

MS Tuba Warm-Up, No. 1

Martorano's Low-Brass Studio

How to Read Notes from the Bass Clef

When reading notes from the Bass Clef, try using these two acronyms:

Lines					Spaces			
Good	Burritos	Don't	Fall	Apart	All	Cows	Eat	Grass

Long Tones in Three Easy Steps!!!

Excellent brass playing starts with practicing beautiful sounds. Try these three easy steps:

Step 1: Face Buzzing (& Wind)

Take a deep breath and blow relaxed air across closed lips. The air outward should feel like a long, relaxing sigh. The lips should touch, as if you are saying the word "Poe". If your face feels too tense, try repeating this line using only wind (without the lips buzzing).

①

inhale Face buzz (or wind) inhale Face buzz (or wind) (same) ----- X Δ X

Tip: Don't force the air! The key is to stay relaxed, and let the air flow where it wants to.

Step 2: Mouthpiece Buzzing

Place the mouthpiece on the lip. Take a deep breath and blow relaxed air across closed lips (just like before). While buzzing, you need to anchor the corners of your mouth to avoid puffy cheeks (think very slight smile). If a continuous buzz is not created, puckering your lips slightly forward (like make a fish face).

②

inhale M.P. buzz (same) ----- Δ □ Δ □ Δ □

Tip: The goal is a big, full buzz. Think, "a hive of angry bees!"

Step 3: Playing on the Tuba

Plug the mouthpiece in the Tuba and repeat all the parts of Step 2. While play, focus on keeping the pitch steady.

③

inhale Play (same) ----- Δ ○ Δ ○ Δ ○ Δ ○

Tip: After successfully playing a note on the tuba, return to the mouthpiece and buzz that note. Aim at a consistent, unwavering sound.