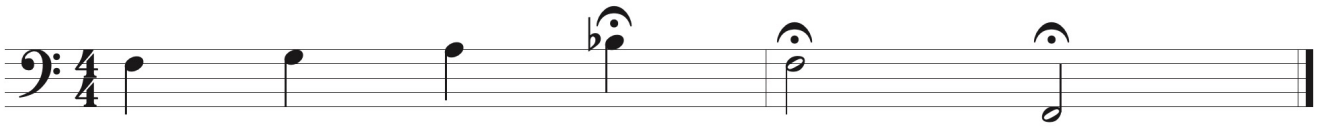
Trombone

Basic Tuning Rules

1. *Make sure you have warmed up for at least 5 minutes before tuning.*
2. *Use your best embouchure and make sure you play with your best tone quality.*
3. *Play your tuning note at a mezzo forte dynamic level.*
4. *Do not try to fix the tuning note by adjusting with your air or embouchure. Adjust the tuning slide listed below until it is in tune.*

Best Tuning Notes



Approach the Bb by walking up the scale to help center the pitch. Adjust the main tuning slide to Bb.

If you have a F-attachment trigger trombone, compare fourth line F to the low F with the trigger depressed. Adjust the F-attachment tuning slide to match.

How to Tune the Trombone

The trombone is tuned by adjusting the length of the main tuning slide and the F-attachment tuning slide (if playing on a trigger trombone). Follow the instructions above to tune each of your slides in the correct order. If you are sharp, pull it out more; if you are flat, push it in more.

How to Adjust for Other Notes

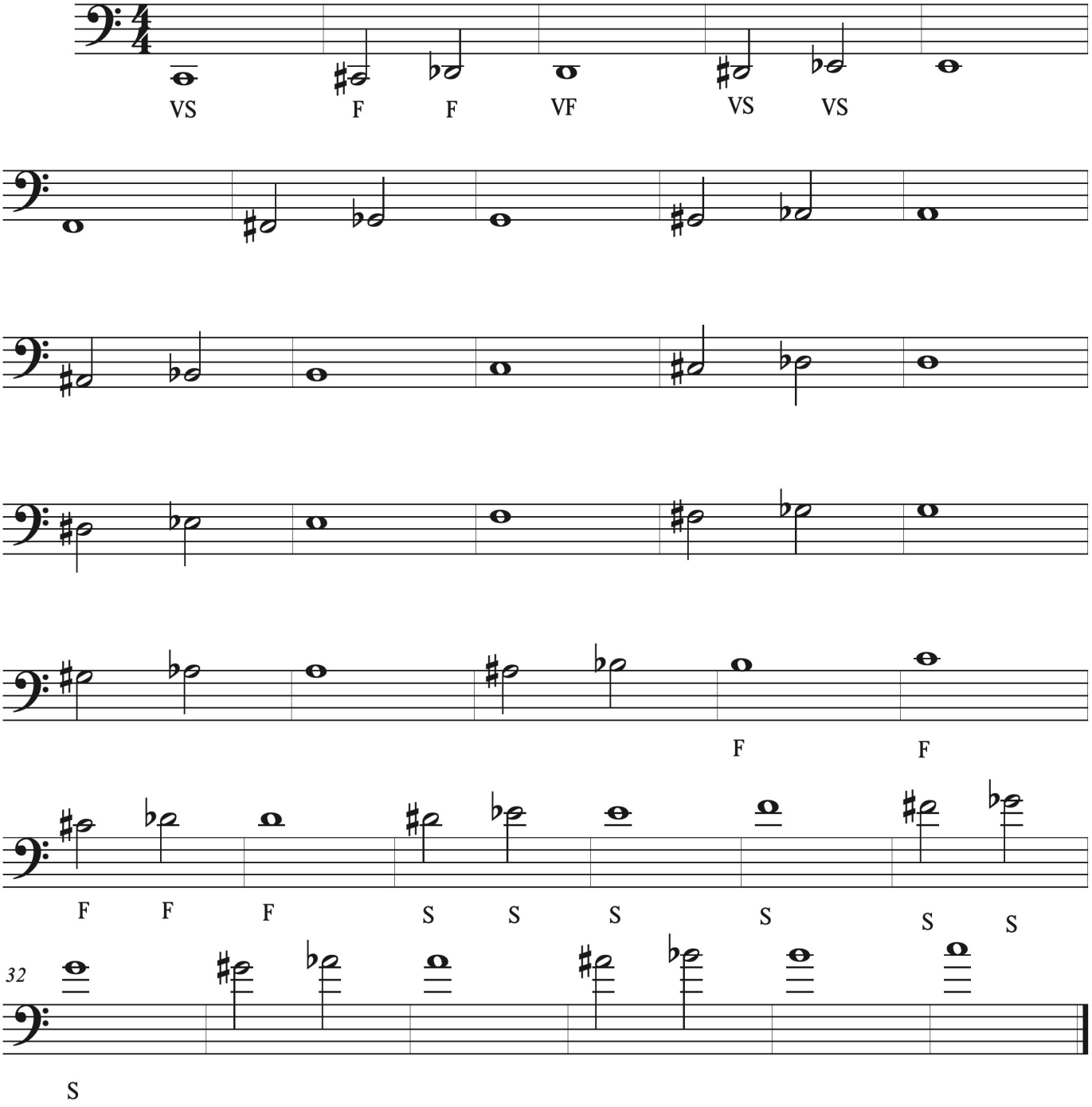
Unfortunately, after tuning your instrument, there will still be some notes that will need to be adjusted to be in tune. Use these guidelines to help you if you come across an out of tune note:

1. If you are sharp - lengthen the slide position.
2. If you are flat - shorten the slide position.
3. If you are playing loud - crescendos have a tendency to play sharp.
4. If you are playing soft - decrescendos have a tendency to play flat.
5. Pitch adjustments can be made with the embouchure, but should only be considered if a slide adjustment is not possible.

Trombone Pitch Tendencies

Abbreviations

VF - Very Flat F - Flat S - Sharp VS - Very Sharp



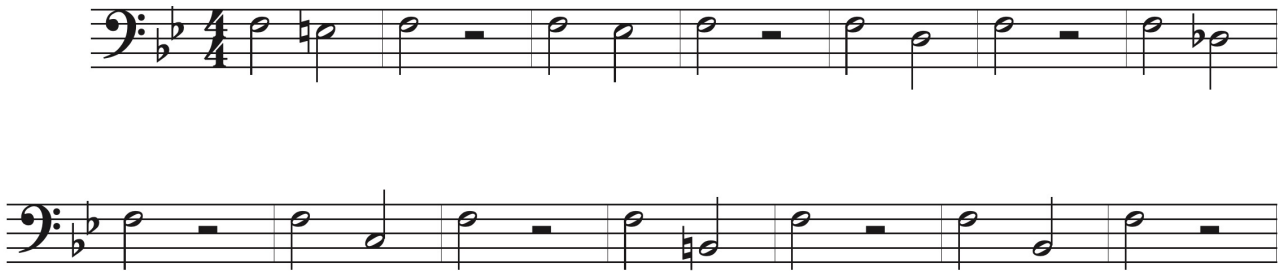
While these pitch tendencies are common for most trombones, each individual instrument can vary. It is important to spend time with a tuner on your own instrument to learn its unique characteristics.

Trombone Warmups

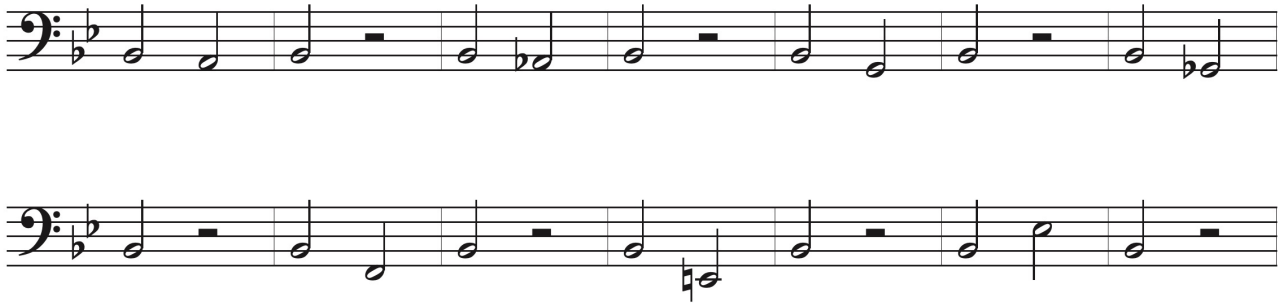
Abbreviations

VF - Very Flat F - Flat S - Sharp VS - Very Sharp

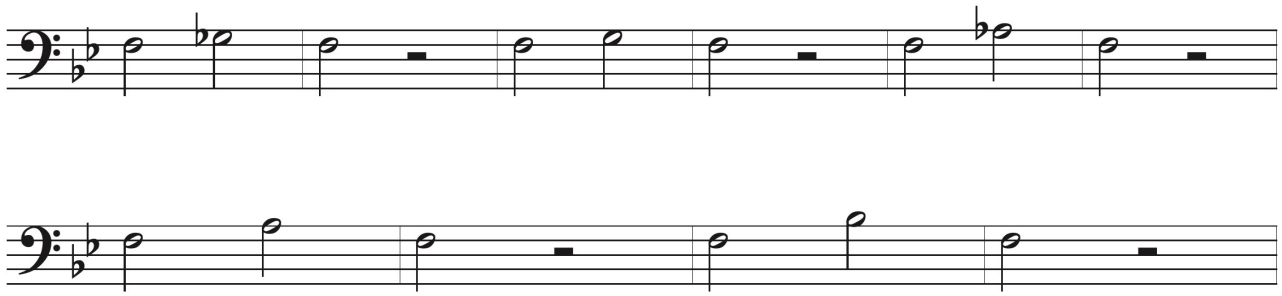
Long Tone 1a



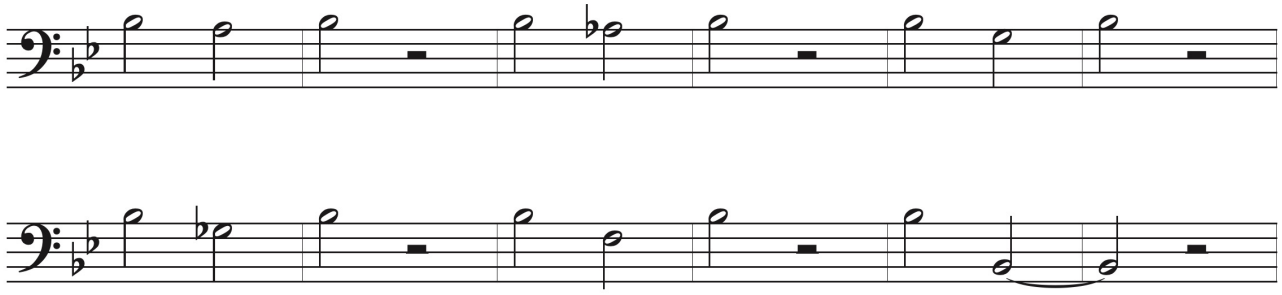
Long Tone 1b



Long Tone 1c



Long Tone 1d

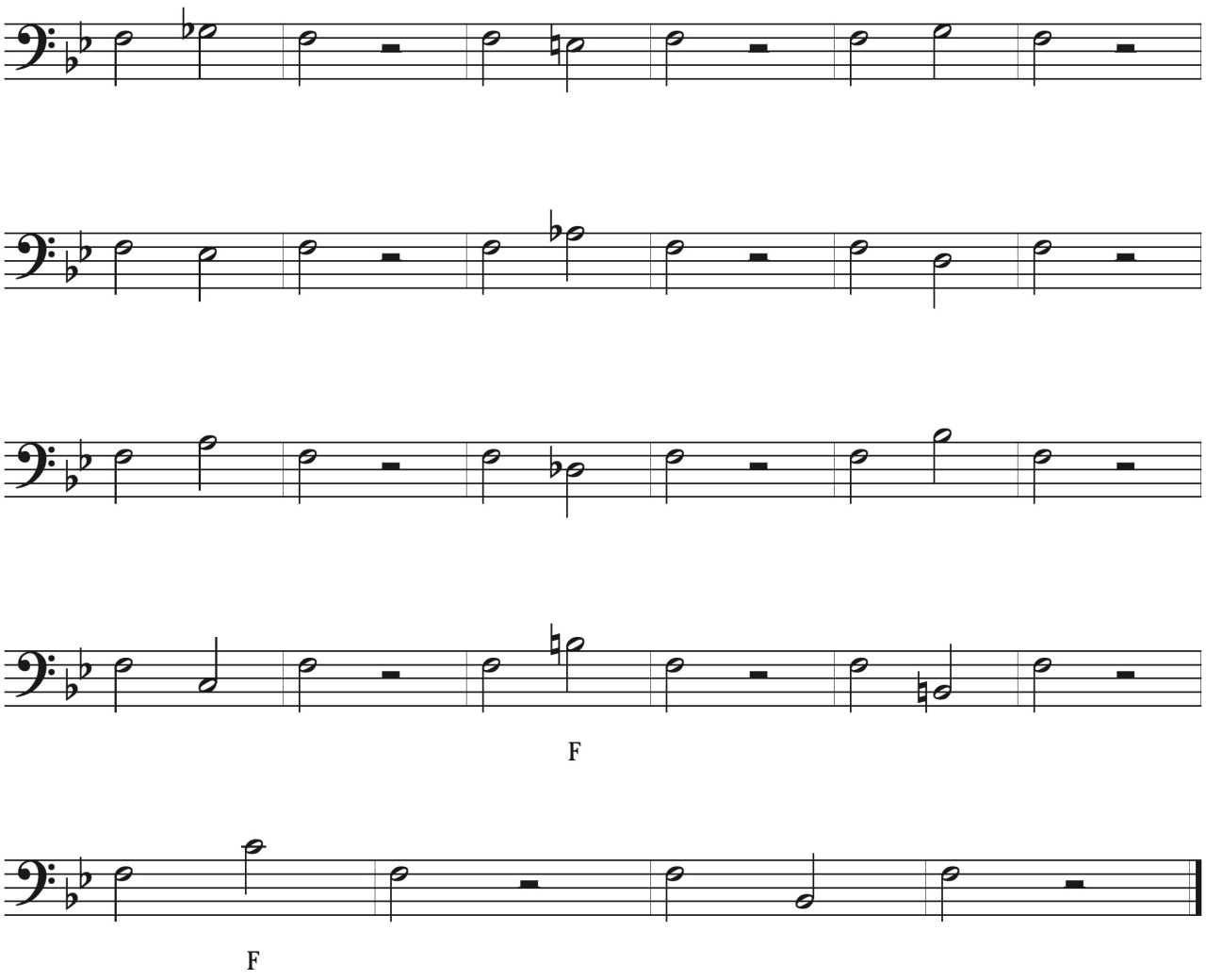


Trombone Warmups

Abbreviations

VF - Very Flat F - Flat S - Sharp VS - Very Sharp

Long Tone 3a

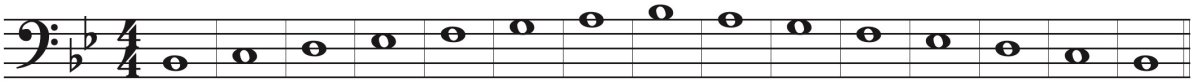


Trombone Major Scales

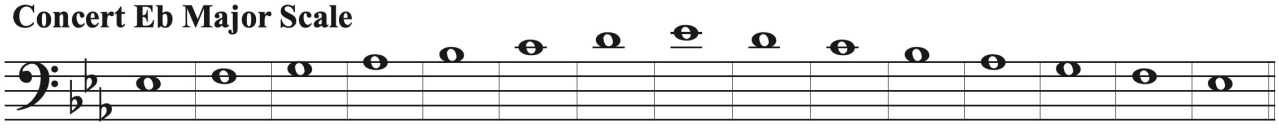
Abbreviations

VF - Very Flat F - Flat S - Sharp VS - Very Sharp

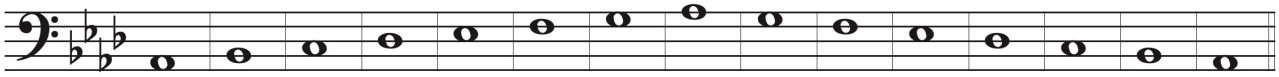
Concert Bb Major Scale



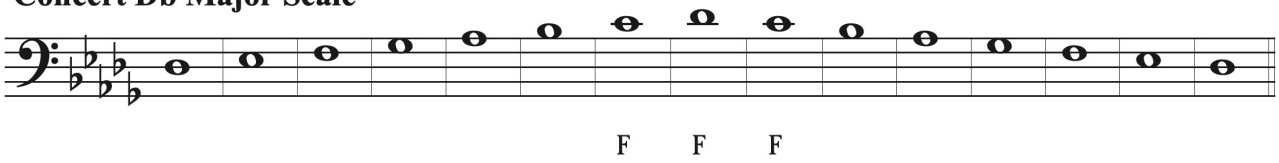
Concert Eb Major Scale



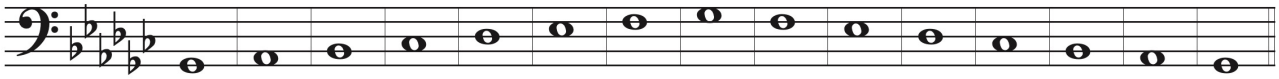
Concert Ab Major Scale



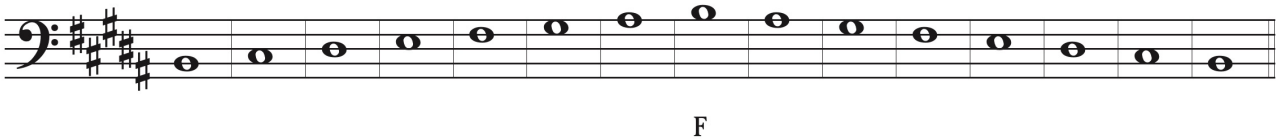
Concert Db Major Scale



Concert Gb Major Scale



Concert B Major Scale

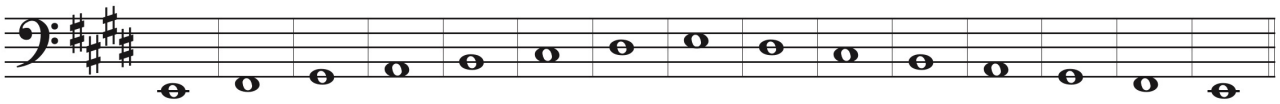


Trombone Major Scales

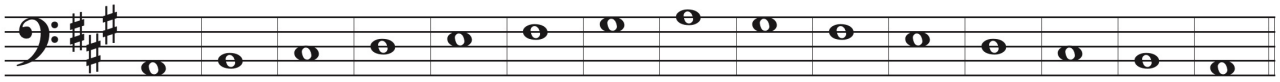
Abbreviations

VF - Very Flat F - Flat S - Sharp VS - Very Sharp

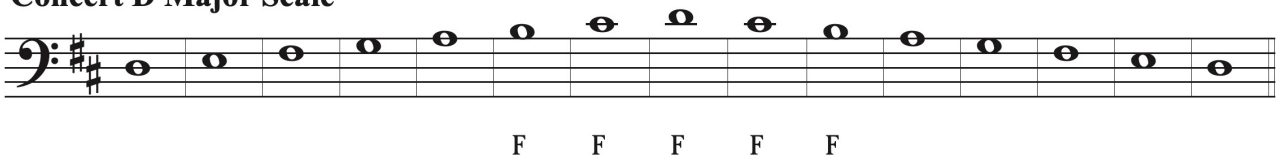
Concert E Major Scale



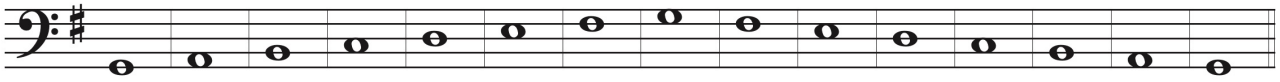
Concert A Major Scale



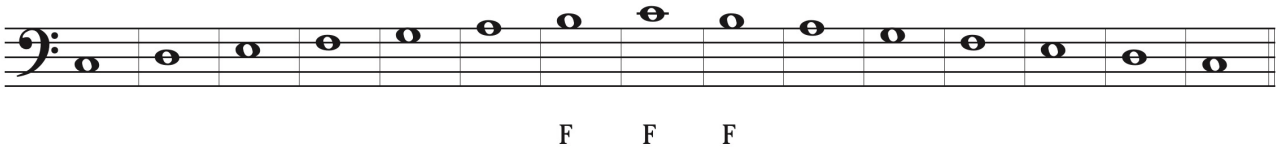
Concert D Major Scale



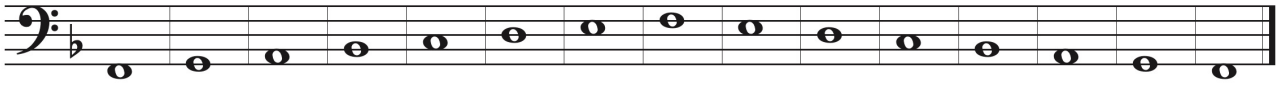
Concert G Major Scale



Concert C Major Scale



Concert F Major Scale



Interval Tuning

Interval Tuning Explained

When multiple notes are played at a time, each note produces a unique sound wave based off the pitch being played. When the frequencies align, the beats or waves in the sound disappear and it sounds "in tune" to our ears. When more than one pitch is played, the notes above the fundamental pitch must be adjusted to make the frequencies align and create that "in tune" sound. We call this "just intonation."

Adjustments Needed

The adjustments listed below are the number of cents that must be raised or lowered in order to produce an "in tune" sound when playing an interval above the tonic (first note) of a key. It is important to note that your tuner will say that you are not in tune when playing this way - this is why it is important to listen first before you look at your tuner!

Major Scale

Unison	Major 2nd	Major 3rd	Perfect 4th	Perfect 5th	Major 6th	Major 7th	Perfect 8th
0	+4	-14	-2	+2	-16	-12	0

Minor Scale

Unison	Major 2nd	minor 3rd	Perfect 4th	Perfect 5th	minor 6th	minor 7th	Perfect 8th
0	+4	+16	-2	+2	+14	+18	0

Listen Before You Look

When an interval is adjusted properly the beats or waves in the sound disappear. Because of this, it is important to train yourself to listen for the in tune sound as your primary tuning mechanism. The tuner should be used as a reference point after you have used your ears to adjust the pitch. Always listen before you look!

When Should You Use This?

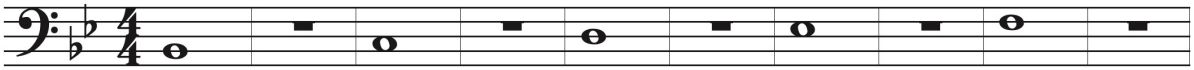
Just intonation or interval tuning is only necessary when playing chords or long and sustained sounds. When playing fast sections or melodic material, interval adjustments are not required.

Trombone Interval Tuning

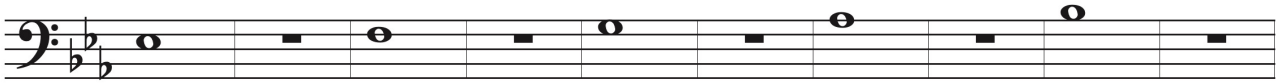
Make sure to listen to the drone during the rests and try to hear your next pitch before playing it!

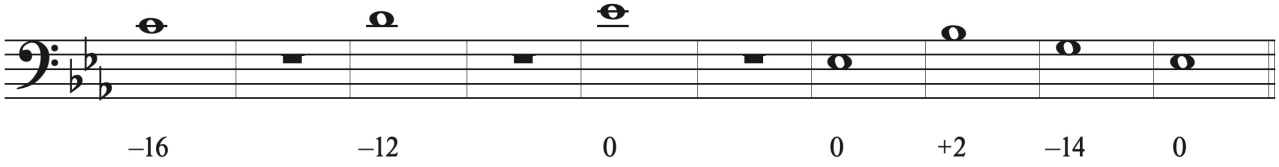
- lower pitch by number of cents + raise pitch by number of cents

Concert Bb Major

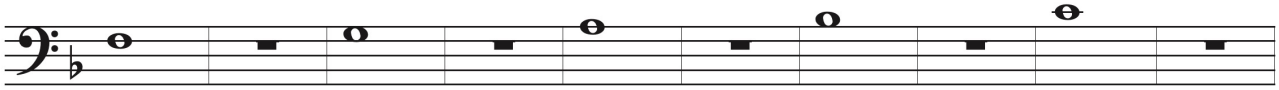


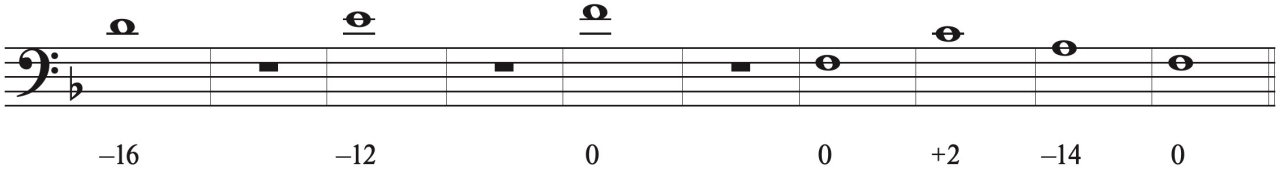
Concert Eb Major





Concert F Major



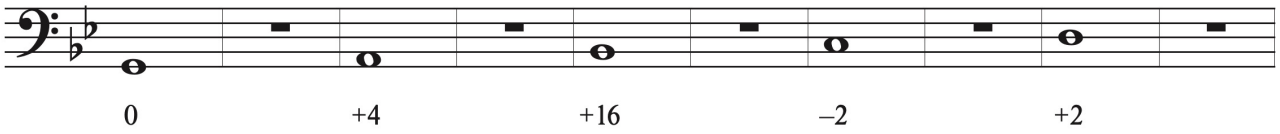


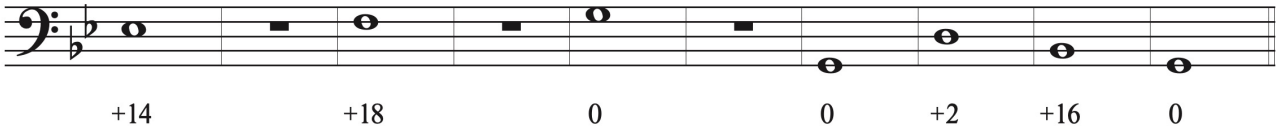
Trombone Interval Tuning

Make sure to listen to the drone during the rests and try to hear your next pitch before playing it!

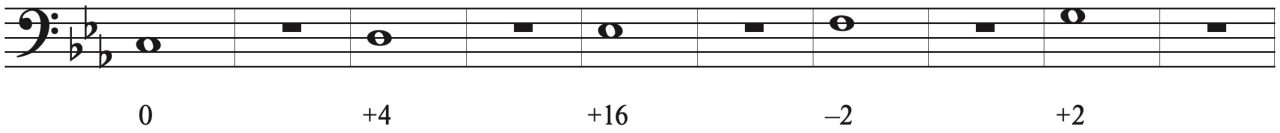
- lower pitch by number of cents + raise pitch by number of cents

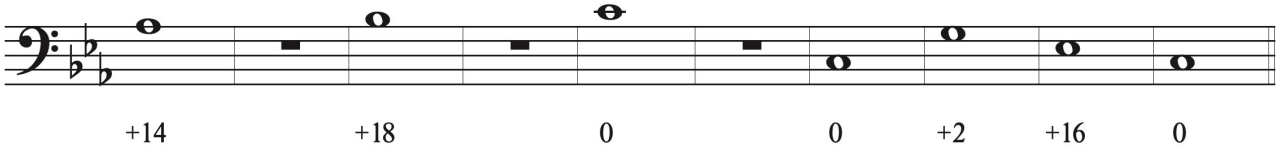
Concert G minor





Concert C minor





Concert D minor