

WOODWIND TECHNIQUE: TONGUING AND SLURRING

Tonguing

Tonguing is a way of starting the sound of a note. The action you need is exactly the same as saying the letter 't'. When you say 't', your tongue goes up behind your front teeth.

- * Try saying 't' a few times.

The next step is to try blowing and saying 't' at the same time.

- * Without using the instrument, pretend you are blowing down it and say 't' at the same time - without making the sound!

Now we need to try tonguing with the instrument. When tonguing correctly the tongue will come up behind the front teeth but will brush the tip of the instrument instead, starting the sound.

- * Put the instrument to your mouth. Start blowing and saying 't' at the same time (without your throat making the sound). You will need to firm up your mouth muscles onto the mouthpiece and blow quite hard.
- * Practice on just one note for a while.

On the music, you need to tongue all single notes and the first note of a slur.

Slurring

Slurring is joining notes together smoothly and in one breath.

- * Try playing 2 easy notes that are next to each other on the instrument (for example, E-D on the clarinet or B-A on the recorder). Keep blowing and just move your fingers.

On the music, slurring is shown by a curved line joining 2 or more different notes together. THIS IS DIFFERENT FROM A TIE WHERE THE CURVED LINE JOINS 2 NOTES THAT ARE THE SAME AND WHICH ARE NEXT TO EACH OTHER.