

SBA Online Education

Multi-tonguing for Baritone/Euphonium & Tuba

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WHAT IS MULTI-TONGUING?

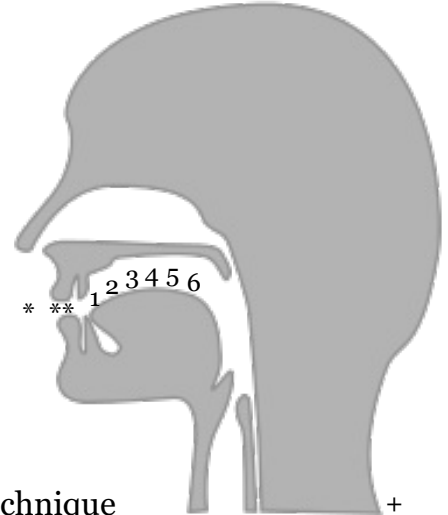
- A technique that uses a combination of articulations and utilizes multiple contact points on the tongue, enabling musicians to articulate very fast passages of music.

- Players of ANY AGE can learn this!

Two Types: - Double Tonguing
- Triple Tonguing

TYPES OF ARTICULATIONS

- * Hoh - 'air' articulation
** Tho - 'though' between the teeth
- | | | | |
|-------|---|-------|--------------------------|
| Front | [| 1. La |] My preferred syllables |
| | | 2. Ta | |
| | | 3. Na | |
| | | 4. Da | |
| Back | [| 5. Ka | |
| | | 6. Ga | |



Front & Back rotation of syllables allows for much quicker technique

Doh - The regular Front syllable for Baritone/Euphonium and Tuba.

'Da' not only has a rounded attack, but also brings the air higher in the mouth, giving a lighter feel while tonguing.

'Ka' has a very pronounced attack to help with clarity in the Back syllable.

'Da Ka' - For Multi-tonguing, these have the closest contact points to each other in the mouth, which helps with speed and smoothness.

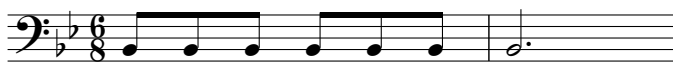
TRIPLE TONGUING

Learn this first! Later, double tonguing then will become a natural bi-product of triple tonguing.

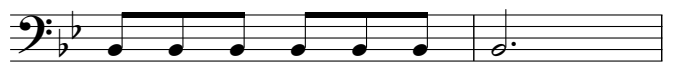
Combine Various combinations of Da and Ka to create triple tonguing syllables - Use what works for YOU!

The goal is clear and even articulations.

♩ = 80 - 200 +



da da ka da da ka da



da ka da da ka da da



da ka da ka da ka da



My preferred method is a syncopated Double Tongue.

There is NO repeated syllable, which allows a much smoother turnover of articulation.

SYSTEMATIC APPROACH TO MULTI-TONGUING

1) Speak the Syllables

- If you can say it... you can play it! Practice saying the syllables over and over and over... and over.
- Keep the air moving to 'flick' the tongue out of the way. It is not about muscle movement of the tongue, focus more on air flow.
- Pronounce each syllable very clearly. The 'Ka' should sound just as clear as the 'Da'.
- 'Ka' will likely be weaker than 'Da'. Practice pronouncing 'Ka' on its own until it is comfortable.

2) Breathing Pattern

- Blow the air while tonguing 'Da' and 'Ka'.
- Push air through the syllables.
- Place your hand about 12 inches away from your mouth to feel the air on your hand. This will tell you if you are using enough air.

3) Blow Air Through Instrument

- Get used to how it feels when blowing through the mouthpiece and holding your instrument.
- Keep the air flowing and remember to relax!




4) Play with Instrument

- Begin the Triple tonguing technique with a mid-range note - something very comfortable.
- Push air through the syllables in the same manner as the Breathing Pattern.
- 'Ka' will likely be weaker than 'Da'. Practice tonguing 'Ka' on its own. Play a simple melody from your band book only using Ka. Keep doing this to make the 'Ka' comfortable and smooth in your melody.
- Gradually speed up only when the articulations are clean and smooth.

5) Playing Catch Up with Your Fingers

- Match your finger patterns with your new multi-tonguing speed
- Isolate by only blowing air into the instrument and using finger patterns to connect your articulations to fingerings
- Further isolate by using a breathing pattern with your hands to finger the notes.

6) Overlap

- Single tongue  as fast as (and beyond!) ♩ = 120
- Double tongue  as slow as (and slower!) ♩ = 80
- Triple tongue  as slow as (and slower!) ♩ = 70
- This will give you some overlap in your ability to CHOOSE either single or multi-tongue. It is good to have choices!

Double Tongue



da ka da ka da da ka da ka da da ka da ka da da ka da ka da da ka da ka da ka da ka da

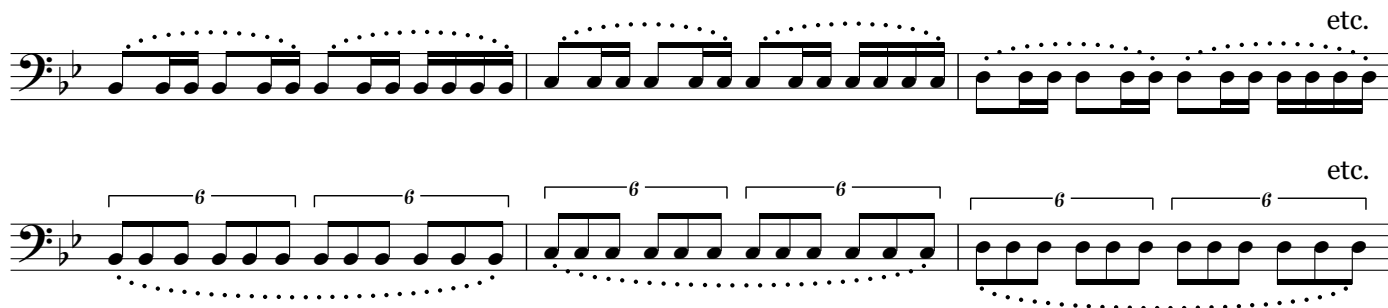
Triple Tongue



da ka da ka da ka da da ka da ka da ka da da ka da ka da ka da etc.

Use whichever triple tonguing syllables work best for you!

Important! The faster you go, the larger the pulse becomes!



CLOSING THOUGHTS

This technique is one that ALL BRASS PLAYERS should have at their disposal.
Some might argue that multi-tonguing is not used that often in music written for Baritone/Euphonium or Tuba.
Not true!

There is an ever increasing amount of music for our instruments that requires some type of multi-tonguing.

There is more music available now that includes multi-tonguing than ever before:

Concert Band or Brass Band
Orchestra repertoire
Brass Quintet and other Chamber Ensembles
Solo Repertoire

Multi-tonguing is everywhere!

Set small, achievable goals for yourself. Keep the tempo within reach! (don't speed up too fast)

It's not that we *HAVE* to practice, it's that we *GET* to practice... and it is when we are practicing that we are actually getting better, so ENJOY the fact that we are actually getting better!

Have fun when you are practicing!