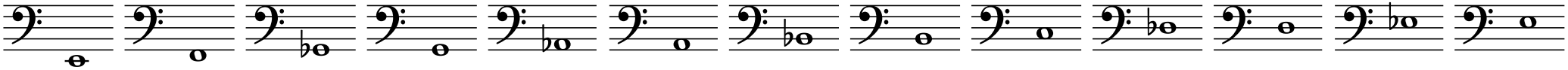Trombone slide position *chart*

Every note from E2 to F5 on a tenor trombone, with its slide position. Bass clef, concert pitch. Middle C is C4.

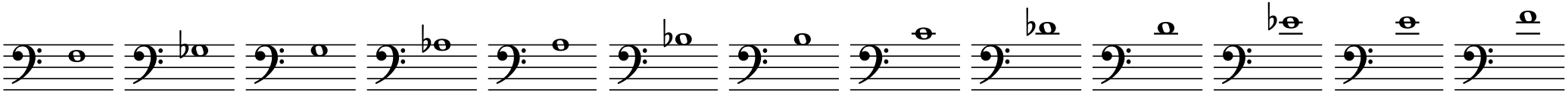
Matt Waters
Low brass teacher, Leicestershire
basstrombone.co.uk

These positions are approximate. Every trombone and every player is a little different. Always use your ears: move the slide until each note sounds centred and in tune.
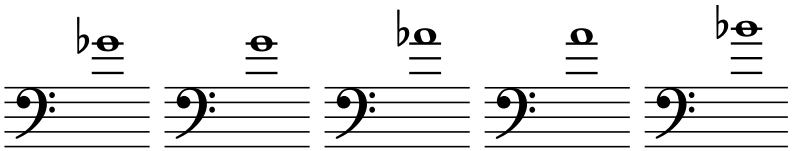
Big number: the main position. **Smaller numbers:** alternates on another partial. **Short:** the slide sits a little in from the usual position, because that partial plays flat.



E2	F2	G♭2	G2	A♭2	A2	B♭2	B2	C3	D♭3	D3	E♭3	E3
7	6	5	4	3	2	1	7	6	5	4	3	2 or 7

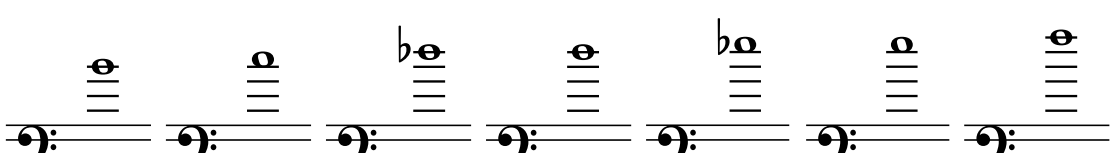


F3	G♭3	G3	A♭3	A3	B♭3	B3	C4	D♭4	D4	E♭4	E4	F4
1 or 6	5	4	3 or 7	2 or 6	1 or 5	4 or 7	3 or 6	2 or 5	1 or 4	3	2 or 7, short 5	1 or 6, short 4



G♭4	G4	A♭4	A4	B♭4
5	4	3	2	1

Upper register
For later: the slide positions repeat on higher partials.



B4	C5	D♭5	D5	E♭5	E5	F5
2 or 4, 7	1 or 3, 6	2 or 5	1 or 4	3	2	1

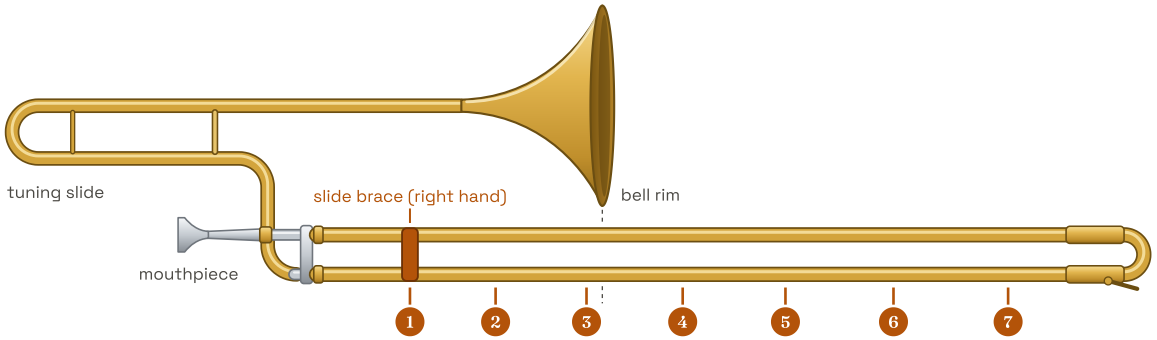
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Trombone slide *positions*

All seven positions on a tenor trombone, with the notes each one gives. Bass clef, concert pitch.

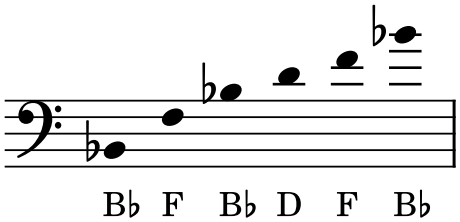
Matt Waters
Low brass teacher, Leicestershire
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These positions are approximate. Every trombone and every player is a little different. Always use your ears: move the slide until each note sounds centred and in tune.

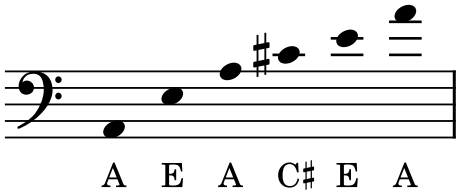
1st

All the way in



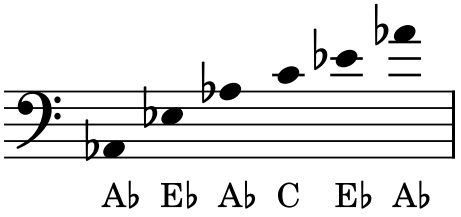
2nd

About 8 cm out



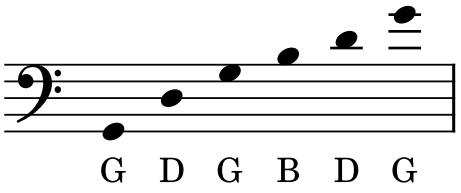
3rd

Brace near the bell rim



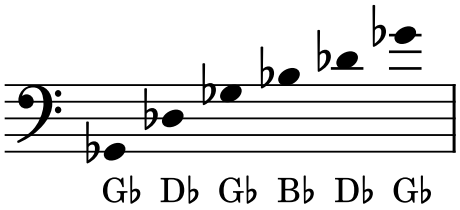
4th

Just past the bell



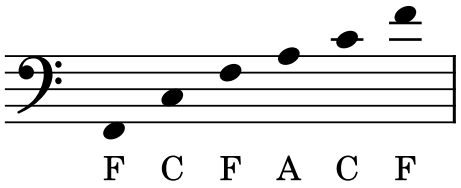
5th

A comfortable arm's reach



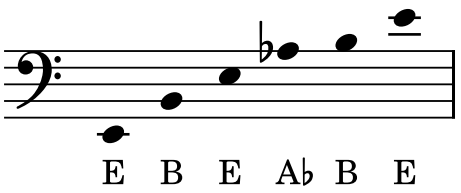
6th

Extended arm



7th

Full stretch



How to read it. Each position gives several notes. You move between them with lips and air, not the slide: a faster buzz gives a higher note. Each stave runs from the 2nd partial up to the 8th. The 7th partial is left out because it plays flat.

Common alternates: F3 in 6th, B♭3 in 5th (slightly in), A3 in 6th, C4 in 6th, D4 in 4th, E4 in short 5th, F4 in short 4th.

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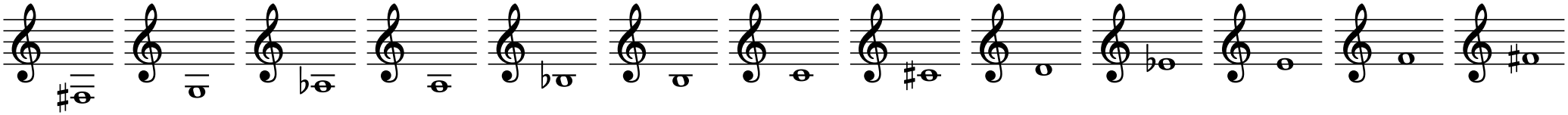
Trombone slide positions: *treble clef*

For brass band trombones reading treble clef in B♭. Written pitch: each note sounds a ninth lower. Bass trombone parts are in bass clef.
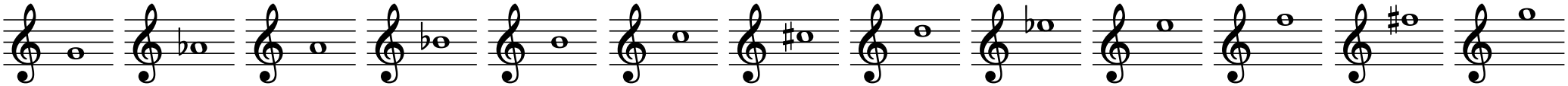
Matt Waters
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These positions are approximate. Every trombone and every player is a little different. Always use your ears: move the slide until each note sounds centred and in tune.
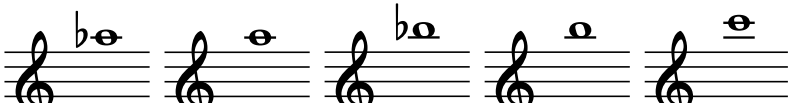
Big number: the main position. **Smaller numbers:** alternates on another partial. **Short:** the slide sits a little in from the usual position, because that partial plays flat.



F♯3	G3	A♭3	A3	B♭3	B3	C4	C♯4	D4	E♭4	E4	F4	F♯4
sounds E2	sounds F2	sounds G♭2	sounds G2	sounds A♭2	sounds A2	sounds B♭2	sounds B2	sounds C3	sounds D♭3	sounds D3	sounds E♭3	sounds E3
7	6	5	4	3	2	1	7	6	5	4	3	2 or 7



G4	A♭4	A4	B♭4	B4	C5	C♯5	D5	E♭5	E5	F5	F♯5	G5
sounds F3	sounds G♭3	sounds G3	sounds A♭3	sounds A3	sounds B♭3	sounds B3	sounds C4	sounds D♭4	sounds D4	sounds E♭4	sounds E4	sounds F4
1 or 6	5	4	3 or 7	2 or 6	1 or 5	4 or 7	3 or 6	2 or 5	1 or 4	3	2 or 7, short 5	1 or 6, short 4



A♭5	A5	B♭5	B5	C6
sounds G♭4	sounds G4	sounds A♭4	sounds A4	sounds B♭4
5	4	3	2	1

Upper register
For later: the slide positions repeat on higher partials.



C♯6	D6	E♭6	E6	F6	F♯6	G6
sounds B4	sounds C5	sounds D♭5	sounds D5	sounds E♭5	sounds E5	sounds F5
2 or 4, 7	1 or 3, 6	2 or 5	1 or 4	3	2	1

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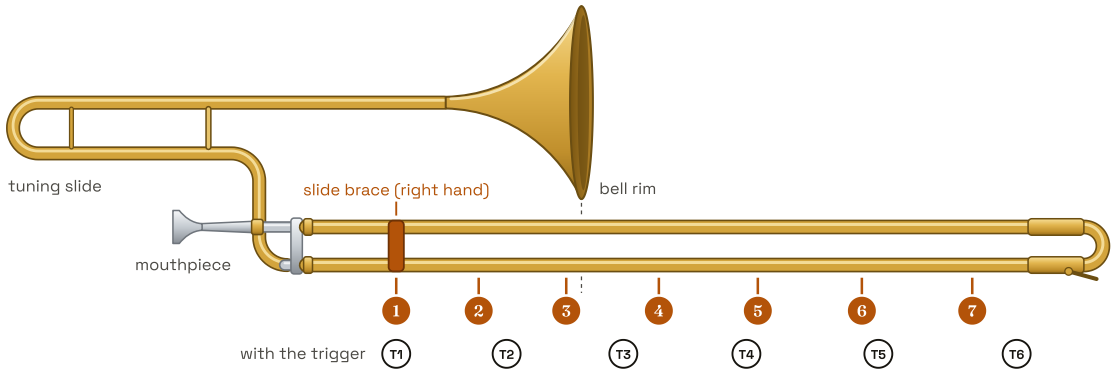
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F attachment *positions*

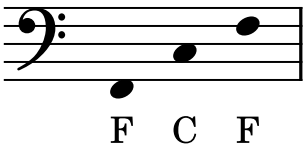
For a tenor trombone with an F trigger, and the F valve on a bass trombone. Bass clef, concert pitch.

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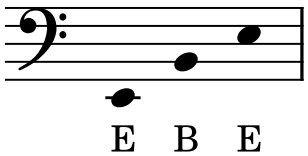
Valve positions vary between instruments. With the trigger down the trombone is a fourth lower and about a third longer, so the positions are further apart and only six fit on the slide. Find yours with a tuner.



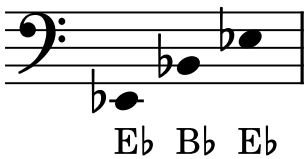
T1
Same place as 1st



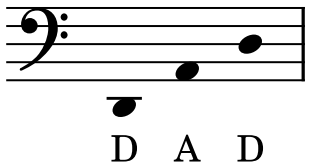
T2
A long 2nd



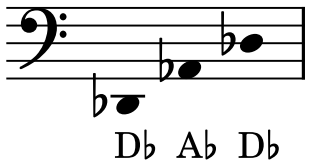
T3
Just short of 4th



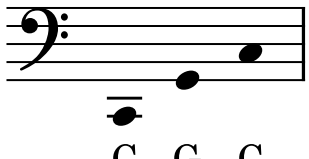
T4
About where 5th is



T5
Just past 6th

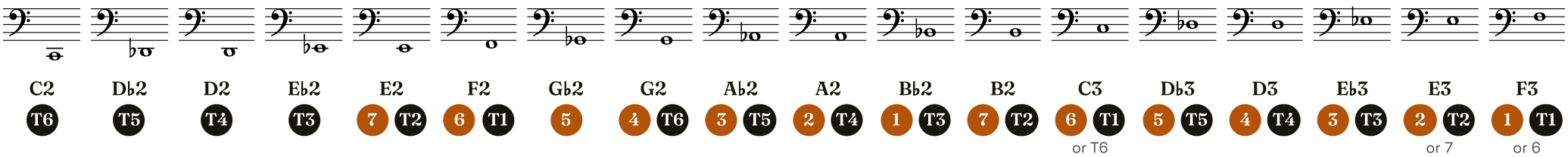


T6
At or near full stretch



Low notes with and without the trigger

Amber: open position. **Black:** trigger position.



The everyday gains: C3 in T1 and B2 in T2 replace long reaches to 6th and 7th. Below that the trigger gives E♭2, D2, D♭2 and C2, which a straight tenor cannot play. **B1 is still missing:** on a single F attachment it needs the F tuning slide pulled out to E, which is one reason bass trombones add a second valve.

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