

Exercises for the 2024 AMEA
All-State Band Audition Etude - Trombone
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Etude #2 - *Andante espressivo*

2a. Working on natural slurs.

Each of these ascending figures can be played mostly with natural slurs if your embouchure control is good enough. If you struggle to execute the slurs, just use a light legato tongue. The only spot where you need to legato tongue (to avoid a gliss) is marked with "dah."

The image shows two musical staves in bass clef, key of B-flat major, and 4/4 time. Each staff contains three measures. The first measure of each staff is in 4/4 time and features an ascending eighth-note slurred figure starting on G2. The second and third measures are in 3/4 time and feature a similar ascending eighth-note slurred figure. The first measure of the second staff has a 'tah' articulation mark above the first note, and the first measure of the first staff has a 'dah' articulation mark above the first note.

2b. Playing the grace notes.

Usually, grace notes like this are light, quick notes played just before the beat. Avoid playing them too aggressively. For articulation, I would use something like "ta-dah." I suggest playing the D in lowered 4th position even though a natural slur to first is possible. The closeness of 4th is a bigger advantage.

The rhythm of the first measure is pretty much how the second measure should sound.

The image shows a musical staff in bass clef, key of B-flat major, and 4/4 time. It contains five measures. The first measure has a grace note (D) followed by an eighth-note slurred figure. The second measure has a grace note followed by an eighth-note slurred figure. The third measure has a grace note followed by an eighth-note slurred figure. The fourth measure has a grace note followed by an eighth-note slurred figure. The fifth measure has a grace note followed by an eighth-note slurred figure.

Remember that some partials of the overtone series are a bit out of tune. Here's a chart for third position. The little sharp and flat symbols show the small correction needed on most trombones to bring that note in tune.

Remember: not every trombone or person is the same. Don't just move your slide without listening carefully and checking the pitch with a tuner.

The image shows a musical staff in bass clef, key of B-flat major, and 4/4 time. It contains five measures. The first measure has a whole note G2. The second measure has a whole note A2. The third measure has a whole note B2. The fourth measure has a whole note C3. The fifth measure has a whole note D3. Above the notes are correction symbols: a flat symbol (b) above the G2 note, a sharp symbol (#) above the A2 note, a flat symbol (b) above the B2 note, and an asterisk (*) above the C3 note.

* Technically, the high A-flat is in tune but many players tend to play it sharp.

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