

Pitch Tendency Chart Guide

Tuba

Basic Tuning Rules

1. Warm up thoroughly before tuning
2. Always use sufficient air support and play at a mezzo forte dynamic level.
3. Do not use vibrato or try to manipulate the tuning note—play it straight.
4. Before completing the chart, tune to the pitches shown below. Adjust the main tuning slide if pitch is sharp or flat.

Your Tuning Notes

Play quarter note pitches to help “prep” the tuning notes (the half note pitches).



Your Tuning Mechanism

Main tuning slide. Pull out main tuning slide if the pitch is sharp, push it in if the pitch is flat.

Tuning the Valves:

Each of the valves on your instrument has a separate tuning slide that must be adjusted in relationship to the main tubing after it has been tuned. Neglecting to tune the valves will negatively affect the overall intonation of your instrument. To tune each valve, follow these steps:

- 1) Tune the first valve exactly one whole step below the open tuning note (A flat on the staff)
- 2) Next, tune the second valve exactly one half step below the open tuning note. (A natural on the staff)
- 3) Last, tune the third valve exactly one and a half steps below the open tuning note. (G on the staff)

**On instruments with a fourth valve, it may be necessary to tune the third valve slightly flat to help lower notes played with valves 1-3 and 1-2-3.*

On instruments with a fourth valve, you must tune it by playing the third partial F on the open horn (fourth space), then depress the fourth valve and match the pitch. If the pitch played with the fourth valve is sharp or flat, pull out or push in the fourth valve slide as you did above with the other three valves.

How to Adjust a Pitch While Playing

- Alternate fingerings (use a fourth valve when possible)
- Embouchure adjustment (increase lip pressure if pitch is flat, decrease if pitch is sharp)

Common Out of Tune Notes

