FRENCH HORN BOOK 1

Instrument Sidekick
Opening the Case

- On a flat surface.
- Handle is underneath the opening.
- Lifting the latch.
- Uh oh! It will probably fall off Mr. Archie’s lap. It’s NOT a flat surface.
Let’s Start with Just the Mouthpiece!!

Hold here.

Lick your lips. Put your lips together like when you hum MMmmmm.

Keep your jaw down. There should be space between your teeth.

You’ll need to buzz, not just blow. Use fast air, like you were blowing up a balloon or through a straw.
Buzzing on the Mouthpiece

Use your stomach muscles to blow, not from your chest or neck.

Keep your “embouchure” muscles tight.....

To avoid puffing out your cheeks like this.

Puffing out your cheeks will make it near impossible to change the notes on the French Horn.
Can You Change the Pitch?

• To make higher notes: Tighten your ‘embouchure’ and blow faster air from your stomach. Think of the letter “E”

• To make lower notes: Relax your ‘embouchure’ (not enough to puff out your cheeks), and blow slower air. Think “Oooo.”
Mouthpiece Games and Competitions!

• Do the following with ANY brass playing friends:
  – See who can buzz the longest.
  – See who can keep the steadiest tones.
  – Go up and down like a siren with the most range.
  – Tongue familiar rhythms WHILE you buzz by touching the top of your mouth like when you say the letter ‘T’.
  – See who can hold a paper against the wall the longest while buzzing.
  – Can you match the pitches to any songs?

• Keep track of your “Stats” and share in lessons!
Putting the Instrument Together

DO NOT:

- Twist it tight.
- Slam it in.
- Tap it in absentmindedly.

Gently put the mouthpiece in the lead pipe and GENTLY turn clockwise.
If The Mouthpiece Is Stuck

• If you mistakenly get your mouthpiece stuck, DO NOT:
  – Wrench it.
  – Try to get it with pliers.
  – Hit it with a hammer.

• DO:
  – Bring it carefully to Mr. Archie to fix.
  – Mr. Archie has a “Mouthpiece Puller”: a tool for taking off a stuck mouthpiece without damaging the rest of the instrument.
Holding the Instrument

Left hand: Thumb in ring, pinky in ring, fingers on valves.

Right Hand: Cup the hand and put your knuckles against the inside of the bell. Only cover half of the bell.

Do not cover the entire bell.

Do not hold the bell with your palm.
Horn Angle

The mouthpiece should come straight out from your mouth.

The bell should be pointing behind and to your right.
First Notes and Songs

White Belt Test Page (From MEMORY during you NEXT lesson)

NO FINGERS

Lines

G
High: Eeeeee.

F

Spaces

First Finger

E
Medium: Eh.

D

C
Low: Ooooo.

0-1-0-1-0-1

Hot Cross Buns

E—D—C------
E—D—C------
CCCCDDDDD
E—D—C------

Sing the song first, then play!

START EVERY NOTE:

Touching the tip of your tongue to the tip of the mouth. It’s like saying, “Too.”
It’s Not Spit!!!!!! (Swimming)

• You are constantly blowing hot, moist air into your French Horn.
• The inside of the French Horn is enclosed, and has a mirror like surface.
• Just like when you take a shower, the air inside saturates with water vapor, and then condenses on the mirror.
• The water then falls toward the lowest parts of the French Horn.
• As the French Horn fills with water, you will need to empty it.
• DO NOT:
  – Empty it on the floor without permission.
  – Empty it on anyone.
More EDC Songs

Mary Had A Little Lamb
E-D-C-D-E-E-E---
D-D-D---
E-E-E---
E-D-C-D-E-E-E---
D-D-E-D-C-------

To find the right sound, try to buzz CDEFG or 01010 in order.

Sing first to know what it should sound like!

Au Claire de la Lune (French)
C-C-C-D-E------D-----
C-E-D-D-C----------
C-C-C-D-E------D-----
C-E-D-D-C----------

Remember to listen. Do the songs sound correct or are you mistakenly leaping to wrong notes?
Valve Maintenance

Is a valve getting sticky?

Pull the ‘Tuning Slide’ that goes to that valve.

Then hold the French Horn upside down and put just a few drops in each tube.

Then work the oil in.

Then carefully put the ‘Tuning Slide’ back.
The French Horn is a loud instrument, and you can feel free to make noise, but please:
• NEVER blast as loud as you can.
• NEVER aim the bell at others, or play next to someone’s ear.

You could hurt someone or even yourself. Please always be considerate. Pain isn’t funny.
2 More Notes!!!

• Yellow Belt test page!

Remember to play your 5-note scale first, and to sing the song so you know how it will sound.

Jingle Bells
E-E-E------
E-E-E------
E-G-C-D-E------
FFFFF-E-E----
E-D-D-E-D----G------
E-E-E------
E-E-E------
E-G-C-D-E------
FFFFF-E-E----
G-G-F-D-C--------

Good King Wenceslas
F-F-F-G-F-F-C------
D-C-D-E-F----F----
F-F-F-G-F-F-C------
D-C-D-E-F----F----

Dreyle Dreydle
G-E-G-E-G-E------E
G-G-F-E-D--------D
F-D-F-D-F-D--------D
G-F-E-D-C--------
(Repeat)

Practice Check
Find out what this is on the next page....
Time For Practice!!

• How good can you make the holiday songs sound? Want to make them sound better?
• The trick is to do them over and over, as many times as you can.
• The 2\textsuperscript{nd} trick is to do them at least a little bit EVERY DAY!! If you forget to do it for a day, you might not sound as good the next time you play.
• When you can play them just right for Mr. Archie, he’ll mark it in the box. (Or maybe put a Star Wars stamp.)
Holiday Tunes with the Band

• The other instruments will be playing notes that are too high to learn right away on French Horn. We’ll have to play “Harmony” when playing in band.
• For all of the holiday songs: play the correct ‘rhythms’, but play all of the notes with ‘F’ (1st finger).
• Sometimes this will be the same pitch as everyone else, but sometimes it will make a ‘chord’ (more than 1 note at the same time).
• These chords are what makes a large band sound so neat!
It’s Time To Learn To Read Music!

• What is this called?

• 

How about this one?

And this one?

What is a beat?

How do we keep track of beats?

What does it mean?
Count To 4 (But In Your Head)

• On any note practice: Eighth notes.

These are the beats!
Tap them each with your foot.

These are the upbeats!
So your foot must be UP!

Count the numbers in your head!

Think a number when you step down.

Think “and” when your foot goes up.

BAR LINES DIVIDE THE MEASURES!!!!
A Little Easier....

Quarter Notes

Just count to 4 and tap your feet for each note.

Foot Stompin’ Test!!!

Practice Check

1

2

3
First Time ‘Reading’ A Song

Bile Them Cabbage Down

Can you read the rhythm? Look back to the earlier pages in the book if you forgot how to read the notes. Never write them in!!

This is a ‘repeat sign’. Go back to the beginning and play 1 more time.

This is the test page for Orange Belt!

Bile Them Cabbage Down
Longer and Longer Rhythms

Half Notes Get 2 Beats

Whole Notes Get 4 Beats!!

Rhythm And Foot Test!!!
Old Songs, But How They Really Look!

Remember, do NOT write in the names of the notes!

Good King Wenceslas  John M. Neale

Jingle Bells  Traditional

Practice Check
New Songs: Can Ya Figure Them Out?

Shoo Fly

Low ‘B’. Finger is ‘2’ only. It is really low. Think ‘Ooooo’.

Star Wars

A “Tie” connects notes, sometimes over a bar line, to make it last longer.

High C. This is open, and even higher than G. Think ‘Eeeee’, use lots of air, and tighten those emboucure muscles.
How Do We Know When NOT To Play?

NOTES

1 2 3 4

RESTS

1 2 3 4

What’s Their Name?

___________________

___________________

___________________

___________________
The ‘Rest’ of the Songs You Already Know

What are the names of the songs?

This is ‘A’. Fingering is ‘12’, and even higher than ‘G’.

This is ‘Bb’. Fingering is ‘1’, and it is higher than ‘F’.

They can put flats in front of a note, or in front of a staff. If in front of a staff, it is a ‘Key Signature’.
And What’s This?
Test page for Green Belt!

What’s a Time Signature do again? ___________________________________________________________________

What’s the name of this song? ___________________________________________________________________

What are the names of the different notes and rests? Did you keep the beat with your foot the whole time?

How do you oil your valves and empty your water?
Unfamiliar Tunes
This is the test page for Blue Belt!

There Are Lots Of 8th Notes And I Don’t Know What To Do

Level One: Play correct notes and rhythms:  
Level 2: ALSO tap your foot correctly:

Can You Sing Me First?

Do Re Mi Fa Sol Sol Fa Sol La La Sol Fa Re Mi

Do Re Mi Re Mi Re Do Do Mi Fa Mi Re Re Do
Slurs and Ties

**Slurs**: Blow through without ‘Tonguing’. Just change the fingers exactly at the right times.

**Ties** look like slurs, but connect the SAME pitches to make them last longer, usually across barlines. Physically you play them like you do the slurs, just don’t change fingers.

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Galactica

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Somewhere Over The Rainbow

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Major Scale: C AND ‘Concert F’

What song does this end with?
__________________________

Remember downbeats and upbeats?

Take ‘note’: All other instruments in the band learn ‘Concert Bb’ first! French Horns are UNIQUE!

This is the test page for Purple Belt. It must be done from memory during the next lesson.
Mapping-1

Ride of the Valkyries

Richard Wagner

Zim

Michael Tavera

Eb is fingering ‘2’.

Pick Up Notes: Count the missing beats first.

This is so you don’t go all the way back to the beginning.

Low ‘A’=‘12’
D.S. and D.C. al Fine or Coda are usually used for larger distances in the music. D.S. goes to the weird looking ‘S’ sign (called segno). D.C. goes to the beginning.
Volume = Dynamics

• Dynamics actually refer to ‘intensity’. BUT...... how intense you play affects the ‘loudness’ of your sound.

• The following is a good beginning:
  – F = Forte = strong
  – P=Piano = flat, level
  – Crescendo = <-- = Cresc. = growing
  – Diminuendo = --> = dim. = decresc. = diminish
Examples

Baby Bumblebee

Also Sprach Zarathustra

You’ve Got A Friend In Me

Traditional

Richard Strauss

Db is fingering ‘2’.

Randy Newman
2 New Scales

This page is the test for Red Belt.

(It must be done from memory during your next lesson.)

F Major Scale (Concert Bb, the 1st Full Band Scale)

Can you play “Joy to the World” with these scales?

Bb Scale (Concert Eb)

Low Bb = ‘1’

Eb = ‘2’.

Can you play “Joy to the World” with these scales?
Italian: The Language of Music

• Largo: Broad, wide. (Really slow)
• Andante: To go, walk. (Kind of slow)
• Moderato: Moderate. (Medium speed)
• Allegro: Cheerful, bright. (Kind of fast)
• Vivace: Lively, vivid. (Pretty fast)
• Presto: Quickly, quick. (Extremely fast)
Brown and Black Belts

- Mr Archie will give you blank staff paper (called **manuscript paper**) to compose a song with. There will be a rough draft. Mr. Archie will make suggestions. Re-write to a final draft. If Mr. Archie can play it as it should sound, then you pass for Brown Belt.

- Mr. Archie will give you a full page solo that needs to be learned and performed in lessons for Black Belt.
Is there more?

• Black Belt – 1\textsuperscript{st} degree (2 BB’s tied together): Having attended NYSSMA.

• Black Belt – 2\textsuperscript{nd} degree (3 BB’s tied together): Achieving a score high enough to be asked to a U-E Recital called the Crawford Stahl Recital.

• Black Belt – 3\textsuperscript{rd} degree (4 BB’s tied together): Achieving the top score at the Crawford Stahl Recital.

• Book II: Mr. Archie is in the process of writing this book. If one exists for your instrument, you can begin the work towards “Twisty Belts”!