

Trombone Basics #3

Repeated Tonguing and Air Pulse

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Repeated Tonguing

Repeated tonguing is used when we have to play many notes one after another quickly.

When we do this, we try to avoid sounding brittle or harsh. Instead, we want the notes to sound "bouncy" like a basketball or a tennis ball. This idea helps to give each note we play some tone and bounce.

Bouncy Tone, Tongue and Air Pulse

The first step in getting bouncy tone and tongue is to think about how to use the air.

The air should be used in a steady stream with "mini-pulses" in it. The best way to think of the way we use air is to remember Santa Claus's famous line "*Ho, ho, ho!*"

1. Try saying *ho, ho, ho*. Think of all *ho's* as moving toward the last *ho*. You will feel a push from your ribs. These "mini-pulses" of air help the bounce of the notes.
2. Now try *ho, ho, ho* with your air stream instead of your voice.
3. Now add *toh* tongue to the *ho, ho, ho* air stream. It is important to make the *toh* tongue happen at exactly the same time as the *ho, ho, ho* air. Put your hand in front of your embouchure to feel the pulse of air and tongue.
4. Now try this with your trombone, repeating the same note and work on a clean, quick, *toh* with the bouncy *ho, ho, ho* air.

Remember – The goal of this exercise is for all of the articulated notes to sound exactly the same.