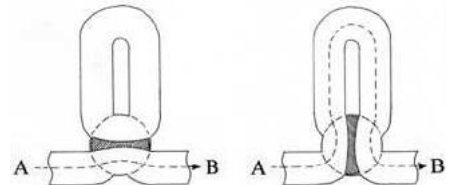


The Trombone Valve (F-attachment)

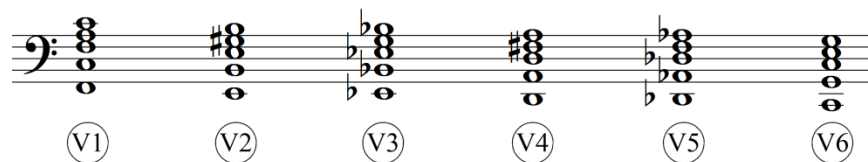
The F-attachment on the trombone has two main purposes:

- It provides alternate slide positions for some notes.
- It provides a few lower notes.
- (It can also allow certain trills, but this is an advanced use).

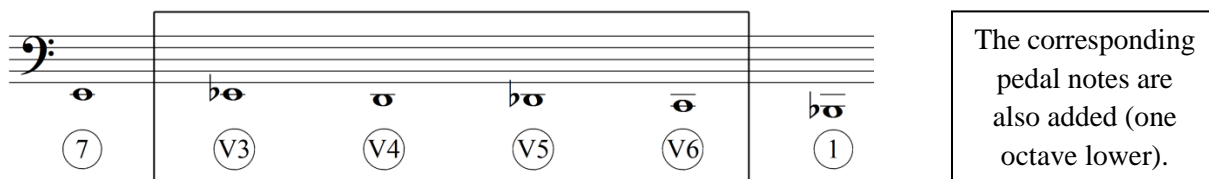
On a trombone with a valve, the air goes through the main tubing exactly as it does for a regular (or straight) tenor trombone. When the valve trigger (or thumb lever) is engaged, the rotor rotates and directs the air through the extra tubing connected to the valve. This lengthens the trombone, lowering the pitch a perfect 4th, from B \flat to F. Because only the valve section is lengthened, the slide length is now disproportionate, so each slide position has to be extended a little more than usual, and successively more as the slide gets longer, leaving only 6 positions with the valve in use. In other words, 2nd position is slightly further out than normal, 3rd a little more so, etc., until 6th position is played where 7th would ordinarily be.



The staff below shows the first five overtones of the harmonic series for each slide position, indicated as V1, etc. (V for ‘valve’) to distinguish them from regular slide positions:



The valve adds four notes (shown inside the rectangle below) to the trombone’s low range, between the low E in 7th position and the Pedal B \flat in 1st position. Notice that the low B \flat is not available because there are only 6 positions with the valve:



Shown below are the notes most commonly used with the valve. They are used when needed to shorten the slide distance between intervals, and to avoid going to 6th and 7th positions:

