TROMBONE BOOK 1

Instrument Sidekick
Opening the Case

On a flat surface.

Handle is underneath the opening.

Lifting the latch.

Let’s start with just the mouthpiece.
Let’s Start with Just the Mouthpiece!!

Hold here.

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

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 trombone.
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 “Ooo.”
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-1

- Connect here.
- Bell on left.
- Slide to the right.
- Make a ‘V’.
- Tighten the screw.
Putting the Instrument Together

Gently put the mouthpiece in the lead pipe and GENTLY turn clockwise.

DO NOT:

Twist it tight.

Slam it in.

Tap it in absentmindedly.
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.
When Not Playing.....

Keep the slide locked so it doesn’t fall off.

Keep the trombone rested on the ground.

If you lean on the top, or slam the instrument down, this part gets damaged.

NEVER lean on the top!!!!!
Make a ‘gun’ with your left hand.

Put the thumb over the brace next to the bell.

Rest your index finger on the brace next to the mouthpiece.

Put your other fingers through this rectangle.
Right Hand

1st 2 fingers underneath.

Unlock when you're ready to play.

Hold that slide.

Thumb on top.

Bad.

Good.
Horn Angle

Good.

Perfect.

Never rest the slide on the stand!

Getting there.

Too high.

Way too low.
The Secret Positions

1st is all the way up.

2nd is just a little away.

3rd: Your fingers are right next to the bell.

4th: The top of the slide is next to the bell.

5th is a little farther out than 4th.

6th is with your arm straight out.
First Notes and Songs

D  C  Bb

Middle Line.  2nd Space Up.  2nd Line Up with a flat sign.
4th position  6th position  1st position

Hot Cross Buns
D—C—Bb------
D—C—Bb------
BbBbBbBb-CCCC
D—C—Bb------

Embouchure:
These notes are in the middle to low range. Think Ooooo.

START EVERY NOTE:
Touching the tip of your tongue to the tip of the mouth. It’s like saying, “Too.”

=Flat Sign. It is an accidental that lowers a pitch.

Accidental =A symbol that changes the pitch of a note. Sharps, Naturals, and Flats are accidentals.
Other Fun Things To Play

• A ‘Gliss’ is where you slide out and/or in while playing. See if you can do this with High pitches, medium pitches, and low pitches.
• Go to 6\textsuperscript{th} position and try to play “Taps” (Sad), “Reveille” (Wake Up Call), and the “First Call” (Starts horse races). This is done with just your embouchure and tongue.
It’s Not Spit!!!!!! (Water Keys)

• You are constantly blowing hot, moist air into your trombone.
• The inside of the trombone 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 trombone, which is where the water key is.
• As the trombone fills with water, you will need to empty it.
• DO NOT:
  – Empty it on the floor without permission.
  – Empty it on anyone.
Slide Maintenance

The slide might start to get sticky. Put on some slide oil.

Do everything you can to not let the slide fall off. But if it does by mistake: Carefully angle the slide with both tubes and make sure the slide lock is on the right side.
The trombone 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.
Some More Activities To Avoid

PLEASE: Avoid touching others, bumping others, or connecting with other instruments or objects. Don’t even try and get the slide close to others, as you might touch someone by mistake.

This can either hurt someone, hurt your instrument, or just be annoying to someone who doesn’t think it’s funny.
More D-C-Bb Songs

Mary Had A Little Lamb

D-C-Bb-C-DDD---
CCC----DDD-----
D-C-Bb-C-DDD---
C-C-D-C-Bb-------

Au Claire de la Lune (French)

Bb-Bb-Bb-C-D-----C------
Bb-D-C-C-Bb----------
Bb-Bb-Bb-C-D-----C------
Bb-D-C-C-Bb----------

Remember to listen. Do the songs sound correct or are you mistakenly leaping to wrong notes?
When you are able to play all 5 notes from memory, you can test for **White Belt** at your next lesson.

**Jingle Bells**
D-D-D----D-D-D-----  
D-F-Bb-C-D------------  
Eb-Eb-Eb-Eb-Eb-D-D  
D-C-C-D-C-----F------  
D-D-D----D-D-D-----  
D-F-Bb-C-D------------  
Eb-Eb-Eb-Eb-Eb-D-D  
F-F-Eb-C-Bb-----------

**Good King Wenceslas**
Eb-Eb-Eb-F  
Eb-Eb-Bb--------  
C-Bb-C-D-Eb----Eb-----  
Eb-Eb-Eb-F  
Eb-Eb-Bb--------  
C-Bb-C-D-Eb----Eb-----

**Dreydle Dreydle**
F-D-F-D-F-D--------D  
F-F-Eb-D-C--------C  
Eb-C-Eb-C-Eb-C------C  
F-Eb-D-C-Bb----------

(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.)
It’s Time To Learn To Read Music!

• What is this called?
• ________________________

How about this one?
How about this one?
What is a beat?
What is a beat?
How do we keep track of beats?
How do we keep track of beats?

And this one?
And this one?
What does it mean?
What does it mean?
______________________
______________________
Count To 4 (But In Your Head)

- On any note practice: Eighth notes.

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!!!!

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

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

Flats last 1 measure.

Practise Check
A Little Easier....

Quarter Notes

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

Sometimes they put the flats in front of the staff. This is called a ‘Key Signature’. This one makes all the ‘E’s and ‘B’s flat.

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!!

Double Bar means you ended the song.

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

This is the test page for Orange Belt!
Longer and Longer Rhythms

Half Notes Get 2 Beats

Whole Notes Get 4 Beats!!

Rhythm And Foot Test!!!

Practice Check
Old Songs, But How They Really Look!

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

Good King Wenceslas

Jingle Bells
New Songs: Can Ya Figure Them Out?

Dino-Slide

Gliss: Without tonguing or putting space between the notes, slide from 1 note to the other.

Imperial March

Rhythm: Dotted 8th/16th: Looks complex, but listen to the Imperial March to get a sense of the rhythm’s sound.
How Do We Know When NOT To Play?

NOTES

1 2 3 4

RESTS

1 2 3 4

What’s Their Name?

___________________

___________________

___________________

___________________

1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and

1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and
The ‘Rest’ of the Songs You Already Know

What are the names of the songs?

___________________
___________________
___________________
___________________
___________________

This is ‘G’. Position is ‘4’, and even higher than ‘F’.

___________________
___________________
___________________
___________________

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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 slide and empty your water key?
Let’s Go Band

A ‘Natural Sign’ negates the key signature’s flat for that note. This is ‘E’ (not flat) which is in 2\textsuperscript{nd} position.

High Bb. In 1\textsuperscript{st}, and really really high.

Wah Wah!

Flats you don’t know usually lower a note 1 position. So Db is in 5, not 4.

Accidentals (sharps, naturals, and flats) last only 1 measure. See if you can figure out what’s flat and what’s natural!
Slurs and Ties

Mountains of Mist

Slurs look like ties, but connect different notes. Slurs are EXTREMELY more complicated for trombone because of the slide. If you see a slur, ignore it for now. So instead of a slur exercise, you can play a song without a slur.

Really high C is in 3rd position.

Makes all A’s flat.

Can you figure out Ab?

Eye of the Tiger

‘Ties’ look like slurs, but connect the SAME pitches to make them last longer, usually across barlines. Just add the rhythms together to make it longer.

Practice Check
Major Scale: Bb AND Concert Bb

Remember: Ignore slurs for now!

What song does this end with?
________________________

Remember downbeats and upbeats?

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

Gliss is Bliss

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

Panther

Pick Up Notes: Count the missing beats first.

Dotted half notes are 3 beats!
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.

This key signature only makes B’s flat. E’s are regular, and therefore in 2nd position!

Do this the 2nd time through.
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

Super Advanced Slidy Fast Note Duet

Db is position ‘2’.  
Allen T. Archie
2 New Scales

This page is the test for Red Belt.

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

F Major Scale

C Scale

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 – 1st degree (2 BB’s tied together): Having attended NYSSMA.

• Black Belt – 2nd 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 – 3rd 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”!