

The 4-Step-Technique (Zamfir-Vibrato, tilted-oblique)

Exercise 1: Basic Exercise (The 4 basic steps, each individually)

1. Step: Hold the flute straight, blow, and get a sound in normal pitch (The purpose of this step is hear the correct pitch)

2. Step: Slant the bottom of the flute outward, then blow. The pitch will be a bit lower, because the tube is slightly covered.

3. Step: With small tubes, **tilt** the flute in a way that it is at an angle and **oblique**. She is now lower and farther away from the lower lip, then blow. The pitch is normal again or **even a bit higher**, because the tube is tilted and opened in an oblique way (demonstrate with thumb)

4. Step: Make vibrato movements while you blow. The flute is moved in the direction of the tubes first slanted to the side and down. It is a pressing away and back to the lower lips.

Exercise 2: Vibrato without bending a sound*

(*bending a sound: is a technique where you start the tone at a lower pitch and pull it up to the correct pitch - glissando)

(is used when playing vibrato by tilting the flute with the right hand, turning the bottom of the flute outward and the left hand puts the flute at an oblique angle). Blowing the flute smoothly from step 1 to 2 to 3, then vibrate (There is first a normal pitch, which will not get lower and could even be a little higher on the 3. step). The goal is to get a slightly higher pitch during the vibrato.

Flute position changes from a straight vertical and horizontal position to a tilted, oblique position.

Exercise 3: Vibrato with bending a sound*

1. Start at step 2 of the basic exercise (lower pitch) to step 3 (the pitch is slightly lower at the beginning and will go higher with the motion of step 3 = bending the sound). Then do step 4, vibrato. (If the pitch is too low on the vibrato, the player can slant his head slightly to the right – to the right from his viewpoint).

2. Caution: if the pitch is too low, you could move the flute with the right hand slightly higher, so that it is higher on the lower lip, which results in a higher pitch. The left hand could do the same.

Slant the flute in horizontal direction and then slant at an angle.

All vibratos should end at a slightly higher pitch.

Basics

Experience has shown that after introducing vibrato with a slightly slanted position to students, their pitch is too low. That stems from them having the flute too low on the lower lip and also from pressing the flute too much against the lower lip to have enough touch-information to feel more reassured.

For that reason I have developed the following exercise:

Exercise for Pitch Correction (Pressure technique)

Exercise 4: with bending tones only

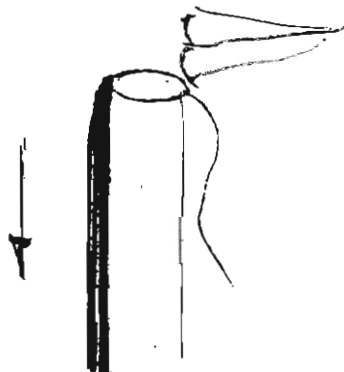
1. Step: Hold the flute slightly tilted (pitch is lower)

2. Step: In order to avoid the lower pitch, I practice the bent notes by slightly pressing the flute against the lower lip with both hands prior to blowing.

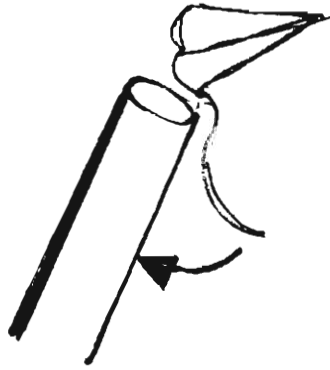
3. step: While starting to blow lightly into the flute (the pitch is lower), I release the pressure against the lower lip and lift the flute with both hands on the lower lip, **while blowing stronger**. The pitch will pull up higher and the **flute stays in a horizontal position**.

Prior to this, the following nomenclature must be cleared with the students:

Vertical



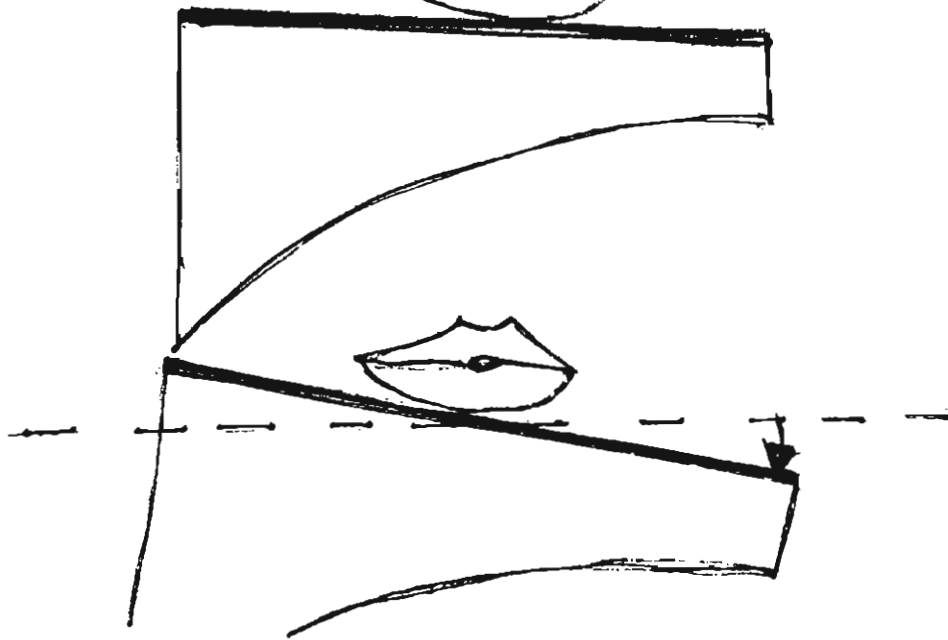
Tilted / slanted



Horizontal



oblique



1. Let the student play and observe the position (HALTUNG) of the flute
2. Have him play a vibrato and observe.
3. Inform the student, that a vibrato is best played with a **slightly tilted flute**, because it allows the tube to get covered with the lower lip, regardless if the lips are loose or tense.
4. Explain the meanings of the above 4 words thoroughly – with demonstrations.
5. Then you can start with the 4-step technique