Building a Better Band
Through a Better Horn Section:
The Five Quickest Ways to Improve Your Horns

Clinic outline for

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Band and Orchestral Division, Mike Zucek, Area Representative
I. **Right Hand Position and Bell Placement**

(photo goes here)

A. right hand should be slightly cupped, no gaps between fingers

B. back of hand on inside of bell wall furthest from the body

C. hand at 3:00

D. bell placement depends on size of player

E. on or off the leg?

F. standing for solos?
G. stopped horn

a. must be played on F side of horn

b. must transpose down a half step

c. use more air and less tongue for hard attacks

d. notated with a + or with terms stopped, closed, chiuso, or gestopft

(Drill goes here)

II. MORE AIR!!

I. work on opening the sound

II. warm-up with big sound

III. straws, garden hose and paper on the wall
III. Breathing

I. breath “down”

II. what should a breath sound like

III. say ‘ho’

IV. plastic bag

V. back expands

VI. floor/book
IV. Embouchure

I. mouthpiece placement—2/3 upper, 1/3 lower and centered

(embouchure picture goes here)

II. “flat chin, corners in’

III. puckered smile

IV. use slide pull ring

V. intonation
V. **Maintenance**—give them a horn that works

I. give them ownership by showing them how to maintain the horn

II. oiling the valves

III. grease the slides

IV. flush with snake and mouthpiece brush

V. every hornist’s nightmare—restringing a valve

(photograph goes here)
Appendix

References

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