

32 Crossing The Break

What to Say (and not to say)

NEVER say “crossing the break” to middle school students

Say - Going from A to B or going from Bb to C

Say - Going from no fingers to all fingers or lots of open holes to lots of closed holes

4 Objectives to Master:

1. Great hand position
2. Start on low E consistently
3. Completely comfortable with register key with minimal thumb motion
4. Have perfect left index finger position and motion down perfectly

Starting on Low E

Play descending scale (C, Bb, A, G, F, E) then breathe, E, breathe, E

Play E 10 times without squeaking (possibly before the winter break)

Play B 10 times without squeaking (possibly right after winter break)

Play “drop out” (see link on CrossingTheBreak.com)

Introduce Playing from A to B

Write on board: whole note G, whole rest, whole note A, rest, whole note B

Ask students “Where have you seen that note before?” (on warmup #6)

Play the whole notes/rests from the board

A couple days later add C, A couple days after that take out the rests

Encourage them to do this in one breath (adjust metronome if needed)

Right Hand Down

“Super glue” your right hand down for the whole GABC line

Be sure that the right hand is truly covering the holes

Visualization for Intermediate Students

Air has to go from the A key to the bell in 0.000 seconds (laser fast air)