

WHAT'S THE BUZZ ABOUT BUZZING?



HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR BUZZ

- ✓ **Sit up straight.**
- ✓ **Maintain an open mouth** with some space between your top and bottom teeth. Get used to the feeling of keeping your mouth open by turning the mouthpiece around so you can put the shank of the mouthpiece between your teeth and blow air through the mouthpiece without buzzing.
- ✓ **Keep your lips wet.**
- ✓ **Keep the mouthpiece flat** against your lips, without pressing the mouthpiece tightly against your lips.
- ✓ **Your chin should be down and flat.** Avoid puffing your cheeks.
- ✓ **Use a deep, quiet breath,** with plenty of controlled air. Make sure all the air you use goes through the mouthpiece. Air should not be trapped between your lips and teeth.
- ✓ **Practice your buzz** with and without the mouthpiece.
- ✓ **Practice long tones** and long slurs using just the mouthpiece and then with the mouthpiece in the instrument. Use a clock or timer that shows the seconds, to time the length of your notes. In order to extend the length of your long tones, control the air flow using the minimal required air, helping to alleviate any overblowing.
- ✓ **While practicing long tones, pull the mouthpiece away,** until it borders on a buzz. This exercise trains the lips to work using less and less pressure and free the tone.
- ✓ **Play the notes you know** from the fingering chart in your lesson book, ascending and descending (up and down). In your warm-up, always slur first before introducing tongued notes, which tend to tire the lip more quickly.

BUZZING EXERCISES TO PRACTICE ON THE MOUTHPIECE

- ✓ **Hold the lowest note you can buzz.**
Start by blowing air between your lips without any sound. Then slowly bring the center of your lips together while blowing until you get a low, soft sound.
- ✓ **Hold the highest note you can buzz.**
Keep your lips flat and chin down.
- ✓ **Make a slide whistle sound** by buzzing from your lowest note to your highest note. Reverse the process, and make a slide whistle sound by buzzing from your highest note to your lowest note.
- ✓ **Make a siren sound** by buzzing between your high and low notes.
- ✓ **Sing a note and then see if you can match it,** by buzzing on the mouthpiece.
- ✓ **Buzz a note starting softly and then gradually getting louder without changing the pitch.** Then reverse the process, and buzz a note starting loudly and then gradually getting softer without changing the pitch.
- ✓ **Sing two notes and then see how many times you can switch between them** without a miss, buzzing in the mouthpiece.
- ✓ **Sing a familiar song and then see if you can buzz it** on the mouthpiece.

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