

# Multi-phonics (playing chords)

Are you tired of playing single notes, always relying on a piano or guitar to accompany you? Well, here is a way to perform entire concerts on your trombone, totally alone! As a bonus, you also get to keep the whole gig fee - \$\$\$\$\$!

Really, there is a trombonist from Germany, Albert Mangelsdorff, who plays amazing unaccompanied jazz concerts! Although he did not pioneer this technique (it has been written on occasion in pieces from the 1800's), Albert's concerts and recordings have become the primary source for anyone wanting to learn this style of playing. He has many recordings from 1960 on, mostly with great rhythm sections, some with other bone players, and a great recording available with the late Jaco Pastorius. Most of his CD's are in a modern style of jazz, sometimes free playing, but all extremely interesting and unique!

**Here's the basic technique for playing chords:** Play the bottom note, and sing the upper note. Depending on the interval between the two notes, another one, two or three notes are produced automatically! Make sure it's in tune!

Try this: *sing!* *play* *this note appears!*

What did you hear in the middle? This! So, you have just played this chord progression:

## 1) -Play the root, sing the 10th (third) above, and the 5th appears in the middle.

Here is another example, producing a note above the sung and played notes!

Try this: *sing* *play* *this note appears!*

## 2) -Play the 5th, sing the third above, and the root appears on top.

This is how Albert Mangelsdorff plays Duke Ellington's classic ballad "Mood Indigo". The melody is the sung note.

Slow

How about playing this F blues, while your friend blows some hot licks over it!

Medium shuffle feel

One last Mangelsdorff tune - it starts like this:

I've just shown you a very small sampling of what can be achieved using this technique. Be creative, try to make other chords and see what interesting musical ideas you can come up with!