

# BASS TROMBONE: FLOW EXERCISES with the VALVE(S)

All of these exercises are based on a short extract adapted from a Bach 'Cello Suite (Suite III: Prélude BWV 1009). The phrase is a simple minor arpeggio pattern which you will be able to aurally memorise after a few playings. If necessary take extra breaths during the longer/lower exercises: let the air go, don't hold back.

## Establish Flow

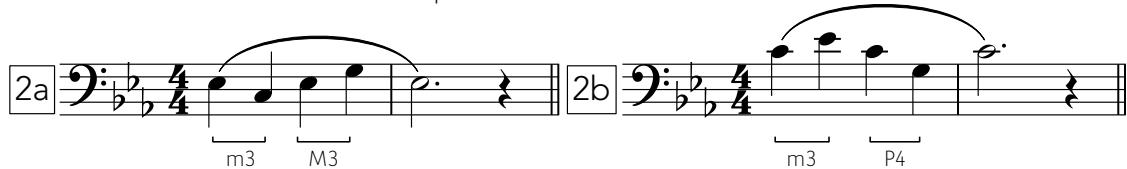
Preparation: play these long tones as full and relaxed as possible.



1a | 1b | 1c |  
1st: 6  
2nd: V1

## Learn the Intervals

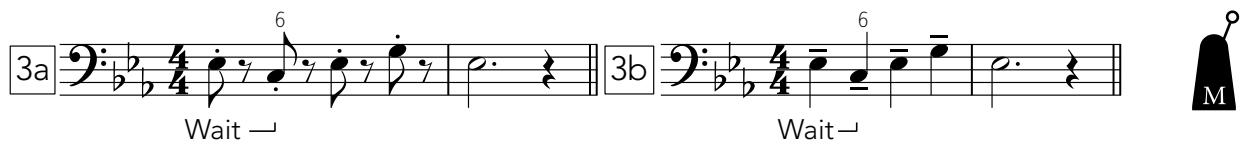
Ex. 2a and 2b will establish the pattern of notes.



2a | 2b |  
m3 M3 | m3 P4 |

## Moving the Slide Quickly

Tongue every note of Ex.3a & 3b. Wait for as long as possible before moving the slide ... then move it quickly and efficiently: don't be late!



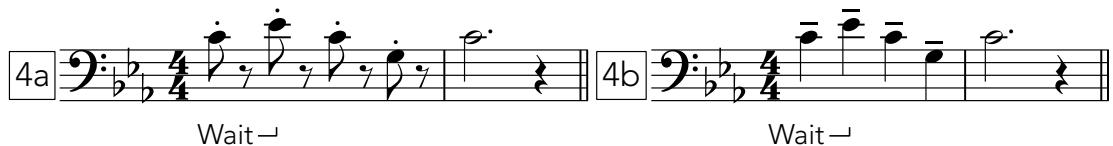
3a | 3b |  
6 Wait | 6 Wait | M

Use a long tone to establish flow. Use a clear TAA tongue for the first note, soft-tongue the C and Eb, fret to the G and back.



3c | 3d |  
Wait | Wait |

Tune within positions: move out a few mm for the Eb (don't forget to move back in).



4a | 4b |  
Wait | Wait |

Use a long tone to establish flow. Tongue only the first note.



4c | 4d |  
Wait | Wait |

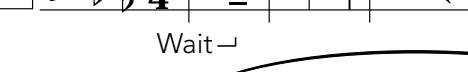
## Moving the Valve Quickly

As before wait for as long as possible before moving the slide & valve.

5a  V1  
Wait ↗

5b  V1  
Wait ↗

5c  Wait —

5d  Wait —

Use a long tone to establish flow. Tongue only the first note, all of the slurs are valve-slurs or fretting.

## Rhythmic Variations:

7a

7b

7c

7d

## Co-ordinating the Valve & Slide

## Slide Variations (all fretted: let that air go!):

8a

6

6

Flow from low to high (all fretted or valve-slur, one continuous breath):

A musical score for a bassoon part, labeled '8b'. The score is in bass clef, 4/4 time, and includes a key signature of two flats. The bassoon plays a continuous line of eighth notes, starting on the first note of the first measure and ending on the eighth note of the second measure. The notes are grouped by vertical bar lines. The first measure ends with a fermata over the eighth note. The second measure begins with a bass clef, a 4/4 time signature, and a key signature of one flat. The bassoon continues to play eighth notes, ending with a fermata over the eighth note of the second measure. The score is on a single staff with a bass clef and a key signature of one flat.

Work up the speed:

## Working Through the Keys

Not all of the valve notes and alternative positions are marked; make your own decisions.

Most exercises have a 'perfect' solution which means that only the first note of the phrase needs to be tongued.

Tongue only the long tone and the first note of the phrase (T). Everything else is a valve slur or fret (unless stated).

**V** = F-Valve | **D** = Double Valves (D or Eb) | **S** = Independent Second Valve (G or Gb)

9a C minor V1 6

Ex.10a & 10b are enharmonically the same and should be indistinguishable(!).

If you have a single valve or your second valve is dependent then use the positions above Ex.10a for both.

If you have an independent G<sub>b</sub> or G valve then use it for the notes marked **S**.

A musical score for piano, page 10b. The key signature is A# minor (three sharps). The time signature is 4/4. The score consists of two staves. The top staff shows a melodic line with a sixteenth-note run and a fermata. The bottom staff shows a harmonic bass line. The page number '10b' is in the top left corner, and 'A# minor' is written below the staves. The word 'Sim.' is written between the two staves.

Ex.11a & 11b are also enharmonically the same.

A musical score for piano, page 11b. The key signature is A-flat minor (three flats). The time signature is 4/4. The melody begins with a dotted half note, followed by a sixteenth-note run. The score is on a single staff with a bass clef, and the page number 11b is in the top left corner.

Play all of the low B♭s in V3. The positions are all very close together, tune them finely.

12

V3

G minor

If you have an independent G♭ or G valve then use it for the notes marked 'S'. If not play the As in V4 & 6.

13a

(V4)

F♯ minor

13b

F minor

13c

E minor

Use both of your valves as appropriate, consider using your second valve 'S' (if independent).

14a

E♭ minor

14b

D minor

Play both solutions.

14c

C♯ minor

If you need a quick 'sup' breath make sure to tongue the subsequent note.

15a 

If you have a Bb/F/D instrument the D, B and F# are all very close together.

15c    Bb minor                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          <img

Pay close attention to the tone and tuning of the low B.

If you have a B $\flat$ /F/D trombone you could experiment with the low B $\flat$  in D5, otherwise you will need to (soft) tongue the B $\flat$  to G to B $\flat$ . Use V3 for the higher B $\flat$ s.

17a

G minor

(D5) v

(9)

If you don't have an independent second valve you'll need to (soft) tongue the A to F# and back again.

This key is very straightforward and won't need to be tongued (after the first note).

17c                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            