



# Online Trombone Journal

## The Practice Room

### Alternate Positions (And How to Use Them): Music Excerpts

By [David Mathie](#)

Example 3. Technical passage in Bb and A

**Allegro** ♩ = 96

The first staff (Bb major) shows four measures of eighth-note patterns with fingerings: -4, -4, -4, -4. The second staff (A major) shows four measures of eighth-note patterns with fingerings: -5 -4, -4 -5, -5 -4, -4 -5.

Example 4. Ralph Vaughan Williams, Folk Song Suite, III (measures 28-39, use of D in -4 for slide direction)

**Allegro** ♩ = 116

The first staff (Bb major) shows measures 28-39 with dynamics *ff marc.* and fingerings -4 and -4. The second staff (Bb major) shows measures 28-39 with fingerings -4, (1) -4, -4, and -4.

Example 5. Avoiding awkward slide movements

Allegro ♩ = 96

change to: 6                      6

change to: +4                      +4

Example 6. John Philip Sousa, *The Liberty Bell March* (measures 147-150)

March tempo ♩ = 120

*ff*                      -5 +5                      6                      6                      6                      -5 +5

6                      6 (1)                      6

Example 7. Marco Bordogni/trans. Rochut, *Etude No. 19* (measures 1-4)

*mf*                      6                      +5                      6

Example 8. Marco Bordogni/trans. Rochut, *Etude No. 39* (measures 10-14, using alternates for natural slurs)

**Andante** ♩ = 66

Example 9. Gustav Holst, *Hymn of Jesus* (Introduction before rehearsal number 1, with Holst's suggestions for the trombonists)

**Senza misura**  
I.II. Soli

NOTE: By using the positions marked, the Trombone players will avoid the unpleasant smearing of one note into another. If this cannot be managed, the melody is to be played on the Horns.



Example 13. Maurice Ravel, *Bolero* (3 measures after rehearsal number 15)

Moderato assai ♩ = 72

*mf* sostenuto 4 1

3 5 2

Example 14. Igor Stravinsky, *Firebird Suite, Finale*, 1919 version (7 measures after rehearsal number 18)

Allegro non troppo ♩ = 208

*f* 4 -----

Example 15: Alternates Everywhere!

# O Come All Ye Alternates

arr. David Mathie

Moderato ♩ = 96

The image shows three staves of bass clef musical notation in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The tempo is marked 'Moderato' with a quarter note equal to 96 beats per minute. The notes and their corresponding guitar fret numbers are as follows:

Staff 1: G2 (1), A2 (6), B2 (6), C3 (6), D3 (6), E3 (+5), F3 (2), G3 (1), A2 (6), B2 (7), C3 (2), D3 (1).

Staff 2: E2 (6), F2 (1), G2 (2), A2 (6), B2 (+5), C3 (6), D3 (2), E3 (1), F3 (6), G3 (1), A2 (2), B2 (6).

Staff 3: C3 (6), D3 (6), E3 (2), F3 (6), G3 (+5), A3 (2), B3 (2), C4 (1), D4 (2), E4 (6), F4 (7), G4 (6), A4 (1), B4 (2), C5 (6), D5 (1).

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_