

Gliss Chart

The following information is provided because the trombone glissando is an idiomatic and frequently used technique that is often misunderstood. Too often composers write glisses that don't work on the instrument, thinking that any are possible. Glisses only work within the range of a single partial of the harmonic series. If the start and end notes were to be in two different partials, there would be a break in the gliss. The following slide position chart shows the partials of the harmonic series. After each partial is a range limit for the glisses that will work, encompassing the notes for the slide positions from 1st to 7th.

9th partial

8th partial

7th partial

* Note: This Ab is too flat in 1st position to be useable.

6th partial

5th partial

4th partial

3rd partial

2nd partial

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

The following glisses would work:

These would not: