

Figure 6.10. Tuba Fingering Chart

BB \flat -Tuba (3- and 4- valve)

Key Chart

RIGHT Hand

1 2 3 4

- indicates notes that are often **Sharp** in pitch.
- indicates notes that are often **Flat** in pitch.
- indicates notes that are **VERY SHARP** in pitch.
- indicates notes that are **VERY FLAT** in pitch.

F = Flat S = Sharp

indicates notes most stable for tuning in band.

indicates suggested **alternate** fingerings.

! CAUTION !

Every instrument, even identical models, can have varying pitch tendencies. Learn the pitch of your instrument and advance your skills to **voice / place / lip** every note in tune. Use alternate fingerings only when necessary!

Stable Tuning Notes with Band: Concert B \flat , F, A

* If a note has more than one fingering choice, then recommended fingerings are listed first. However, if your horn has a 4th-valve, the 4-valve positions are recommended as 1st choice.

 E \flat 	 E Lip down/drop jaw, or pull 1st slide	 F (if S, pull 4th slide) Lip down/drop jaw	 F \sharp G \flat 	 G (if S, Lip down/drop jaw, or use fingering below)
 G \sharp A \flat 	 A 	 A \sharp B \flat 	 B Lip down/drop jaw, or pull 1st slide 	 C (if S, pull 4th slide) Lip down/drop jaw
 C \sharp D \flat 	 D (if S, Lip down/drop jaw, or use fingering below) 	 D \sharp E \flat Lip down/drop jaw 	 E 	 F slightly sharp



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BBb-Tuba (3- and 4- valve)

	 			 Stable Tuning Note
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Small icons are non-traditional fingerings. Although they are flat 7th partial fingerings, some students play these better in tune.

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To correct sharpness in pitch:

1. Relax embouchure; pull jaw/lower teeth down and back.
2. Open up the inside of mouth; drop floor of mouth.

To correct flatness in pitch:

1. Focus air with more energy; increase air support and aim air forward and higher in mouth.
2. Firmer embouchure; more lip and air compression.

Pitched Tubas	
BBb	Most popular for school wind band use at all playing levels.
CC	Better for advanced playing levels and orchestral performance. Has a brighter/clarity sound than BBb.
Eb	More popular for advanced solo, chamber and orchestral performance.
F	More popular for advanced solo, chamber and orchestral performance. Has a smaller bore.

If consistently sharp in pitch:

1. Is embouchure too tight/tense?
2. Are all slides pushed all the way in?
3. Best mouthpiece for instrument/student?

If consistently flat in pitch:

1. Is embouchure too loose?
2. Are all slides pulled too far out?
3. Best mouthpiece for instrument/student?

