

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	Ap <u>ar</u> t	All	C <u>ow</u> s	E <u>a</u> t	Gr <u>ass</u>

Long Tones in Three Easy Steps!!!

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

No. 1: Face Buzzing / Wind

To face buzz, take a deep breath and blow relaxed air across closed lips. This exercise resembles "Blowing Raspberries", but only involving the lips (no tongue). If your face feels too tense, try repeating this line using only wind (without the lips buzzing). When you breathe out, it should feel like a relaxing, long sigh.

①

Tip: The key is to stay relaxed and use steady air flow. Take a deep breath and let the air flow where it wants to.

No. 2: Mouth-piece Buzzing

Using the same embouchure as above, place the mouthpiece to the lip and blow slow, relaxed air. If a continuous buzz is not created (and you only hear air), puckering your lips forward (like make a fish face). Remember! Slow, relaxed air creates low, continuous sounds.

②

Tip: Try alternating between buzzing and singing these notes. Use a reference tone before you sing ("Tonal Energy" app or "Cello Drone" found on YouTube).

No. 3: Playing on the Tuba

Using the same embouchure as before, play a concert F on the tuba (as seen below).

③

Tip: Before playing, focus on the pitch in your mind. While playing, focus on an even flow of air.