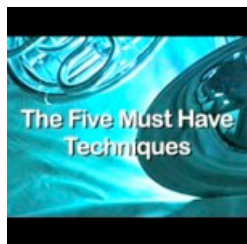




Horn Embouchure Technique for Band Directors

Andrew M. McAfee, August 22, 2011

www.hornlessons.org



The Five Must Have Techniques

Make sure:

- ✓ the chin muscle is flexed downward.
- ✓ the mouthpiece is placed below the bottom lip line.
- ✓ there is 2/3rd upper and 1/3 lower lip in the mouthpiece.
- ✓ the angle of the mouthpiece is down.
- ✓ the tongue is down.

I) Buzzing Lips

- A) "Horsy Buzz"
- B) Flexed Chin

II) MP Buzzing

- A) Below Pink Line
- B) 2/3 upper 1/3 lower ratio
- C) Less pressure on top lip
- D) Tongue Down

III) On the Horn (What note to play?)

- A) Tongue, Start/Stop
- B) Temperature Effect

IV) Support, Breathing, Endurance

V) Bio

**Lip size is crucial in determining who plays what brass instrument. Thin lips can play all. Larger lips should stay away from smaller mouthpieces. Ideally, large lips = Trombone, Baritone, Tuba.
Medium to thin = Trumpet, Horn.**

**Start all brass
2/3 upper, 1/3 lower lip.**

"I have never known a fine low brass player who used more lower lip than upper; the ratio should be 3/4 to 2/3 upper and 1/4 to 1/3 lower." –Harvey Phillips (Tuba)¹

It is better to transfer woodwinds than a trumpet player already set up with 1/3 upper, 2/3 lower.

¹ Harvey Phillips. *The Instrumentalist*. ("Instrument Tips," August, 2011), p 27.