Texas Bandmasters Association
Convention/Clinic July 20-22, 2023

Marching Procedures for Excellence

CLINICIANS:
Rich Armstrong, Denise Armstrong, Justin Bell, Reggie Cook, Jason Robb

Demo Group: Waxahachie HS Band

HENRY B. GONZALEZ CONVENTION CENTER - SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Marching Procedures for Excellence "Always on Purpose"

Featuring the Waxahachie High School Band Program

Clinicians: Rich Armstrong, Justin Bell, Denise Armstrong, Reggie Cook, Jason Robb

2023 Texas Bandmasters Association Convention

The staff and students at the Waxahachie High School Band will demonstrate and discuss the procedures and marching techniques that have helped cultivate a mindset of excellence within their program.

1. **Tweak, refine, and implement procedures and routines**
    a. **Entrance/Exit of Field**
        i. A place for everything and everything a place
        ii. Ordered by sections, organized, neat and tidy
        iii. Horns in hands, in lines on turf, in cases organized
        iv. Same place every single rehearsal
    b. **Stretching set up on field**
        i. Teacher up front
        ii. Sections set up in pods on field with eyesight to teacher
        iii. Not a block
        iv. DM's and staff circulating to facilitate assistance
    c. **Starting of reps (indoors and outdoors)**
        i. Everyone is in either standby or set while working (relax is for breaks)
        ii. From standby drum major says "set"
        iii. Kids go to set and say "set" (horns up, playing position, correct posture)
        iv. Drum Major gives instructions
        v. DM brings hands up and band repeats instructions
        vi. Met starts and after clicks the band completes the rep
        vii. At completion of rep all hold until DM says adjust
        viii. Repeat process

d. Learning Drill Quicker (Plan to learn drill in music phrases)

i. All kids create their own dot book from coordinates
ii. When instructed, Members put down dots for focused phrases using tape
iii. All go to set 1; DM leads the saying of the dot
    1. Page 1, Side 2, 2 outside 20 yard line, 3 in front of front hash
    2. Students, using straight arm point to yrd lines and hashs to show
    3. Use an outside MF voice
    4. Repeat this process for all dots being used for the learning phrase
iv. Flutter and Set to Set
    1. Start on 1, DM instructs to flutter to 2, do this till all sets complete
    2. March from 1-2, 2-3 and so on until phrase is completed
v. Freeze Frame
    1. Page 1 to end of phrase adding 8 count hold in between
    2. Add playing of music in freeze frame to isolate parts and sections

e. Only play with full group

i. This includes break time
ii. Before/after practice
iii. Organized playing is the only thing allowed

f. Instruction from Leaders and Staff

i. Wait till third rep
ii. Order is Field corrections; 2nd tier tower; top tier tower last
iii. Top tier tower tells DM instructions who then tell band
iv. Tower Trumps Field-Always
    1. All stop, turn, and point to tower for instruction
    2. If name or section is called all raise hand w/elbow over ear to acknowledge

g. Consequences

i. Do the right thing-the thing you know to be the right thing
    1. Obedience is not optional
    2. Be prepared and know your stuff
    3. Others depend on you
ii. Pushups, sit ups, burpees, and/or laps

2. Music Fundamentals

a. **Daily Routine**-Long Tones, Slurs, Articulation, Scales, Chorale

- **i. Breathing - "Must be written in and rehearsed in music"**
  1. Syncing with step
  2. Breathing Tubes
  3. Stagger Early, Middle, and Late breathing assignments
- ii. **Long Tones – Synchronize with feet and sound**
  1. 5 and 9 count notes
  2. 2 count breath – Breath – Push – 1
  3. 1 count breath – Breath/Push simultaneous
- iii. **Slurs–moving cleanly note to note**
  1. Brass-flexibility and embouchure development
  2. Woodwinds-Air speed and voicing
  3. All-Quality in all registers
- iv. **Articulation–clarity to note starts and releases**
  1. Basic shape is Brick
  2. Front-tongue in same place for all notes
  3. Back-length of note decides style
- v. **Scales–technical development**
  1. Utilize multiple articulation patterns
  2. Couple with ear training
  3. Expectation for all players
- vi. **Chorale/SMU–linear and transparent parts**
  1. Sing, bop, and subdivide
  2. In small 4 part groups
  3. Tuning and controlled volume growth

3. Visual Fundamentals

a. Posture-6 points

- i. Zone 1-Ankle, Knee, Hip
- **ii.** Zone 2-Hip, Rib Cage-Shoulder
- **iii.** Zone 3-Shoulder-Ears

b. Few exercises but impactful

- i. Pointe-shape and length of leg-hinge from hip
- ii. 50/50-weight transfer in time
- iii. Zigzag-shoulder alignment in shift
- iv. Snowcone-step size change + form alignment
- v. Circle-spacing while shifting

c. **Move and Play**
    i. Tracking
    ii. Across Floor
    iii. In Circle Drill

4. Student Ownership

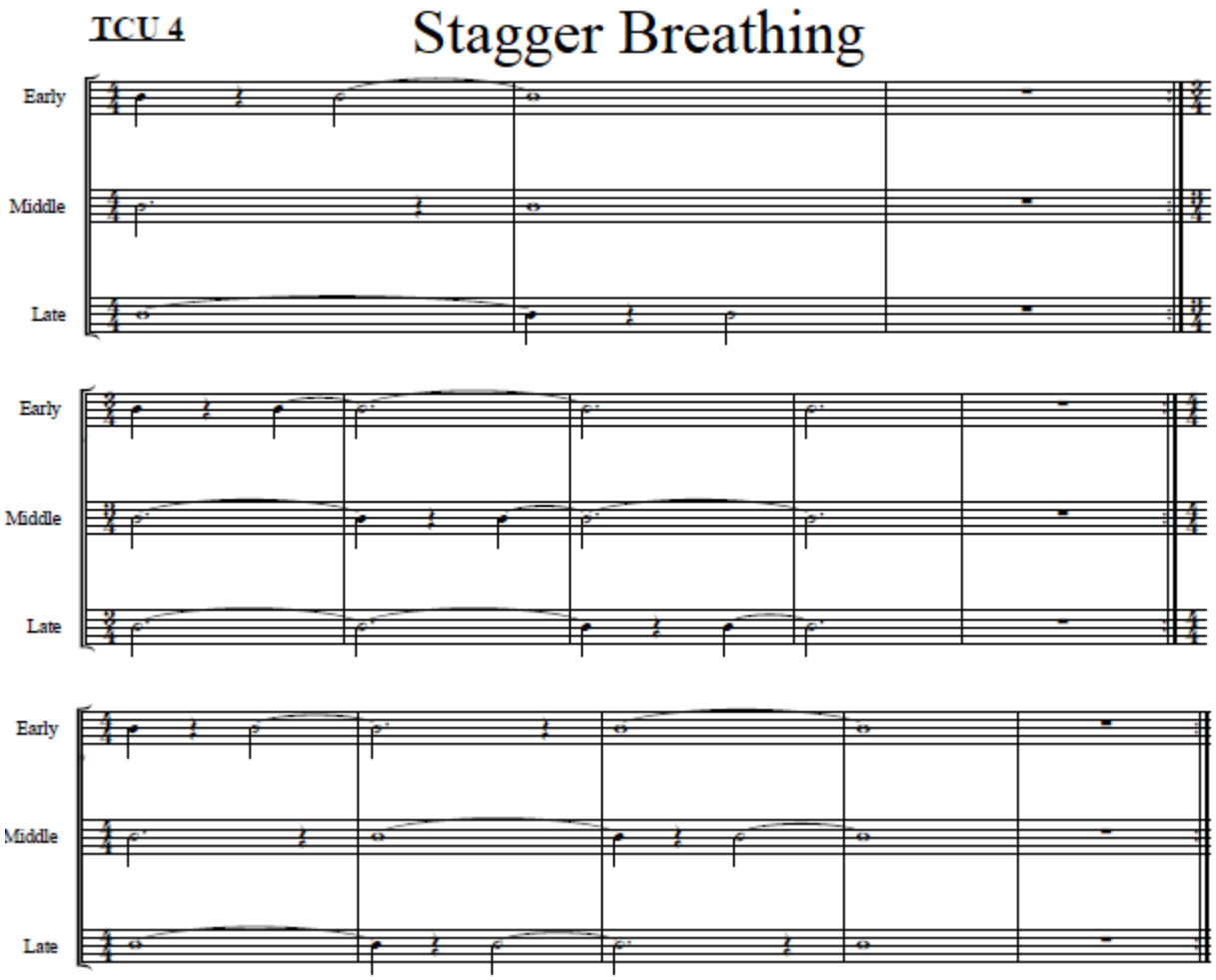
a. **Weekly Commitment Cards**
    i. Training/Physical, Practice, and Performance Goal
    ii. Written on Note Cards and communicated within sections
b. **Weekly Debrief/Success/Belonging Moment**
    i. At end of each practice and Thursday night before game night (10 minutes)
    ii. Coupled with sharing of Commitment Cards
    iii. Promote teamwork, trust, gratitude, learning to say thank you
c. **Student Led sectionals**
    i. Sometimes built into rehearsals
    ii. Promote members teaching/helping members with staff mentorship
    iii. They decide rehearsal chunks-improve their analysis skill set

5. Power of Rep

a. **"Repetitio mater studiorum,"** Repetition is the mother of all learning!
    i. "Everytime I got to do it again, everything got a little better" - Rich Armstrong
    ii. "The best contribution a student leader can make to the band program, is to facilitate as many reps as possible over the duration of the season" - Evan VanDoren
    iii. "In this moment, what is going to make the band better, my voice? Or another rep?" - Andy Ebert

6. Do What You Learn from Successful Teachers

a. Title of Daily Drill Exercises with Hand Signs-Cedar Park-Bob Chreste
b. Visual Approach-Ballet-Dance Training-CT Johnson-Jarrett Lipman
c. Alter exercises to Make Kids Think-Flowermound-Brent Biskup & Jana Harvey
d. Shape of Note (brick)-Hebron- Andy Seale & Rick Lambrecht
e. Attention to Detail-Marcus-Amanda Drinkwater
f. Sound the Same-Transparency-Clarity of Line-Duncanville-Tom Shine, Brian Merrill, Jeff King, & David Brandon
g. Visual exercises-Shape of Leg-Cedar Park/Vandergrift-Mike Howard, Katie Vandoren, Evan Vandoren Steve Wessels, Jason Rob, Chris Yee
h. Old School Marching Exercises-Sports Training-Todd Ryan
i. Why are they doing that?-Do it right or Do it again-Donnie VanDoren
j. Enhanced Learning Procedures- Always a Distinct purpose-Jason Robb
k. Always Communicate-Artistry-Gary Markham & Jodie Rhodes

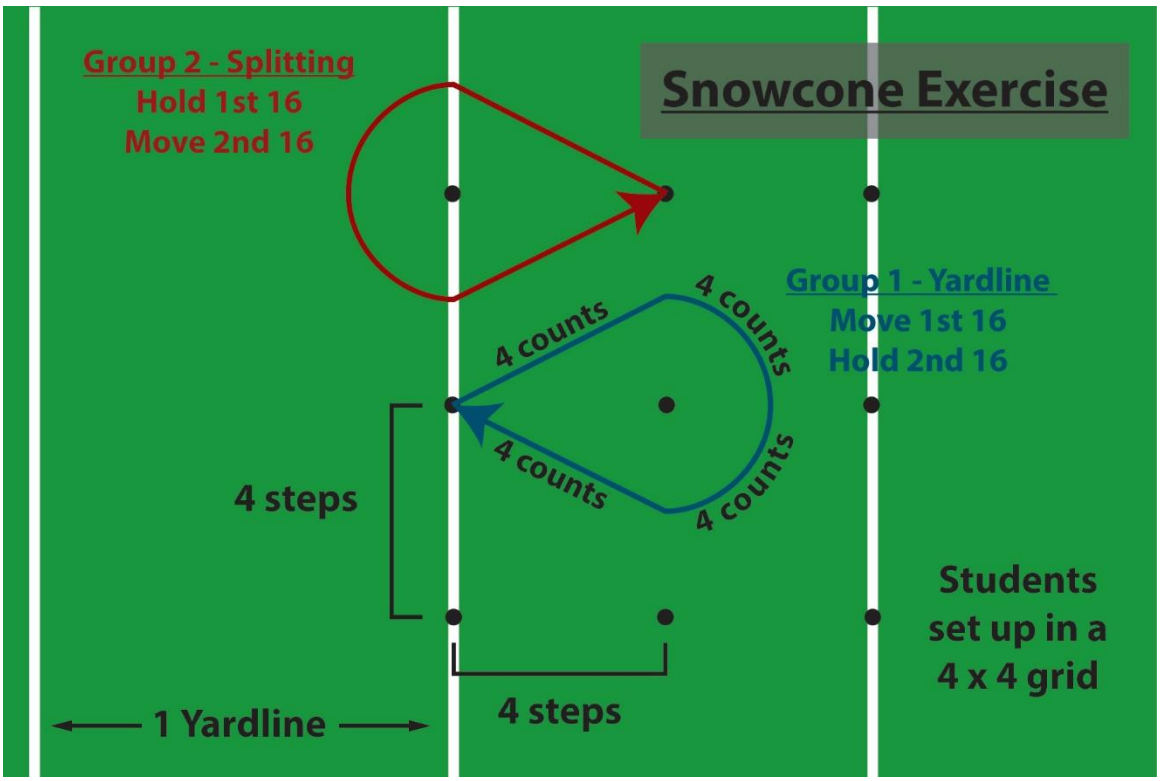


Commitment Card for Week of June 14, 2023

Training Goal: I will do 20 pushups, 40 situps, and run a 1/2 mile at the end of every MB practice before leaving the field.

Practice Goal: I will play my E scale and each mode 100's and I will memorize the 2nd half of part 2.

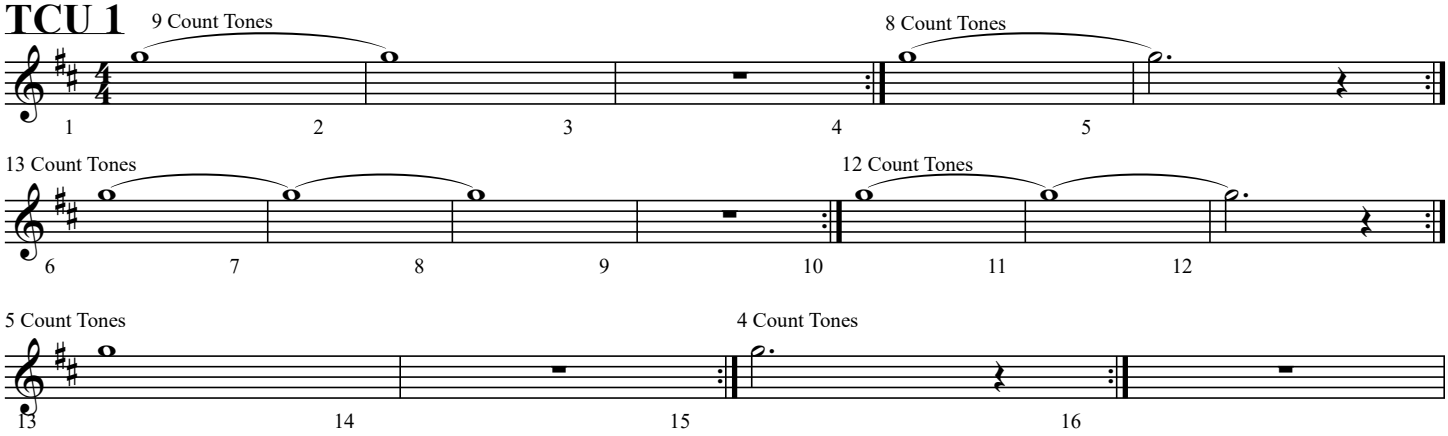
Performance Goal: I will be silent from the warm-up to the field, I will hold my elbows at the correct angle for all of mvt. 1., and I will play out at all hits.



WHS Daily Drills 2023 7/1/2023

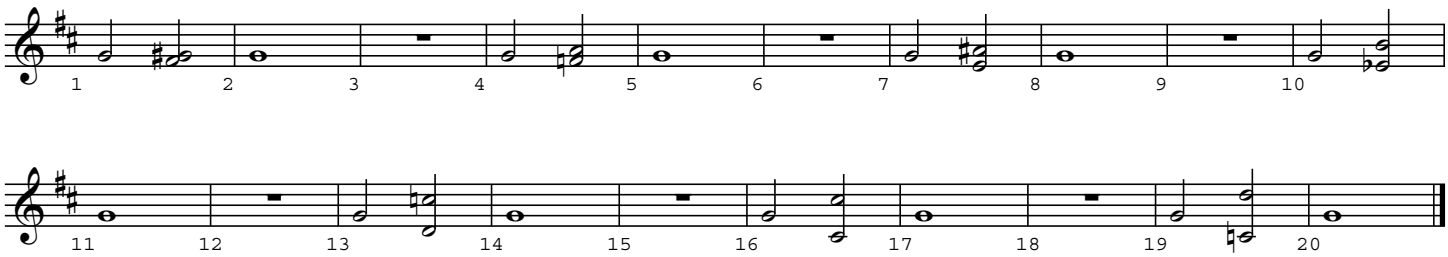
Clarinet in B♭

TCU 1



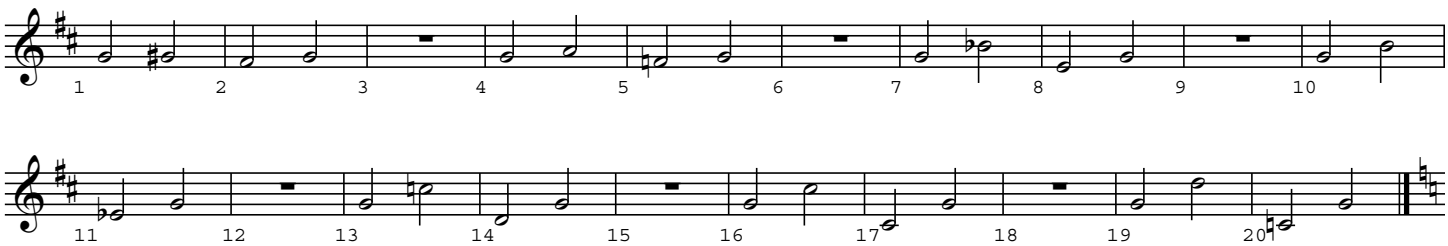
TCU 2

(Do in 1/2 and whole notes)

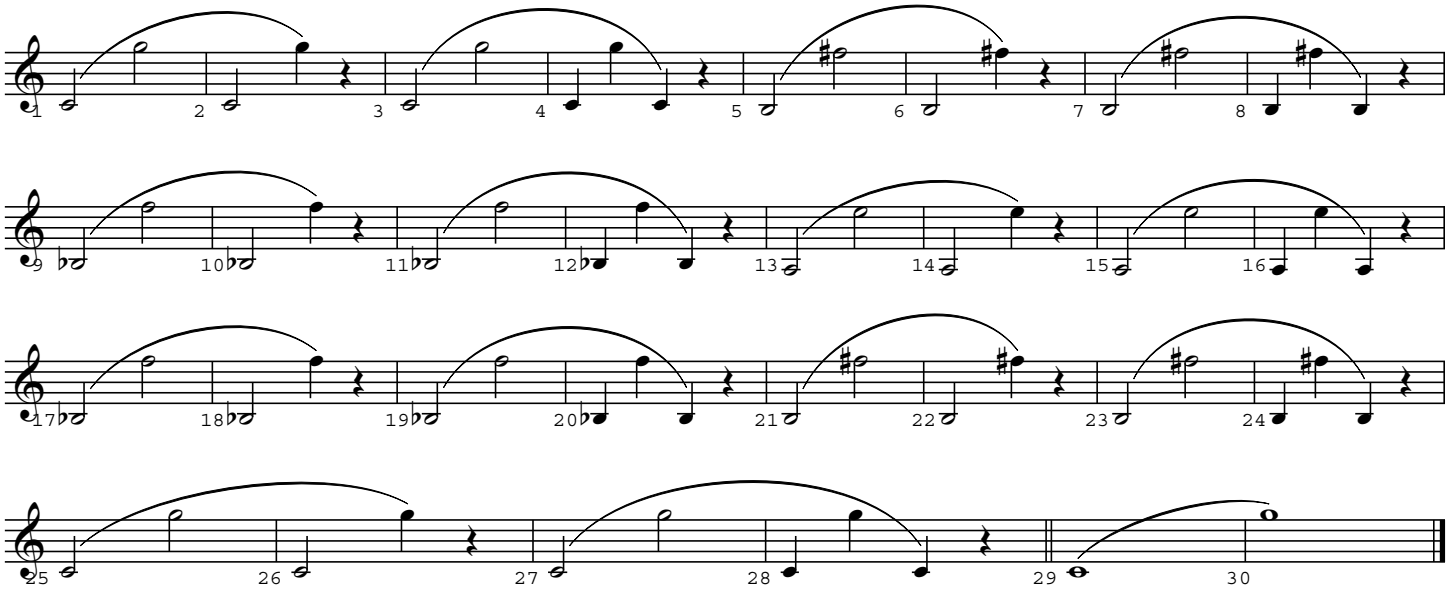


TCU 3

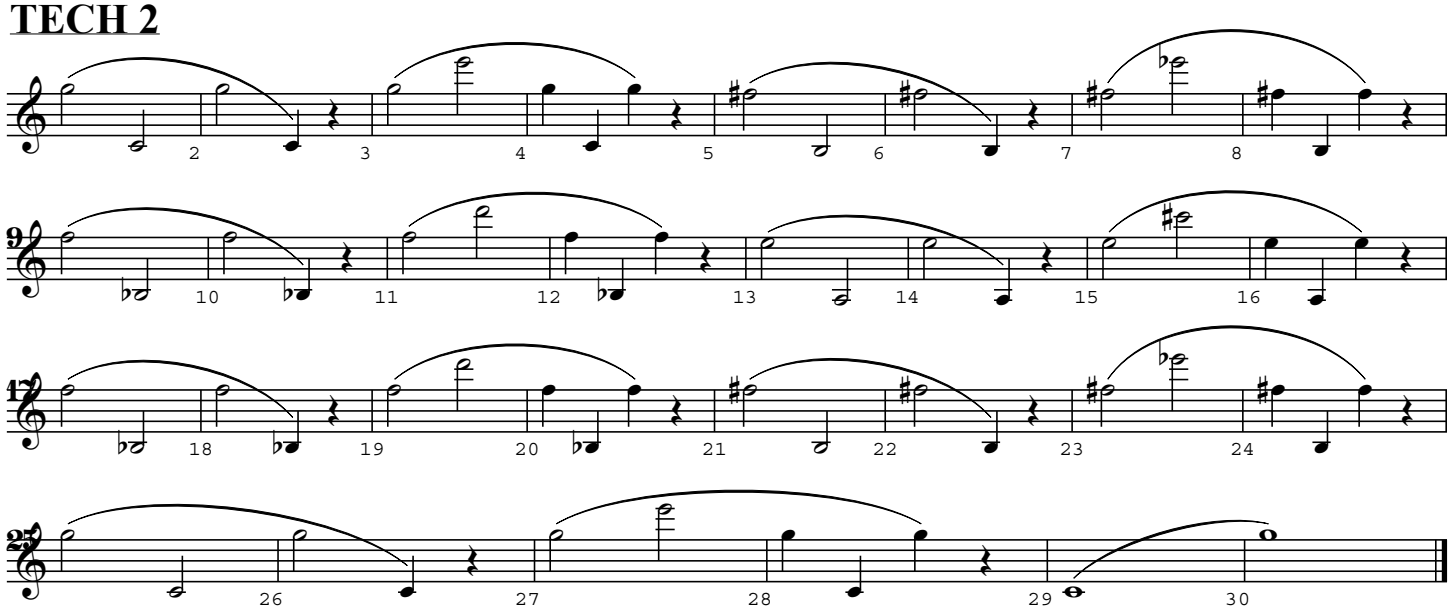
F Expanding



TECH 1



TECH 2



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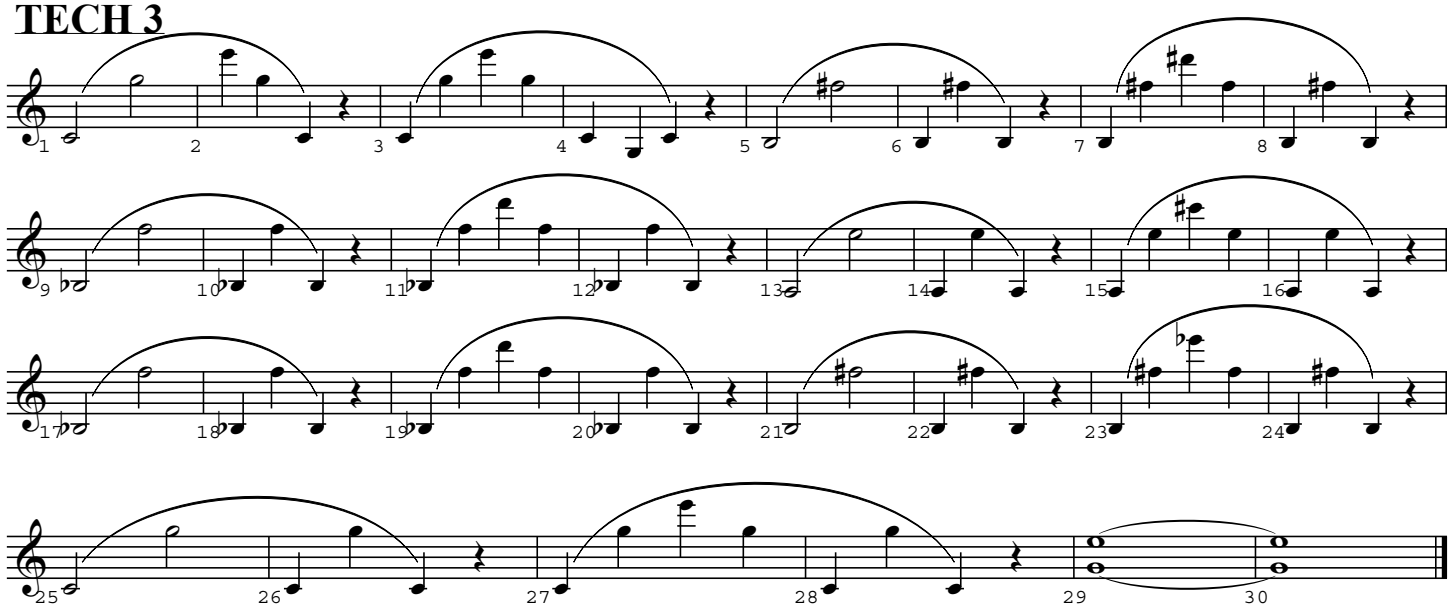
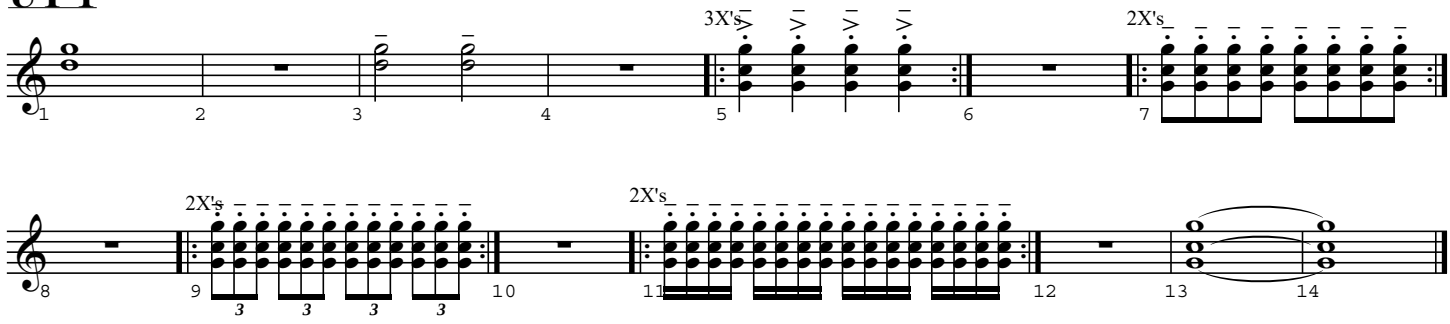


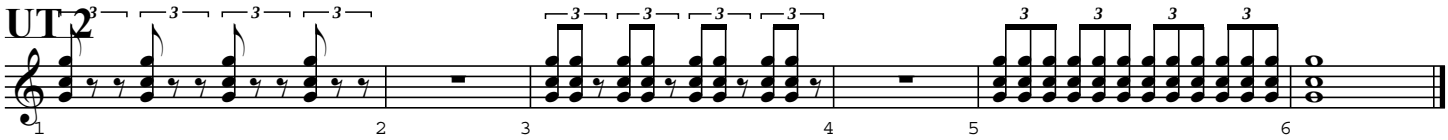
UT 1

Articulation (tenuto, marcato, staccato)



1X: Triplets 2X: Sixteenths

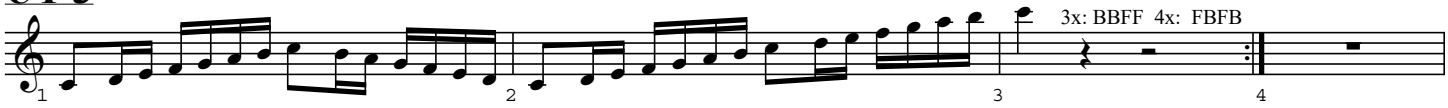
UT 2



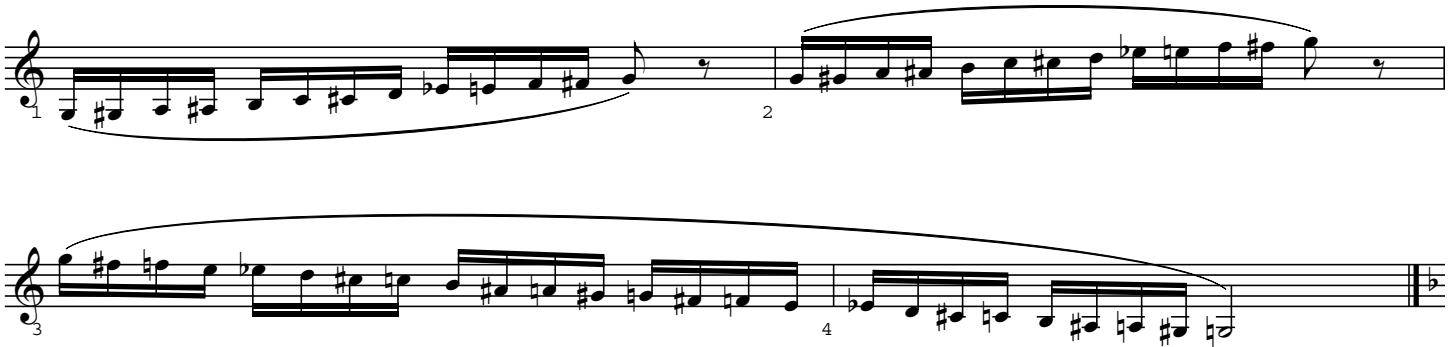
Ww's use major scales-Fl and Brass-dbl tonguing.

UT 3

1x: BBBB 2x: FFBB
3x: BBFF 4x: FBFB

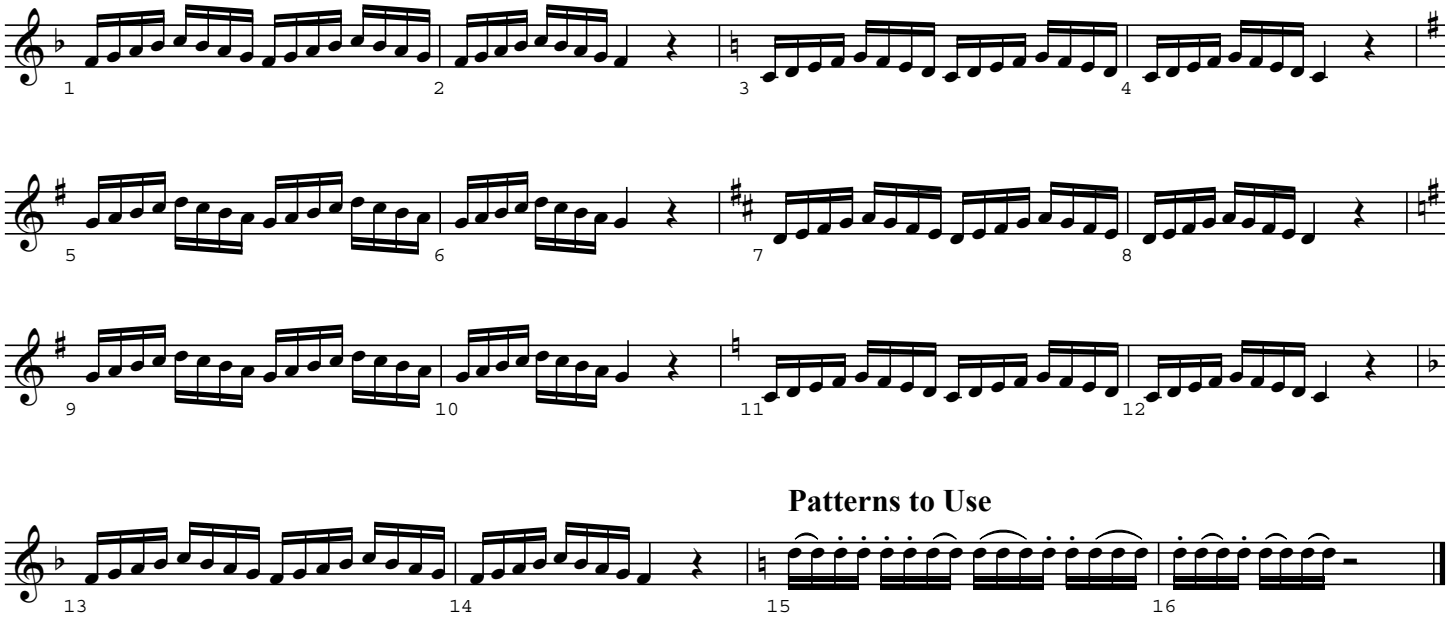


AM 1



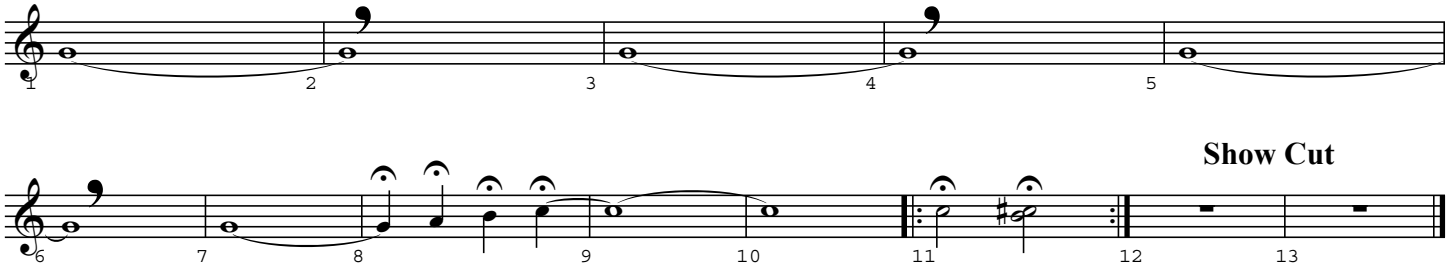
AM 2

1X: Slurred 2X: Staccato 3X: Patterns



Patterns to Use

SMU 1



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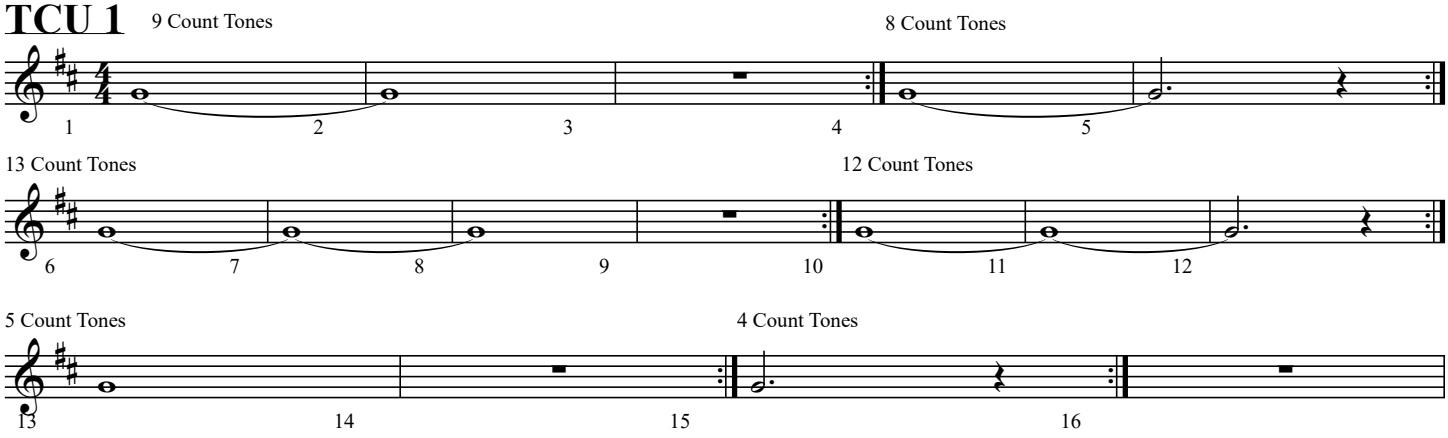
WHS Daily Drills 2023 7/1/2023

Trumpet in B♭

TCU 1



TCU 2

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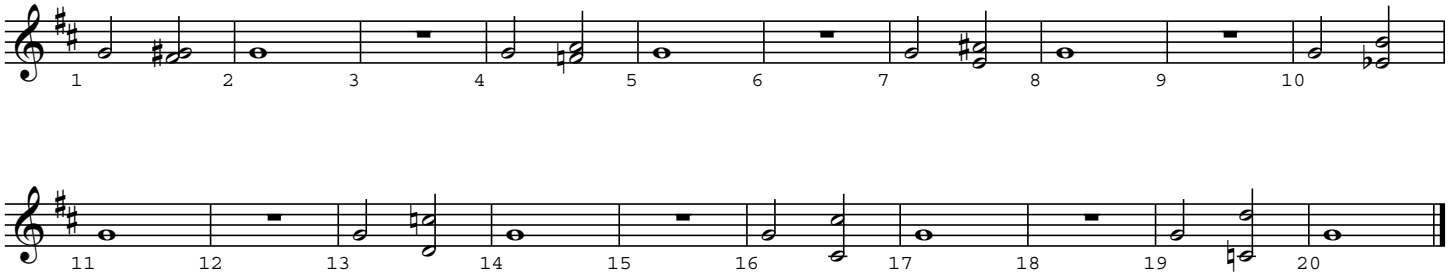

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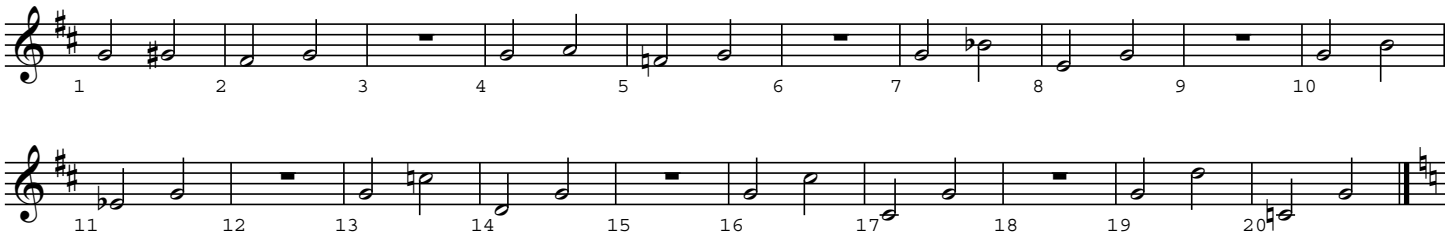
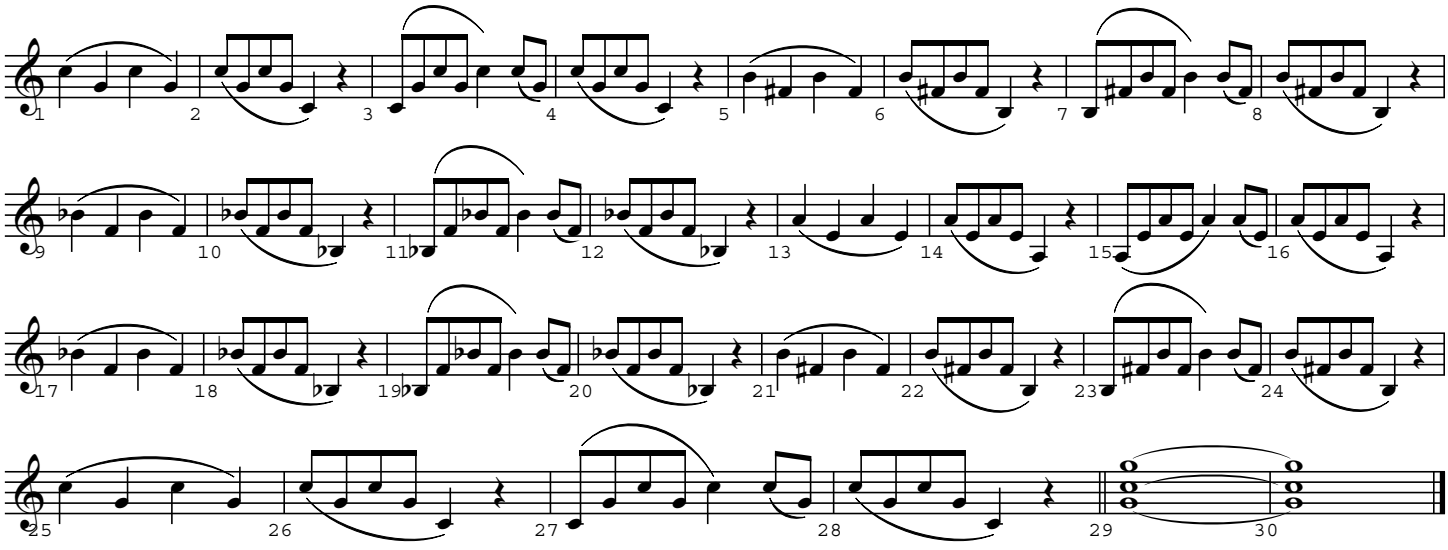
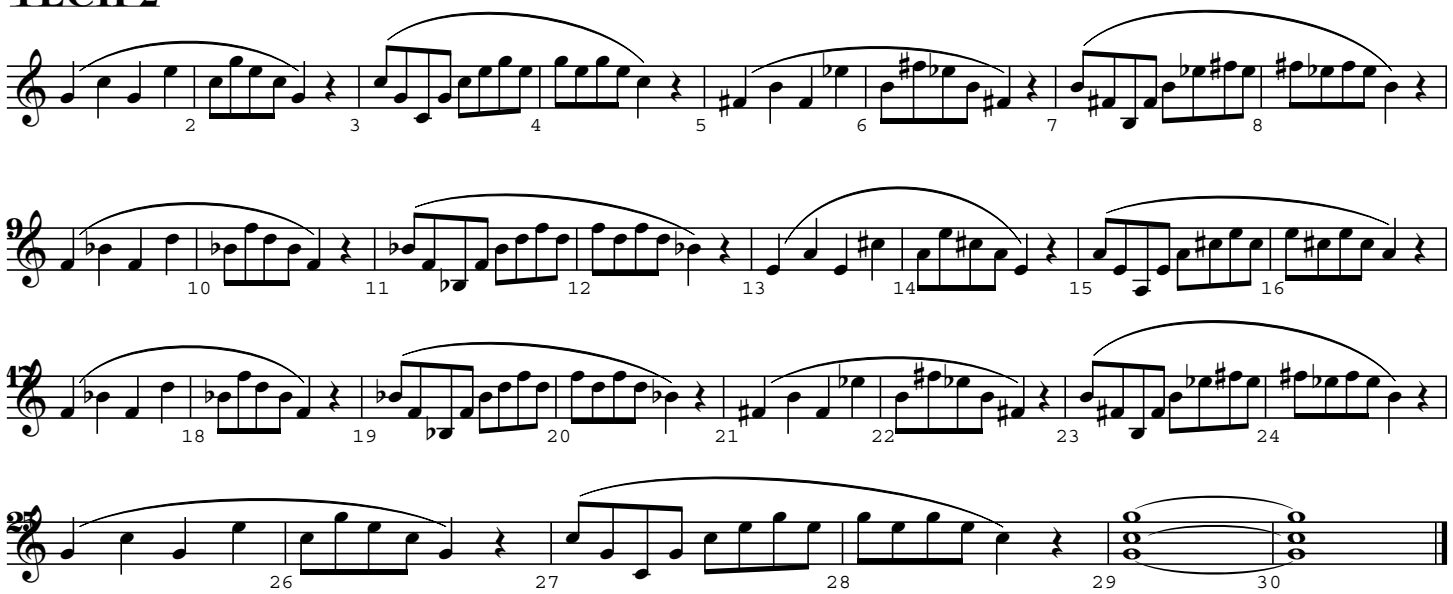


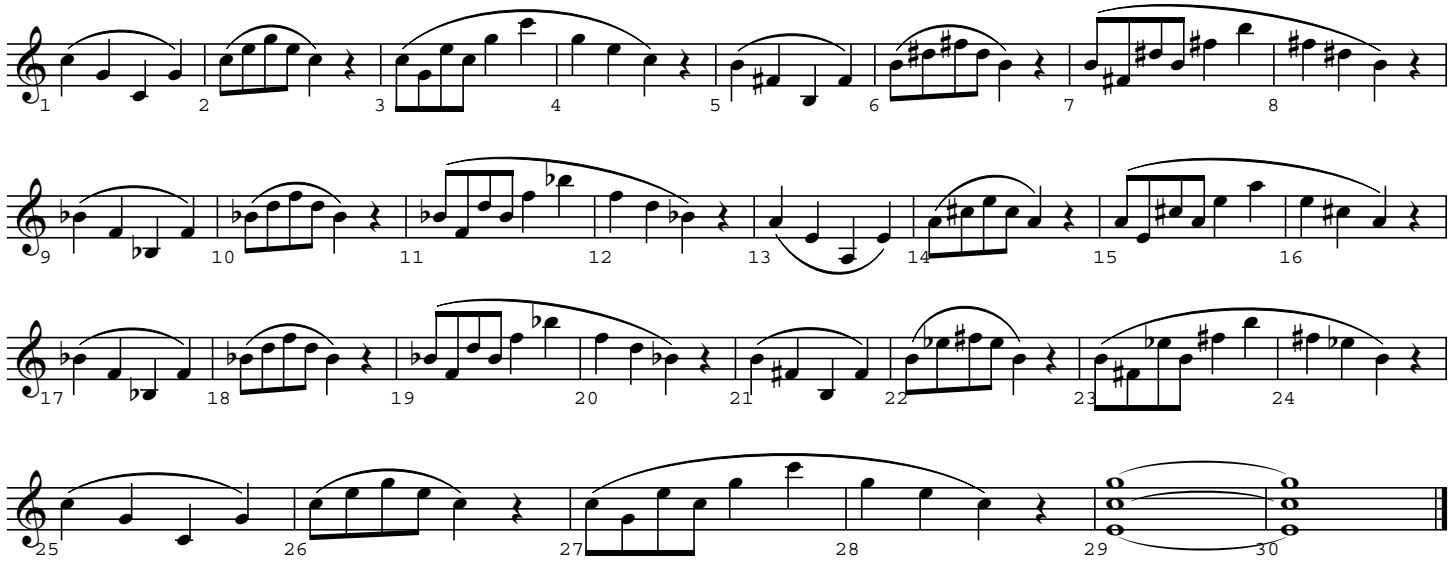
TECH 1



TECH 2

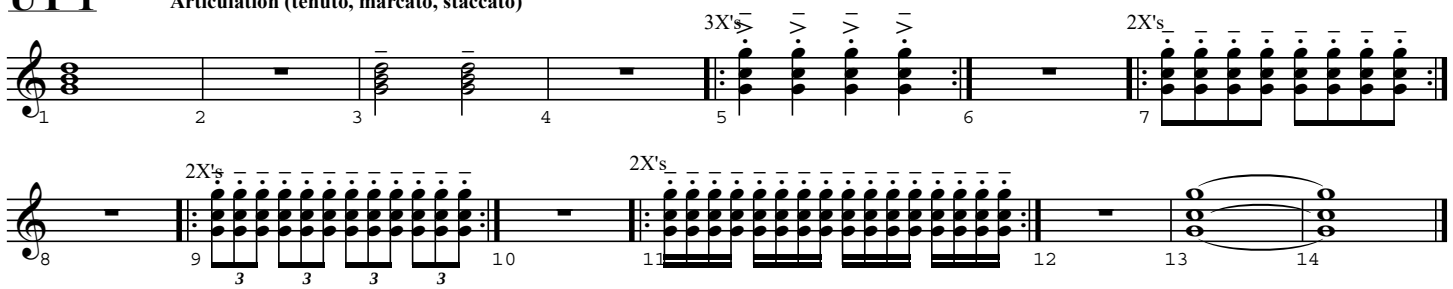


TECH 3



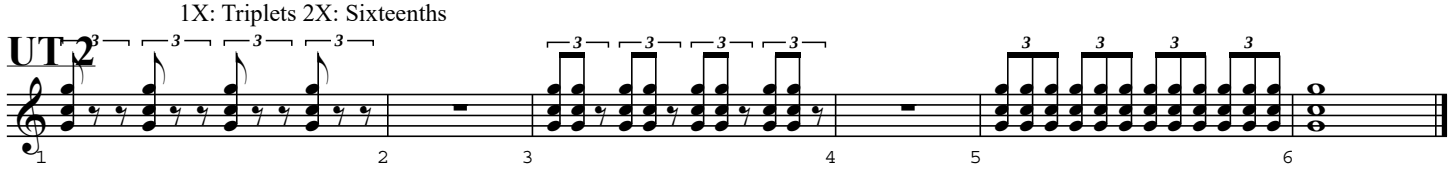
UT 1

Articulation (tenuto, marcato, staccato)



UT 2

1X: Triplets 2X: Sixteenths



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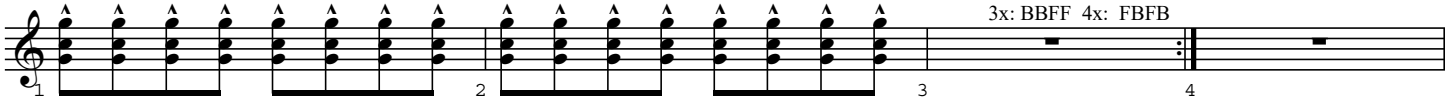
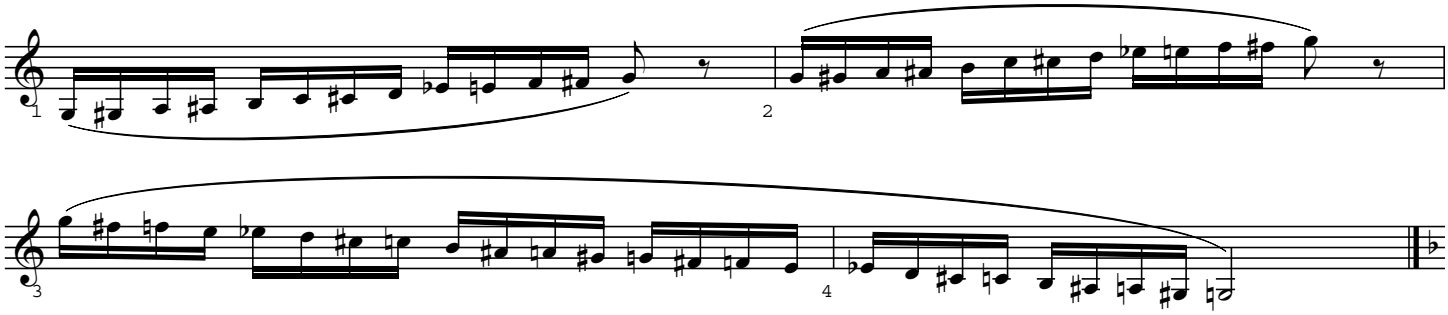
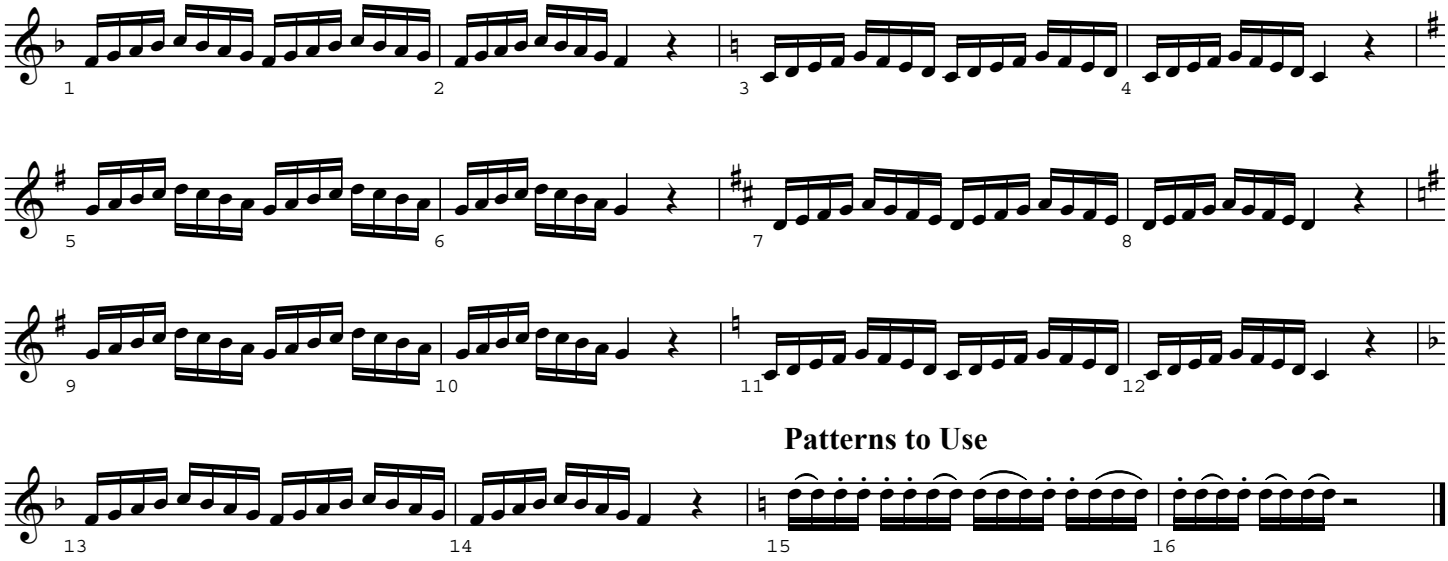


AM 1



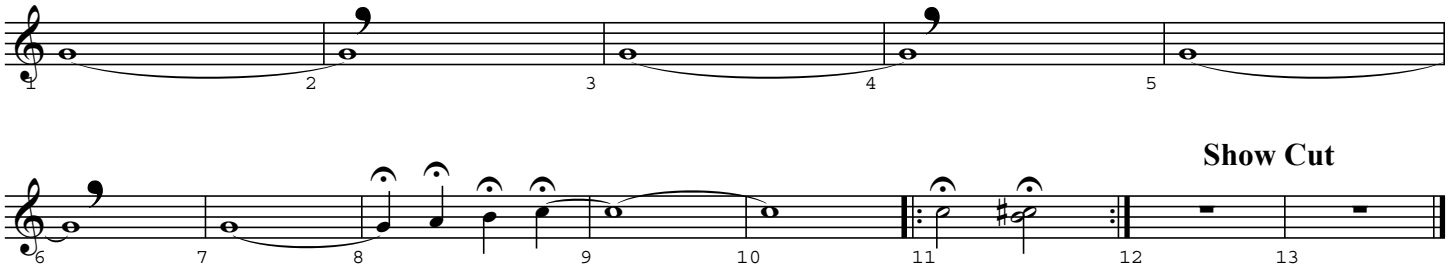
AM 2

1X: Slurred 2X: Staccato 3X: Patterns



Patterns to Use

SMU 1



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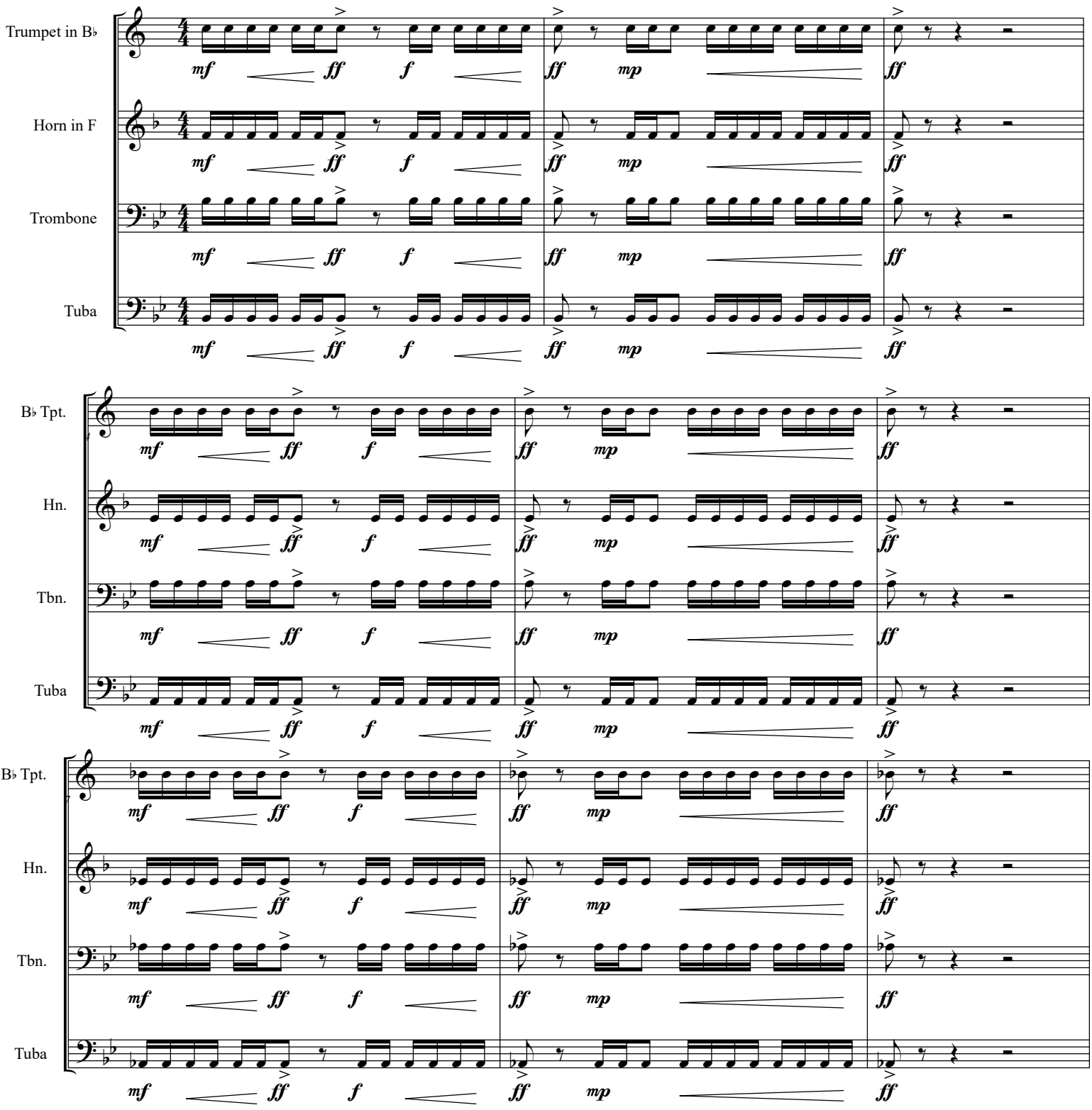
WHS Daily Drills 2023 6/7/2023

Brass Xtra's

UT 4



This rhythm is in part 2 of our show and this exercise would continue to concert G series and then move back to Concert Bb.