

Lip Slurs

Level: Beginner/Intermediate

for Trombone / Euphonium

Lip slurs are an important part of a brass player's daily routine.

They help improve flexibility, accuracy, and control; build embouchure strength and stability; and increase range.

Tongue the first note normally, but do not tongue the second one. Change only the speed of the air. Use your best sound.

Tah Ah

1 Euph: 0 2 Euph: 2 3 Euph: 1 4 Euph: 12 5 Euph: 23 6 Euph: 13 7 Euph: 123

When the descending slurs are comfortable, perform a combination of descending and ascending slurs.

Keep the embouchure stable (corners firm). Let the air do the work. Remember the first note and return to it.

You may need to drop your lower jaw slightly to open up for the low note.

For variety, start on the low note; or play with different rhythmic patterns, starting low or high.

As in the first two examples, play in all slide positions (valve fingerings).

Then try some 2-note slurs in different registers, again with a variety of rhythmic patterns.

Use the same sequence of slide positions (fingerings), even though these might be different than normal.

1 Euph: 0 2 Euph: 2 3 Euph: 1 4 Euph: 12 5 Euph: 23 6 Euph: 13 7 Euph: 123

To increase your range, work up to 3-note slurs, then 4 and even 5. As always, perform in all slide positions (fingerings).

There are many possible patterns; use your imagination!

A good strategy is to start with small slurs and gradually expand higher and lower with each repetition.

To approach the high range more gradually, start in 6th or 7th position (lower fingerings) and work up chromatically.

1 Euph: 0