Tune The Instrument

Maintain constant and proper hand position while tuning.

F Horn only - Tune open notes with main tuning slide then 2nd valve (to F# and B), 1st and 2nd valves (to A), and 2nd & 3rd valves (to Ab).

Double Horn - (F & B flat) Tune the F Horn first using the F Horn slide only - then match the Bb side to the F side using the same procedure (once both Bb and F sides of the horn are in tune with themselves). After both sides of the horn are in tune with each other, tune the instrument with a slide that adjusts both sides of the instrument.

Intonation Discrepancies:

Causes and Remedies for Intonation Discrepancies

Consider the following generalizations for valve combination fingerings
1-2 valve combination is moderately sharp.
1-3 valve combination is very sharp.
1-2-3 valve combination extremely sharp.
2-3 valve combination is moderately flat.

Embouchure - Center the Tone - The lips vibration (frequency) must agree with the note to be played. The accurate brass player must develop a muscular memory.
- TEE vowel with arched tongue may be used to raise the pitch.
- TAH or TOO vowel with Flat tongue may be used to lower pitch

Endurance - Tune when lips are warmed up.
- As one plays the pitch generally may tend to go sharp.
- Playing when lips are over tired may cause flatness.

Mouthpiece - Match the mouthpiece with the instrument.

Right Hand - Be consistent in use and placement of right hand.
- The pitch may appear to be lower as more the bell is covered.
- The pitch may appear to be higher as less the bell is covered.

Alternate Fingerings - Know and experiment with your instrument.

Dynamics - Crescendos may blow sharp. To correct: Maintain a firm embouchure throughout crescendo.
- Diminuendos may blow flat. To correct: Maintain sufficient breath support
Horn
Possible Adjustments for Selected Pitch Tendencies

Usually flat - Adjust the pitch by lipping the tone up and arching the tongue with the lip or pulling hand out of the bell.

Occasionally sharp - Finger with the 3rd valve only on long notes.

(Horn players need a good ear and must be sensitive to pitches. It helps if they are good singers as they will usually play better in tune.)
# Pitch Tendencies & Adjustments

## French Horn

(Notes not addressed are generally acceptable)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pitch Tendency</th>
<th>VS</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>F</th>
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<td>Use Bb side</td>
<td>Use Bb side</td>
<td>Use Bb side</td>
<td>Use Bb side</td>
<td>Use F side</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd &amp; 3rd valve</td>
<td>1st &amp; 2nd or 3rd valve</td>
<td>2nd valve</td>
<td>play open</td>
<td>3rd valve</td>
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Note: Recommend using Bb side from C# up

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>S</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Use F side</td>
<td>Use Bb side</td>
<td>F side</td>
<td>Bb side</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd valve</td>
<td>3rd valve</td>
<td>2nd &amp; 3rd</td>
<td>play use 3rd</td>
<td>1st valve</td>
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<tr>
<td>open</td>
<td>open</td>
<td>valve</td>
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<th>VF</th>
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<td>F side</td>
<td>Bb side</td>
<td>F side</td>
<td>Bb side</td>
<td>Bb side</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd valve</td>
<td>1st &amp; 3rd open</td>
<td>2nd &amp; 3rd use 2nd</td>
<td>1st &amp; 3rd open</td>
<td>use 3rd</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
HORN TUNING GUIDE

Procedures for Tuning the Instrument
1. Warm up thoroughly before tuning.
2. Tune at a mezzo-forte dynamic level and do not use vibrato.
3. Tune to a reliable frequency (electronic tuner, etc.) using the recommended tuning note(s) below.
4. Do not humor the tuning note; play it straight. Adjust the main tuning slides if the pitch is sharp or flat.

BASIC TUNING NOTES

The tuning pitches are indicated with half notes; quarter note pitches are used to help "groove" the tuning note by approaching it from below.

Tuning Mechanism: Main Tuning Slide(s). Tune the F horn first, then tune the B flat horn using the same written note (simply engage the thumb valve). The pitches should match each other. Push in or pull out the appropriate tuning slide to raise or lower the pitch.

Note: Be sure that you know which main tuning slide to adjust for each side of the double horn. Horns vary from one manufacturer to another. Consult the owner’s manual or ask your teacher for help. See below for guidance in tuning the six valves in relationship to the open horns.

TUNING THE VALVES

Each of the valves on your instrument has a separate tuning slide which must be adjusted in relationship to the main tubing after it has been tuned. Neglecting to tune the valves will adversely affect the overall intonation of your instrument. Follow these procedures:

1. Tune the first valve exactly one whole step below the opening tuning note as follows:
   Do not humor the pitch played with the valve. If it is flat, push in the slide. If it is sharp, pull out the slide.
   These procedures should be followed when tuning the other valves (see below).

2. Next, tune the second valve exactly one half step below the open tuning note as follows:

3. Last, tune the third valve exactly one and a half steps below the open tuning note as follows:
   Tune the valves on the F horn first, then tune the valves on the B flat horn.

Techniques for Adjusting Pitches While Playing

1. Alternate Fingerings
2. Use of the Right Hand in the Bell
3. Embouchure Adjustment – Lipping (increasing or decreasing lip pressure)
4. Combinations of the Above

INHERENT INTONATION FLAWS*

a) If these notes are sharp when played with the regular fingerings on the B flat horn, try the alternate fingerings indicated which are available on the F horn. Other alternate fingerings are possible.
b) To correct faulty intonation in the high register, use alternate fingerings, adjust the hand in the bell, and/or lip the notes in tune.

* Arrows pointing up indicate that the notes tend to be sharp; arrows pointing down indicate that the notes tend to be flat.
HORN INTONATION CHART

Name ______________________________________ Date ____________

Instrument Make and Model __________________________________________

Mouthpiece Used __________________________________________________

Carefully follow the procedures outlined in the Tuning Guide for your instrument before beginning to chart your intonation with a friend. Your teacher should provide an Intonation Charting Guidesheet with instructions on how to use an electronic tuner. Mark intonation discrepancies for lower octave scales below the staff.

Tuning Notes

\[ \text{Tuning Notes} \]

\[ \text{Check Open Tone} \]

Chromatic Scale

\[ \text{Chromatic Scale} \]

Major Scales

\[ \text{Major Scales} \]

Harmonic Minor Scales

\[ \text{Harmonic Minor Scales} \]

Pitch Tendencies of Dynamics and Muting

\[ \text{Pitch Tendencies of Dynamics and Muting} \]