

Ellefson Scale Pyramid

(12 weeks, scales learned!)

B
B E
B E Gb
B E Gb A
B E Gb A Db
B E Gb A Db D
B E Gb A Db D Ab
B E Gb A Db D Ab G
B E Gb A Db D Ab G Eb
B E Gb A Db D Ab G Eb C
B E Gb A Db D Ab G Eb C F
B E Gb A Db D Ab G Eb C F Bb

1. Throughout the week, practice each level of the pyramid, beginning at the top, following the scale pattern on the next page.
2. Additionally, practice other scales such as whole-tone, diminished, etc. and always be able to play a chromatic scale from your lowest note to your highest note.
3. Practice scales in a musical fashion---as though they were part of a Mozart concerto.
4. Remember to play with your best sound and pay close attention to accurate intonation. Once the scales are comfortable, vary the speed, dynamics and articulation.
5. Be your own teacher of scales. Through the study and practice of scales in this pattern, the player will gain the comfort of being at ease in any key---after all, on the trombone, the only reason the key of C is easier than the key of B is that we more often play in the key of C.

