

AIR STREAM FLEXIBILITY STUDIES FOR TRUMPET

KRIS TINER

Making good shifts from high to low or low to high pitches on the trumpet requires the accurate manipulation of two things: the inside shape of the mouth as determined by the level of the back of the tongue, and the speed or velocity of the air stream as it passes through the lips. This is the key to flexibility - these types of exercises are usually misleadingly referred to as "Lip Flexibilities," but one should try to keep the corners of the lips consistently firm, and soft in the center. The speed of the vibration of the center of the lips and the resultant pitch on the instrument are affected by the dimensions and the speed or velocity of the air stream, so really it is a flexibility of these qualities of the air stream which translates to flexibility on the instrument.

The following progression of vowel syllables outline the continuous embouchure shift from low to high pitch:

OH as in **GO**; **AH** as in **RAW**; **UH** as in **MUD**; **OO** as in **TWO**; **AY** as in **DAY**; **IH** as in **DIM**; **EE** as in **BEE**.

Do not impede or choke the air with a "kh" sound - always keep the air stream freely flowing through the embouchure.

1. TONGUE LEVEL:



2. AIR STREAM:



Just like whistling, you must use a large, slow air stream for lower pitches; a narrow, fast air stream for higher pitches.

Practice the following exercises by first simply forming your embouchure and whispering through the indicated syllables, moving the air stream faster as the pitches rise (indicated by an "H"). Then play them on the mouthpiece only, and finally on the full instrument. Take care to breathe deeply where indicated. *Be sure to take your time!* Speed is not important - keeping a centered, open tone *is* important. Relax, focus, concentrate, and listen closely to the resonance of your sound.

1. *TAH TAH TAH HOO , TOO TOO AH TAH HOO AH ,*

2. *TOO TOO TOO HAY , TAY TAY OO TOO HAY OO ,*

3. *TOO HAY OO TOO TOO AH , TOO HAY OO AH ,*

4. *TOO HAY TOO HAY HIH , TAY HIH TOO TOO HAY ,*

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5. *TAY OO TOO HAY HIH TIH , TIH AY TOO HIH TIH AY ,*

6. *TAY OO HAY TAY TAY HIH TIH , TIH HEE IH TIH AY ,*

7. *TUH HOO AH TOO HAY UH TOO HAY HIH , TIH HEE IH AY ,*

8. *TOH HAH OH HAH TUH HOO UH HOO UH , TOO OH HAH ,*

9. *TUH HOO UH HOO UH HAY TUH HOO UH HIH OO HAY , TUH HOO AH HAY ,*

10. *TAH HUH HOO UH HOO HAY HIH TOH HAH HUH HOO, TOO HAY HIH HEE ,*

11. *TOH HAH OH HAH HUH OH HUH HOO TAY OO HAY HIH HEE IH HEE IH HEE ,*

12. *TIH HEE TIH HEE TYEE TEE HYEE EE TYEE EE IH HEE HYEE EE*