

BRASS FINGERINGS

USING THE OVERTONE SERIES

Be sure you know the different overtone series on the trumpet as they relate to the fingerings:

open 2 1 12
3 23 13 123

Given note is E:

1. Think down a major 3rd from given note (E). Is there a trumpet overtone series for C? Yes (fingering = open)
2. Think down a perfect 5th from given note (E). Is there a trumpet overtone series for A? Yes (fingering = 12 or 3)
3. Think down a minor 7th from given note (E). Is there a trumpet overtone series for F#? Yes (fingering = 123)
4. So you have the following fingering options for E: **OPEN, 12, 3, 123**
5. Always use the least number of valves unless it is a 7th partial (and avoid 3rd valve - flat by itself)
6. Your best fingering choice for the given note is **OPEN**

Here is another example (given note is B):

1. Think down a major 3rd from given note (B). Is there a trumpet overtone series for G? Yes (fingering = 13)
2. Think down a perfect 5th from given note (B). Is there a trumpet overtone series for E? No
3. Think down a minor 7th from given note (B). Is there a trumpet overtone series for C#? No
5. Think down a octave from given note (B). Is there a trumpet overtone series for B? Yes (fingering = 2)
6. Think down a 9th from given note (B). Is there a trumpet overtone series for A? Yes (fingering = 12 or 3)
7. Think down a 10th from given note (B). Is there a trumpet overtone series for G? Yes, and already taken into consideration with 3rd down from given note (see #1 above).
8. So you have the following fingering options for B: **13, 2, 12, 3**
9. Always use the least number of valves unless it is a 7th partial (and avoid 3rd valve - flat by itself)
10. Your best fingering choice for the given note is **2nd valve**