

## Before You Begin . . .

### *Clean Slide*

The trombone slide must be in good working order when attempting these studies. To make a smooth and clean legato slur, the player must: (1) Use a steady flow of breath; (2) Move the slide quickly, and at the last possible moment, to the next position; and (3) Tongue lightly as the slide arrives at the new position. If the slide will not move easily and quickly from position to position, legato playing is not possible.

Check the condition of the slide by holding the trombone perpendicular to the floor. Unlock the slide and let it *rest on* the fingers of the right hand. Lift the trombone quickly with the left hand. If the slide leaves the right hand, even for an instant, the slide either needs to be lubricated or repaired. If the slide remains at rest on the right hand in the test, this does *NOT* mean that the slide is "perfect." It only means that the slide is "good enough" to play legato.

### *Intonation*

Achieving good intonation when using the alternate positions on trombone is difficult for two reasons: (1) The instrument is usually out of tune on certain upper partials, particularly in the extended positions; and (2) The player tends to pinch and humor the intonation and the tone quality on these notes in the extended positions. With these two factors at work, the intonation of the alternate positions becomes insecure. The player must first produce an open unpinched tone on the alternate position note. Then, and only then, the slide must be adjusted to bring the note into tune. A poor tone that is pinched cannot be tuned properly. The alternate positions in this book are marked with #'s and b's when necessary to *help* the player's aim. Of course, the final adjustment of the note must be done by listening carefully.

### *Holding the Instrument*

The left hand grip and the support of the instrument is important in legato playing. If the instrument is jarred when the right hand moves, the legato will be broken. Support the entire weight of the instrument with the left hand. Use a right hand grip which moves the slide, but does not support the weight of the slide.