

CC TUBA LOW REGISTER FINGERINGS

by Donald C. Little

THE FOURTH VALVE

The fourth valve of the tuba is usually equivalent to the first and third combination, and it is usually tuned slightly lower than the first and third combination. The fourth valve is normally used to replace the somewhat sharp first and third valve combination; and the second and fourth valve combination is always used to replace the very sharp first, second and third valve combination.

A musical staff in bass clef showing four notes with their respective fingerings: G (4), F# (4), Eb (24), and C (24). Each note is represented by a stem with a circle and a horizontal line above it, indicating the valve combination.

LOW REGISTER FINGERINGS WITH THE FOURTH VALVE

The fourth valve will allow the production of the chromatic half tones between the low F# and the fundamental C with the exception of the Db (C#) that is one-half step above the fundamental C. This tone is not playable on four-valve CC tubas unless a “privileged” tone is used.

A musical staff in bass clef showing eight notes with their respective fingerings: G (4), F#(Gb) (24), F (124 or 14), E (234), Eb(D#) (134), D (1234), Db(C#) (not playable), and C (0). Each note is represented by a stem with a circle and a horizontal line above it, indicating the valve combination.

LOW REGISTER FINGERINGS WITHOUT THE FOURTH VALVE

Most tubas are characterized by an unusual acoustical phenomena that allows the psuedo-production of many of the lower tones that normally require the fourth valve or the fourth valve in combination with other valves. These tones are generally referred to as false tones or privileged tones. However, the tone quality is noticeably unclear and unfocused on tones that are produced in this manner.

A musical staff in bass clef showing eight notes with their respective fingerings: G (13), F# (123), F (0), E (2), Eb (1), D (12), Db (23), and C (0). Each note is represented by a stem with a circle and a horizontal line above it, indicating the valve combination.

CC TUBA PEDAL TONES

These pedal tones are possible on most CC tubas. Lower tones are possible depending on the instrument and the ability of the player.

A musical staff in bass clef showing seven pedal tones. Each tone is represented by a note with three ledger lines below it. The notes are: C2 (0), D2 (2), B1 (1), C2 (12), B1 (23), D2 (13(4)), and B1 (123(24)).

Pedal Tone	Fingering
C ₂	0
D ₂	2
B ₁	1
C ₂	12
B ₁	23
D ₂	13(4)
B ₁	123(24)

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