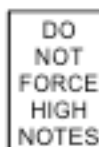


## USING THE “BRACES & BRASS” INSTRUCTIONAL ICONS

The following icons are used throughout the book as instructional reminders to the player.



This icon reminds the player to REST FREQUENTLY as they practice. “Braces & Brass” suggests that you will accomplish more with a fresh lip than you will with one that is tired. In pursuing the task of regaining proficiency and control of the embouchure, frequent rests can be very beneficial.



This icon reminds the player DO NOT FORCE THE HIGH TONES. Challenging the range should be done intelligently, with as little stress to the embouchure as possible. Be patient with the range and response. *ALWAYS WORK FOR A PRECISE, CLEAR RESPONSE WITH EACH TONE.*



This icon reminds the student to play with MINIMAL MOUTHPIECE PRESSURE. Realistically it is impossible to play with no pressure, however in those places where this symbol is shown, the need is to play with the greatest ease and least mouthpiece pressure possible.

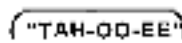


This icon is a reminder to administer the EMBOUCHURE ASSESSMENT which is located on pages 8, 9 & 10 of this book. This tool allows the teacher and student to score and document progress. Page 8 explains the scoring and lay-out of the test, while page 9 is for the teacher to score the student's *RANGE; FLEXIBILITY IN TONGUING / SLURRING; ATTACK RESPONSE;* and *PARTIAL ACCURACY.* It is suggested that the initial test be administered during the first meeting (AS A PRETEST), before the student has begun to practice the “Braces & Brass” materials. It can be given again at about the sixth week, (as a BENCHMARK) and finally anytime after the tenth week (as a POST-TEST).

**Note.** The “Embouchure Assessment Performance Chart” on page 10 may be photocopied and given to the student to read and play.



We are taught as beginners to use the vowel sound “tah” in producing an attack on the instrument. The “T” applies to the actual attack of the note while the “ah” allows the player to produce a relaxed throat for proper air flow. **This icon is a reminder to the player to tongue correctly, using the “TAH” sound when initiating the attack.**



This icon is a reminder for the student to use vowel sounds when slurring. This procedure will help the student achieve a smooth lip slur. Use an “ah” vowel for the low register, an “oo” for the middle register, and “ee” in the high register.

**NOTE:** As the tongue arches high, do not allow the back of the tongue to tense, as this will constrict the air stream.



The procedure of practicing slowly is crucial to becoming a fine player and musician. Slow practice allows the student to play correctly. Fast playing results in mistakes as well as the development of bad playing habits. Slow playing should always be done rhythmically.



This icon is used to remind the player to use the “pucker” which is discussed in the reading on page 53 in the article entitled **MINIMAL PRESSURE STUDIES.** The “pucker” provides the student with a slight natural cushion at the center of the lip, which is helpful when attempting to play higher.

**These concepts apply to both brace and non-brace-wearing Trumpet and French Horn Players**