

# Tuning the Double Horn

“Always tune a centered pitch. Do not tune to the tuner.”

## Identify Slides on the Horn

- A. Locate the main tuning slide
  1. Every horn has a main tuning slide. Start at the mouthpiece and trace the tubing along the back side of the horn until you reach the first removable slide. This is the main tuning slide.
  2. The main tuning slide adjusts the entire double horn. Pull out to lower the pitch and push in to raise the pitch.
  
- B. Locate the open F side slide
  1. Every double horn will have a main tuning slide as described above and an open F side tuning slide. Both of these slides are located on the back of the horn.
  2. The slide described in section A above is the main tuning slide. The other slide is the open F side tuning slide.
  3. Pull or push the open F side tuning slide when playing open notes (no valves at all) are out of tune. For example pull the slide if C4, E4, G4 are sharp and push the slide in if those notes are flat.
  
- C. Locate the open Bb side tuning slide
  4. Certain brand of horns have an open Bb side tuning slide. They are Holton, some Yamaha, and Alexander.
  5. Locate the open Bb side tuning slide on the front of the horn. It is the topmost small slide pointing toward the bell, found closest to the Bb horn trigger.
  6. Adjust the open Bb side tuning slide for notes that are played trigger only without any other valves.
  
- C. Locate the tuning slides for each valve
  1. Find the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> valves. The slides extending out of the valves are the respective tuning slide for each one.
  2. Next find the two sets of slides coming from each valve. The top layer of slides tunes the respective valve for the F horn only (no trigger). The bottom layer of slides tunes the respective valve for the Bb horn only (with trigger).
  3. For example, pull or push the top 1<sup>st</sup> valve slide to tune any notes that are played depressing the 1<sup>st</sup> valve only, such as Bb3, D4, F4.

## **Tuning Procedure**

- A. Tune Open the Horn
  1. Play C4, G4, and C5 on the F side of the horn (0). Listen. Center the pitch. Check the tuner and adjust.
  2. Play C5 on the Bb side of the horn (T0). Listen. Center the pitch. Check the tuner and adjust.
  
- D. Tune the Second Valve
  1. Play B3, F#4, and B4 on the F side of the horn (2). Check tuner and adjust.
  2. Play B4 on the Bb side of the horn (T2); Check tuner and adjust.
  
- E. Tune First Valve
  1. Play Bb3, F4, and Bb4 on the F side of the horn (1). Check tuner and adjust.
  3. Play Bb4 on the Bb side of the horn (T1). Check tuner and adjust.
  
- F. Tune Valve Combinations
  1. Play A4 and D5 on the Bb side of the horn (T12). Check tuner and adjust.
  2. Play Ab4 and Db5 on the Bb side of the horn (T23). Check tuner and adjust.