

# Trombone Masterclass – How to Practice

## UA CRIMSON CAMP 2013

Bruce Faske - faskemusic.com

Practicing is like eating...one bite at a time!

- I. Set your goal
  - a. Know what you need to practice for each audition.
  - b. Collect the music early and bind the pages together.
- II. Practice Tools – they only work if you use them
  - a. Metronome
  - b. Tuner
  - c. Recording Device
- III. Get to Work
  - a. Know what each marking means on every page (Google it!)
  - b. Translate any terms from another language
  - c. Record your sight reading
  - d. Listen back with your music and a pencil – mark the spots you botch
- IV. Extract Extract Extract
  - a. Each spot that you botch deserves its own practice session of 5 to 10 minutes or longer each. **DO NOT PLAY THROUGH THE MUSIC AGAIN** until you extract each botched part.
    - i. When extracting, accuracy is most important
    - ii. This includes rhythm, pitch accuracy, tuning, and a coordinated slide
    - iii. Only after the elements above are in place do you speed it up
    - iv. Only after it is sped up do you plug it back into the music and give it another shot.
  - b. Record yourself again with the spots worked out. Listen back and mark your improvement.
- V. From Practice to Performance
  - a. At some point, you have to dial back the practicing and dial up the performing.
  - b. Play for anyone who will listen (doesn't have to be a musician every time)
  - c. "Perform" the piece from the beginning, from halfway through, and from any logical starting point. Don't always start at the beginning!