



Beginner's Toolkit: French Horn

Sheryl Hadeka

:33 Correct Breathing

- Breath from below
- Expand while both breathing in and breathing out

2:25 Mouthpiece Placement and Embouchure

- Mouthpiece* should be 2/3 upper lip and 1/3 bottom lip
- Think puckering smile or “mmmmm” to set corners

3:49 Buzzing

- Buzzing on the *mouthpiece* is amplified by the Horn
- Be able to buzz on the *mouthpiece* everything you need on the Horn

5:39 Holding the French Horn

- Always keep two hands on the Horn

6:07 Posture

- Stand neutrally with feet shoulder-width apart
- Sit from that position with the back not arched or slumped
- Always sit at the edge of the chair

6:59 Horn Placement

- An easy and neutral position is best
- Keep the *bell* to the right outside your body
- Use your right heel and foot to lift or lower the Horn when placed on the leg
- Angle the *leadpipe* down toward to the floor

10:08 Right Hand Position

- Use a swimmer's palm with fingers closed
- Put the middle finger knuckle at “4 o'clock”
- The hand should be far into the *bell* to support the instrument

11:42 Emptying Condensation

- Use gravity to control the water before pulling the *slides*
- Wiggle the *valves* while rotating the Horn to quickly empty *valve slides*
- Use the left hand to help hold some *slides* while emptying others

14:11 Oiling Valves and Greasing Slides

- Oil under one *valve cap* at a time
- Find where the *valve* moves and the Horn stays still, oil that connection
- Grease around the outside edge/tip of the *slide* and work into the *slide*