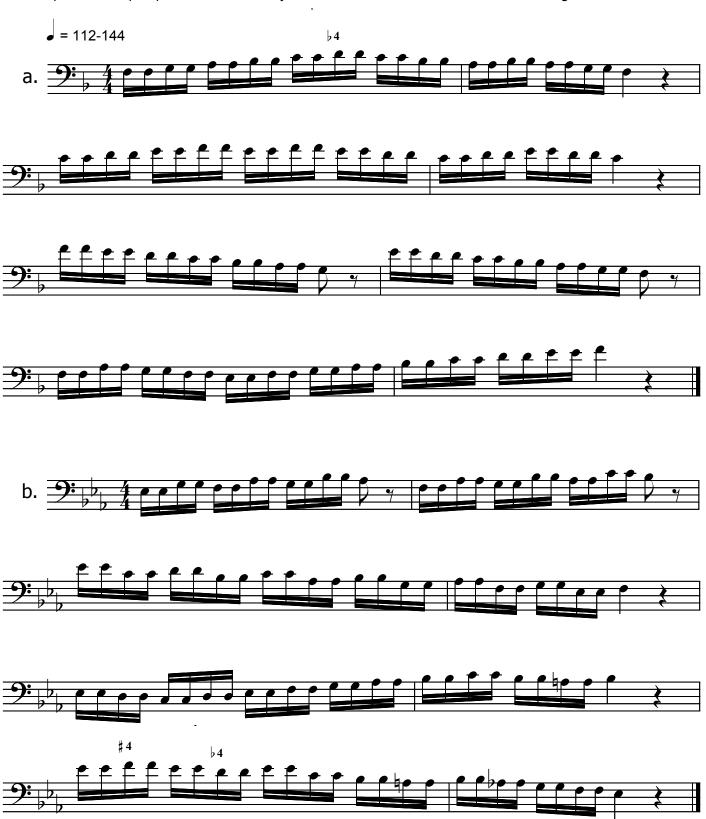
# Appendix 2: Double Tonguing App 2.2: Developing the "taka" Alternation with Some Slide movement

Make the "tah" and "kah" sound the same. If you wish, you may try the syllables "dah" and "gah." Get the quality first and the speed will come. Relaxation is key.



# Appendix 2: Double Tonguing App 2.4: Two-Note Patterns

These patterns help improve slide accuracy. Make sure the slide moves at the exact right moment.



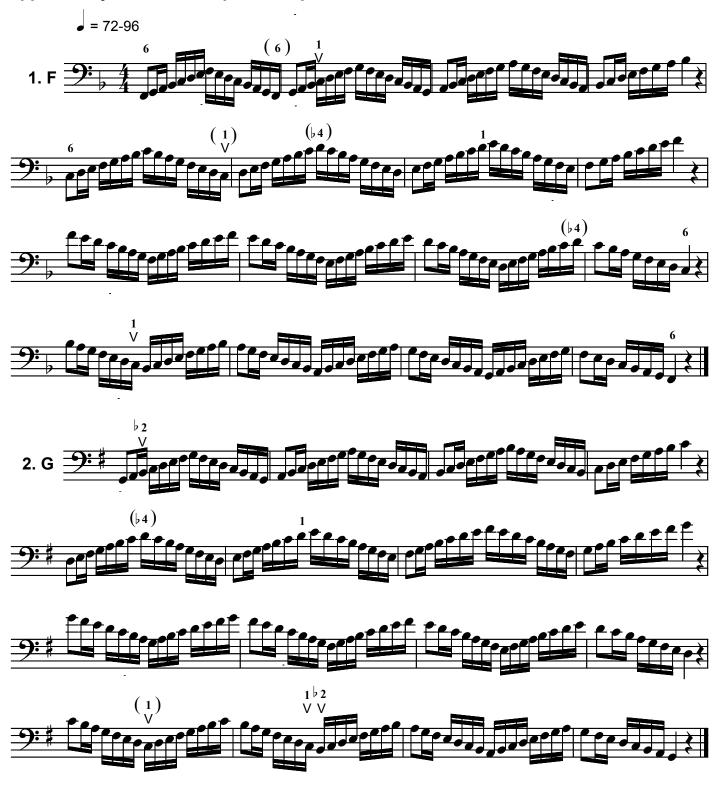
# Appendix #3: Triple Tonguing App 3.1: Developing the TripleTongue

Put the "kah" on the third note of the triplet, not the second. This makes the downbeat stronger.



#### **Appendix 4: Pattern-Building**

#### App 4.2: Major Scales - Stepwise Sequence



When a quick change of slide direction is needed, it is usually easier "bounce out" from a close position than to "snap back" from a long position where the elbow is already extended.

# Appendix 4: Pattern-Building App 4.5: Varied Scale Patterns

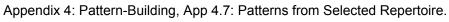
Think about alternate positions with these.



Remember that the lower notes thrive on warmer, less forceful air.

Appendix 4: Pattern-Building
App 4.6: Varied Arpeggio Patterns







Continued on the next page...

### Appendix #5: Interval Accuracy

#### **App 5.3: Expanding Scales**

Keep the notes full in tone. Don't let them become too pecky (starved for air).



See also: Kopprasch Sixty Selected Studies, Bk 1 #29; Bk 2 #50



# Appendix 7: Tone and Tuning App 7.3: Working with a Drone

As you detune, you will hear "beats." Faster beats mean you are farther out of tune. Gliss slowly enough that you can really hear the beats change. Listen for that moment when the two notes lock into place.



# Appendix 7: Tone and Tuning App 7.11: Two-Voice Chorale, "Nun danket alle Gott"

Play these slowly enough to really hear the intonation!



# Appendix 7: Tone and Tuning App 7.12:Two-Voice Bordogni Reductions

These duets have a variety of applications. They can stand alone as simple duets to provide intonation practice or the bass line can work as an accompaniment to the corresponding "Rochut" etude. If you wish to play along with the existing "Rochut" etude, you will find references to line numbers: L1, L2, etc. As of 2012, Carl Fischer has released a newer version of these vocalises. The new edition sometimes places the music on different lines. In the line number references below, the small italic numbers (L1) refer to the older edition. The larger, bold numbers (L1) refer to the newer edition. This new edition sometimes includes additional measures rest or even doubles certain measures. Those changes are marked with an asterisk.



#### Appendix 8: Flow Exercises (sing, buzz, play)

The essential thing when you play any instrument is to keep your "singing mind" awake. As Arnold Jacobs put it, be a great singer in your mind and let your instrument reflect this. Pick any tune and sing or buzz it before playing it on your instrument. Don't worry if it doesn't feel the same as when you play; that's not the important thing. Instead, focus on how you want it to sound. By going back and forth between your instrument and singing/buzzing, you can develop a more natural singing approach without focusing too much on mechanics.

When buzzing, take a deep relaxed breath and buzz with an easy sound. Don't force. A good buzz is a happy balance between the extremes of tight/constricted and loose/airy. In legato, keep a nice steady stream of air flowing. You can get feedback by holding tissue paper or a pinwheel in front of the mouthpiece (an incentive spirometer is also useful for this). I prefer not to tongue when buzzing legato.

Here is a useful trick: as you are taking the mouthpiece out or putting it back into the trombone, use that 'transition time' to sing a few notes. This is very good for the ear.

Below each sing/buzz/play line you will see chord changes which can be played on the piano. If you have a keyboard available, play the chords while singing or even while buzzing. Hearing those chords provides an excellent reference to train your ear.

The patterns presented are relatively simple. However you can be creative and make up your own patterns. A wonderful exercise is to simply play a chord on the piano and then make up melodies that fit within that harmony.

At times, these patterns may not fit within your vocal range. For female voices, simply sing up an octave as needed. However, continue to buzz/play in the printed octave. For male voices, learn to use your falsetto or "head voice" to extend your range higher without straining.

These kinds of patterns can also be useful in a warm-up or warm-down routine.

I have written another book, <u>Simply Singing for Winds</u>, which is a large collection of simple tunes, most of which are ideally suited to this "sing, buzz, play" approach.

# Appendix 8: Flow Exercises (sing, buzz play) App 8.1: Neighbor Tones

The primary goal of flow exercises is the development of an <u>easy, beautiful tone</u>. As you change notes, don't tongue. Choose a leisurely tempo.



This is a free sample of a book by Brad Edwards (I sure hope you didn't pay for it!).

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Thanks.

- Brad Edwards TromboneZone.org HornBonePress.com



### **Books by Brad Edwards**

#### The Intermediate Trombonist (132 pages)

Building blocks for Tone and Technique

#### Simply Singing for Winds (114 pages)

A wellspring of simple melodies to sing, buzz, play.

#### Trombone Craft (169 pages) / Bass Trombone Craft (185 pages)

A musical approach to building tone and technique.

#### Lip Slurs (84 pages)

In three sections: slow slurs, fast slurs and lip slur melodies.

#### Lip Slur Melodies (132 pages)

Lyrical melodies and duets, using just natural slurs.

### Patterns and Snippets (180 pages)

A musical approach to scales and arpeggios.

#### Tuning Drone Melodies (134 pages)

Music to be played over tuning drones; for one or more instruments.

#### Introductory Studies in Tenor and Alto Clef (56 pages)

A good first clef book to precede the Blazhevich Clef Studies.



#### New!

#### 24 Concert Pieces by Brad Edwards

- A collection of solos starting at the intermediate level and progressing in difficulty.
- Currently available for tenor trombone, bass trombone, tuba and horn (and maybe even trumpet someday)
- Each piece has a reasonable piano part.
- Each piece presents a variety of musical styles.
- Useful for solo and ensemble festivals.
- Free samples available on the TromboneZone.org and HornbonePress.com websites.

#### Volume One

[approximate timings shown in brackets]

- #1 Andante con moto [3:30]
- #2 Allegretto Andante Allegro giocoso [3:40]
- #3 Noble Lyrical [4:00]
- #4 March [3:20]
- #5 Alla Tango [3:40]
- #6 Singing Driving Dancing [4:10]
- #7 Scherzando Tranquillo [3:30]
- #8 Mysterioso Giocoso [3:40]
- #9 Piacevole Vigoroso [3:40]
- #10 With Confidence With Yearning [4:20]
- #11 Expansive Carefree [3:40]
- #12 Wistful Playful Joyful [3:30]

#### Volume Two

- #13 Scherzando Cantabile [3:30]
- #14 Espressivo Dramatico [4:10]
- #15 Floating Dancing [4:15]
- #16 Relentless Wistful Impish [4:30]
- #17 Impetuoso Serioso [3:50]
- #18 Grooving Haunting [4:00]
- #19 Pesante Scherzando Waltz [4:00]
- #20 Dream Scene Chase Scene [4:15]
- #21 Spirited gallop Woeful lament (Ironic Waltz) [5:10]
- #22 Insistently Tenderly [4:45]
- #23 Funebre Imponente [4:45]
- #24 Driving Dreaming [5:15]

Keep an eye out for recordings and videos of these pieces (including the piano part alone). On Youtube, search for Hornbone Press.