

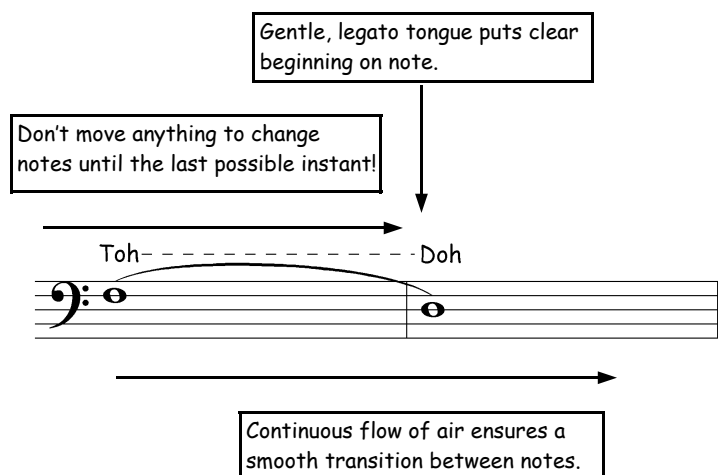
Learning Legato

Legato means changing notes with no break, in a singing, vocal style.

Other instruments can play legato much more easily, but. . .

to play legato on trombone, you need to do three things well:

1. **Quick slide** - no smeary garbage noises between notes.
2. **Continuous flow of air** - for a smooth transition.
3. **Soft legato tongue** - for a clear, but smooth beginning to each note.



1) Quick Slide

Many players assume that to play smoothly on trombone, you must move the slide smoothly. However, if you move the slide slowly, you either have to put a silence in while you move the slide, or you get a smeary noise while you change positions. The answer to this problem, is to keep the slide in place as long as possible as you sustain the first note. Then, zip the slide into place just in time for the second note. If you move the slide quickly enough, the tonguing or lip slur will mask any smeary slide noise from being heard.

2) Continuous air flow

To play continuous, smooth sounds, you need to blow continuous, smooth air. Many players drop their air support between notes, but this is a mistake you should avoid. If anything, increase the air you blow just as you change notes. Make sure your lips don't stop buzzing between notes—it should feel like one big long tone.

3) Soft Tongue

The purpose of tonguing is to shape the beginning of the air. This starts the notes with clarity and the right amount of intensity. When you say the letter "D", your tongue doesn't press as hard against the roof of your mouth as when you say "T". Start your notes with a quick but gentle movement of the tongue, as if you were saying the syllable "Doh" (or similar). This puts a more rounded beginning on your notes, and makes your slurs more graceful, smooth, and refined.

Learning to play Legato

The first step is to get used to using a softer, legato tongue. This kind of tonguing interrupts the air little enough that you should feel like you are playing one long tone.


Toh-----Doh-----Doh




Continuous air: should feel like one long note

Practice the following exercises to perfect your legato tonguing:

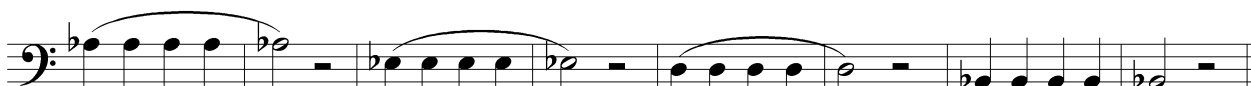
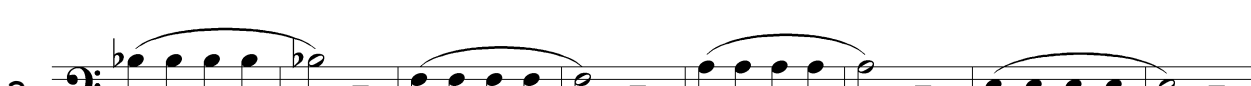
1 Toh -- Doh -- Doh Toh -- Doh -- Doh Toh -- Doh -- Doh Toh -- Doh -- Doh



2 Toh -- Doh -- Doh Toh -- Doh -- Doh




3 Toh Doh Doh Doh Doh



Learning Legato, Page 3

Use the following exercises to perfect the timing of your quick slide motion, and legato tongue.

1  Musical staff 1, first line: Bass clef, key signature of one flat (B-flat). The staff contains three measures. The first measure has a half note B-flat with a slur above it. The second measure has a half note B-flat with a slur above it. The third measure has a half note B-flat with a slur above it. There are rests in the second and third measures.

 Musical staff 1, second line: Bass clef, key signature of one flat. The staff contains three measures. The first measure has a half note B-flat with a slur above it. The second measure has a half note B-flat with a slur above it. The third measure has a half note B-flat with a slur above it. There are rests in the second and third measures.

2  Musical staff 2, first line: Bass clef, key signature of one flat. The staff contains four measures. The first measure has a half note B-flat with a slur above it. The second measure has a half note B-flat with a slur above it. The third measure has a half note B-flat with a slur above it. The fourth measure has a half note B-flat with a slur above it. There are rests in the second and fourth measures.

 Musical staff 2, second line: Bass clef, key signature of one flat. The staff contains four measures. The first measure has a half note B-flat with a slur above it. The second measure has a half note B-flat with a slur above it. The third measure has a half note B-flat with a slur above it. The fourth measure has a half note B-flat with a slur above it. There are rests in the second and fourth measures. Musical staff 2, third line: Bass clef, key signature of one flat. The staff contains four measures. The first measure has a half note B-flat with a slur above it. The second measure has a half note B-flat with a slur above it. The third measure has a half note B-flat with a slur above it. The fourth measure has a half note B-flat with a slur above it. There are rests in the second and fourth measures.

3  Musical staff 3, first line: Bass clef, key signature of one flat. The staff contains three measures. The first measure has a half note B-flat with a slur above it. The second measure has a half note B-flat with a slur above it. The third measure has a half note B-flat with a slur above it. There are rests in the second and third measures.

 Musical staff 3, second line: Bass clef, key signature of one flat. The staff contains three measures. The first measure has a half note B-flat with a slur above it. The second measure has a half note B-flat with a slur above it. The third measure has a half note B-flat with a slur above it. There are rests in the second and third measures.

4  Musical staff 4, first line: Bass clef, key signature of one flat. The staff contains three measures. The first measure has a half note B-flat with a slur above it. The second measure has a half note B-flat with a slur above it. The third measure has a half note B-flat with a slur above it. There are rests in the second and third measures.

 Musical staff 4, second line: Bass clef, key signature of one flat. The staff contains three measures. The first measure has a half note B-flat with a slur above it. The second measure has a half note B-flat with a slur above it. The third measure has a half note B-flat with a slur above it. There are rests in the second and third measures.