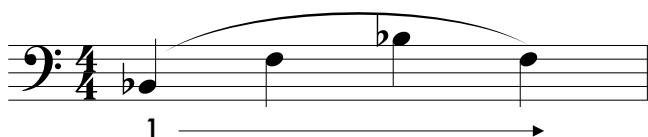


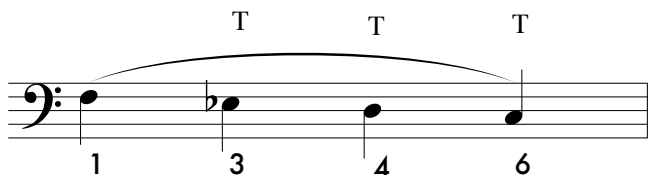
how to slur on trombone

For most wind instruments, slurring is easy: you tongue the first note in the group and you don't tongue the rest.

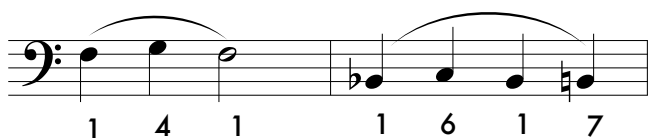
Because of the slide, trombonists need to plan out in more detail when to tongue and when not to tongue. Most of the time, trombonists will have to tongue to avoid the sliding sound between notes. Here is a guide to tell you what to do and when to do it.



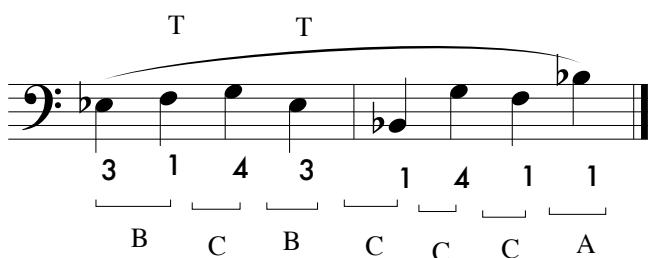
Rule A: If the group of slurred notes uses the same position, then you slur normally: that is, tongue the first note and do not tongue the rest.



Rule B: If the direction of the melody is in the same direction as the slide, then everything is tongued, but the first is tongued with a normal attack and the rest are tongued as softly – legato – as possible. You want to make it sound like it's slurred, even though you are faking it. In this case the melody goes down and the slide goes out.



Rule C: If the direction of the melody moves in the opposite direction of the slide, then slur normally. In the both measures, the melody goes up but the slide goes out, then the melody goes back down and the slide goes in, and so on. The slide has to move quickly and the buzz has to be adjusted. It will take practice and patience, as usual.



Most of the time, any slurred passage will involve all three of these rules! Take the time to plan it out. The more you do this now – especially with scales and patterns – the less you'll have to do it later, because eventually you will have them memorized without even trying. I've marked where you have to tongue and what rule applies.