

2. First Notes

Holding the Trumpet

Holding the trumpet properly is essential to good playing. With the left hand grab the valve casing and place one finger below the third valve slide, with the other fingers above it. With the right hand, place the thumb between the first and second valves. The next three fingers will be placed on the valves, while the pinky rests above the ring on the leadpipe.

Refer to the pictures below:



Note: Those of you with large hands may find it more comfortable to place two fingers of the left hand below the third valve instead of just the pinky. Those with smaller hands may find it more comfortable to place all your fingers above the third valve slide. Whatever you choose, your hand should feel relaxed while playing, and you should be able to move the third valve slide freely.

First Note: C (0)

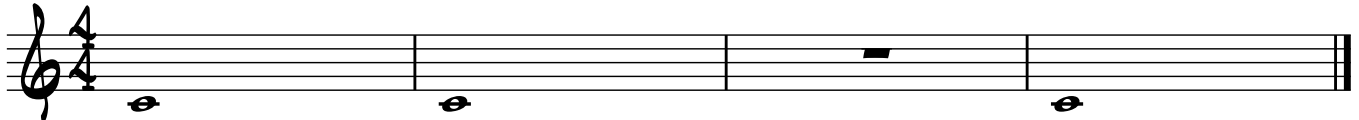
Now we'll begin playing the trumpet. The first note we'll be playing is the low "C". This note is played without pressing any valves down. Play the exercise below. The timing is the same as #1 from the last chapter.

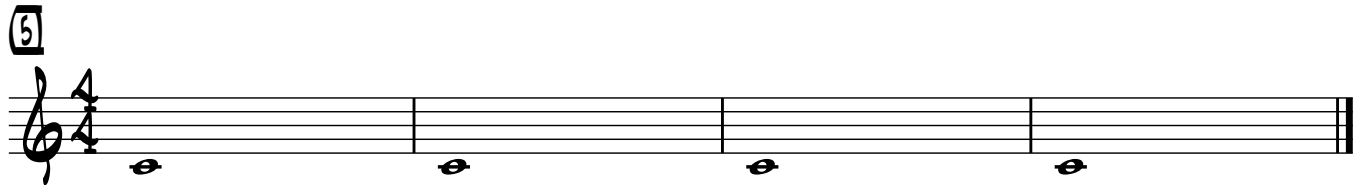
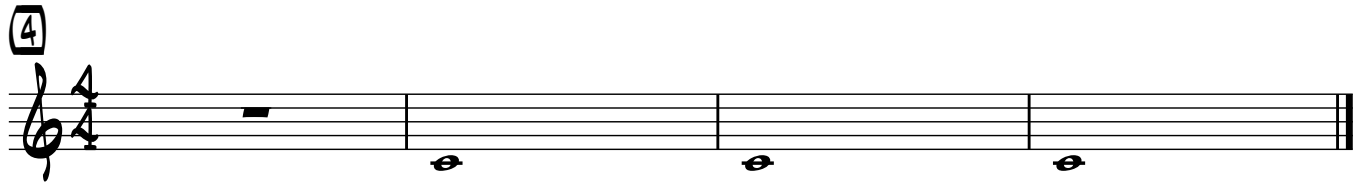
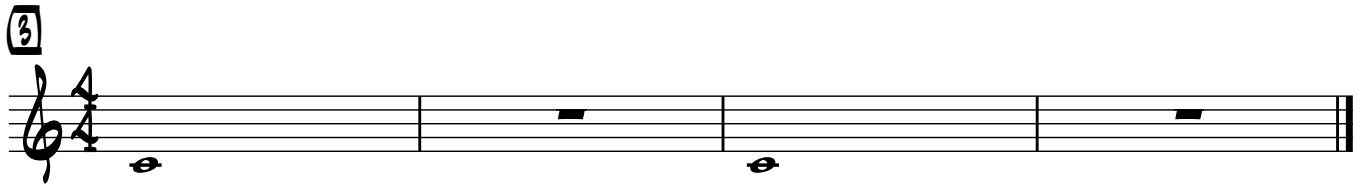
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Remember to play each whole note for the full four beats. Let's try a few more.

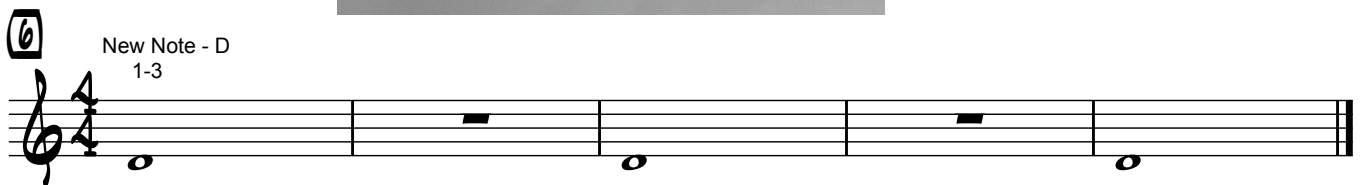
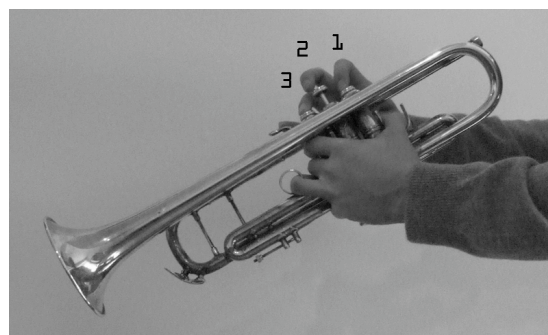
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Second Note: D (1-3)

Now let's try another note, or pitch. This next note is higher than the note we just learned, and is played by pressing down the first and third valves. (The valves are listed numerically. The first valve is the one closest to you, second is the next, and third valve is the one closest to the bell.)



D is written on the space below the bottom line. It is one space higher than C.

