

NECESSARY TOOLS

In all jobs a few basic tools are required to get the job done and playing the Trombone is no different. Someone building a house would find their job impossible if they did not have a hammer, saw, and nails. Your toolkit is almost as simple but just as necessary.

- Metronome
- Tuner
- Trombone
- Your Brain
- A Good Attitude

If you look closely at the list you will find that you probably have most of the required materials. All of the tools are needed for proper progression on your horn but the final two are the most important.

Metronome

This is one of the musician's most important tools and you will use it for years to come. Models range in price from \$10-\$100+ but they all do the same thing. I suggest purchasing a digital model that has numerous settings (i.e. it can subdivide and play a "beep" on 8th, 16th and triplet beats). If you don't have a metronome now you can search on the internet for an online metronome. Google has numerous suggestions but you **must** buy a real one. It will pay for itself almost immediately and it will be needed later in this book.

Tuner

Equally important is a chromatic Tuner. Prices have dropped in recent years and you can now get both a **tuner AND metronome** in the same package! There is no excuse to not buy both of them. The tuners purpose is to make musicians go crazy. Actually, the purpose is to allow the musicians to play in tune, or to play the same note each time. This is even more important on a trombone. Go look at your trombone now, notice the slide, and imagine how many different variations there are for one position. I jokingly refer to my slide as a three foot guessing stick. The tuner keeps the guess work out of it and keeps our ears in shape. Be sure to always keep your metronome and tuner in your case, that way you won't forget them.

Trombone

Your trombone is the instrument that you will use to communicate your musical ideas with the world. Treat it well and it will never let you down. Keep your horn clean and in good working order for the best experience. See the chapter on **Care and Feeding** for tips on how to keep your instrument in great condition.

Your Brain

One of the most important tools at your disposal is your brain. You will use this tool to evaluate yourself and your playing. From reading music to striving to play like the Trombonist you imagine in your head, the brain will be your companion on your musical journey. Those of you who find yourself without a brain may stop now, return this book and petition for a refund; all others please continue.

A Good Attitude

Trombone playing is a life long endeavor and there will never be a point where you will finish. This constant struggle is part of the beauty and frustration in playing music. Your attitude will determine if you falter or succeed and it will see you through many difficult times. I encourage you to approach each practice session with an excellent attitude and an open mind. After all, our goal is not to practice but to play *music*.

Your Local Music Store: There when you need it most

Today with almost everything available on the internet for a lower price one may wonder why someone would buy something at a store. After all, you probably got this very book off of a website. Your instrument is a slightly different matter. The relationship you build with your music store will be an important one. Numerous “wearable” items such as slide cream, cleaning supplies and even new instruments are most conveniently purchased at a store. Find a store that you like, where the employees care about what they sell and don't try to push off un-needed accessories. Compare prices but remember that you can touch and feel the products at the music store and not over the internet. Might I suggest you use this opportunity to purchase your tuner/metronome from your local music shop?

* Now stop, take a break and use your brain to go purchase a metronome and a tuner! *