

## Moving up and down at large intervals

*Or, hey mister! How do I get to that high note?*

One of the most difficult things we do as brass players is to make large interval jump from one note to another. Middle to high/low or high to middle etc, the “fix” is the same basic method.

1. Elongate the 1<sup>st</sup> note of the large interval: this will help prepare you to make the “smooth” embouchure change by stabilizing the air support and reducing the amount of time you have to make the slur.
2. Blow Through the interval: add MORE energy to make the change from note to note. Newton’s law regarding a body at rest applies indirectly here e.g. you need more energy to make an existing note change to a different note. The more energetic the following note is the more energy will be used in preparation and transition to it.
3. Always, no matter how fast or “hard”, loud or soft the change is, make the embouchure change smoothly and keep the embouchure in the same shape with squeeze pressure from ALL 4 DIRECTIONS always.
4. Sing (Use your throat as a vocalist would changing, position as if you were singing the notes you are playing. In fact, it’s a good idea to actually sing parts that you can to promote a relaxed throat style. Using your throat in this way will help the notes to resonate in a clearer more energetic way.