Patriotic Songs for Trombone

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Seven songs, easiest first, from Taps to The Star-Spangled Banner. Most are written in B♭ major; Anchors Aweigh, The Star-Spangled Banner are in F major. The last page shows the fingering for every note used, F2 to F4.

How to read it: each box is one note, with the letter on top, its octave number beside it and the word underneath. A gold bar under a box marks a long note (two beats or more). A dash means hold the word over another note. Hear every song, slow or full speed, at thefingeringchart.com/trombone/patriotic-songs/

1 Taps

EASY B♭ major · 4 notes, F3 to F4 · 4/4 time

1	F3 *Day*	F3 *is*	B♭3 *done,*					
2	F3 *gone*	B♭3 *the*	D4 *sun,*					
3	F3 *from*	B♭3 *the*	D4 *lake,*	F3 *from*	B♭3 *the*	D4 *hills,*	F3 *from*	B♭3 *the*	D4 *sky;*
4	B♭3 *all*	D4 *is*	F4 *well,*					
5	D4 *safe-*	B♭3 *ly*	F3 *rest,*					
6	F3 *God*	F3 *is*	B♭3 *nigh.*					

Tip: Taps is played slowly and freely, so let each long note ring for its full length before you move on. Keep the short pickup notes light, keep the volume steady through each held note, and don't hurry it.

Music: arranged by Daniel Butterfield (1862). Words: traditional, not official.

2 Yankee Doodle

EASY B♭ major · 9 notes, D3 to E♭4 · 2/4 time

1	B♭3 *Yan-*	B♭3 *kee*	C4 *Doo-*	D4 *dle*	B♭3 *went*	D4 *to*	C4 *town,*	F3 *a-*					
2	B♭3 *rid-*	B♭3 *ing*	C4 *on*	D4 *a*	B♭3 *po-*	A3 *ny;*							
3	B♭3 *Stuck*	B♭3 *a*	C4 *fea-*	D4 *ther*	E♭4 *in*	D4 *his*	C4 *cap*	B♭3 *and*	A3 *called*	F3 *it*	G3 *mac-*	A3 *a-*	B♭3 *ro-*	B♭3 *ni.*
4	G3 *Yan-*	A3 *kee*	G3 *Doo-*	F3 *dle,*	G3 *keep*	A3 *it*	B♭3 *up,*	F3 *Yan-*	G3 *kee*	F3 *Doo-*	E♭3 *dle*	D3 *dan-*	E♭3 —	F3 *dy,*
5	G3 *Mind*	A3 *the*	G3 *mu-*	F3 *sic*	G3 *and*	A3 *the*	B♭3 *step,*	G3 *and*	F3 *with*	B♭3 *the*	A3 *girls*	C4 *be*	B♭3 *han-*	B♭3 *dy.*

Tip: The verse moves in steady eighth notes. Tongue every note separately and keep them even, and keep the dotted pairs in the chorus short-long-short, like a march.

Music: traditional (known by the 1750s). Words: traditional verse; chorus as printed in The Everyday Song Book (1927).

3 My Country, 'Tis of Thee

EASY B♭ major · 7 notes, A2 to G3 · 3/4 time

1	B♭2 *My*	B♭2 *coun-*	C3 *try,*	A2 *'tis*	B♭2 *of*	C3 *thee,*	D3 *sweet*	D3 *land*	E♭3 *of*	D3 *lib-*	C3 *er-*	B♭2 *ty,*	C3 *of*	B♭2 *thee*	A2 *I*	B♭2 *sing;*
2	F3 *Land*	F3 *where*	F3 *my*	F3 *fa-*	E♭3 *thers*	D3 *died,*	E♭3 *land*	E♭3 *of*	E♭3 *the*	E♭3 *Pil-*	D3 *grims'*	C3 *pride,*				
3	D3 *From*	E♭3 *ev-*	D3 —	C3 *'ry*	B♭2 —	D3 *moun-*	E♭3 *tain-*	F3 *side,*	G3 *let*	E♭3 —	D3 *free-*	C3 *dom*	B♭2 *ring!*			

Tip: This is a slow waltz with three beats to a bar. The dotted quarter and eighth pairs ("coun-try", "lib-er-ty") are the main rhythm, so count them carefully. Give the last note of each line all three beats.

Words: Samuel Francis Smith (1831). Music: the tune of "God Save the King" (anonymous, 1740s).

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4 America the Beautiful

MEDIUM B♭ major · 10 notes, C3 to D4 · 4/4 time

1	F3 *O*	F3 *beau-*	D3 *ti-*	D3 *ful*	F3 *for*	F3 *spa-*	C3 *cious*	C3 *skies,*	D3 *for*	E♭3 *am-*	F3 *ber*	G3 *waves*	A3 *of*	F3 *grain,*		
2	F3 *For*	F3 *pur-*	D3 *ple*	D3 *moun-*	F3 *tain*	F3 *maj-*	C3 *es-*	C3 *ties*	C4 *a-*	B♭3 *bove*	C4 *the*	D4 *fruit-*	G3 *ed*	C4 *plain!*		
3	F3 *A-*	D4 *mer-*	D4 *i-*	C4 *ca!*	B♭3 *A-*	B♭3 *mer-*	A3 *i-*	A3 *ca!*	B♭3 *God*	C4 *shed*	A3 *his*	G3 *grace*	F3 *on*	B♭3 *thee,*		
4	B♭3 *And*	B♭3 *crown*	G3 *thy*	G3 *good*	B♭3 *with*	B♭3 *broth-*	F3 *er-*	F3 *hood*	F3 *from*	G3 *sea*	B♭3 *to*	F3 *shin-*	C4 *ing*	B♭3 *sea!*		

Tip: Every line starts with the same short-long pattern ("O beau-ti-ful"). Keep the eighth note short, then breathe at the end of each line so the next one starts on time.

Words: Katharine Lee Bates (1895, revised 1911). Music: "Materna" by Samuel A. Ward (1882).

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5 Battle Hymn of the Republic

MEDIUM B♭ major · 8 notes, D3 to D4 · 4/4 time

1	F3 *Mine*	F3 *eyes*	F3 *have*	F3 *seen*	E♭3 *the*	D3 *glo-*	F3 *ry*	B♭3 *of*	C4 *the*	D4 *com-*	D4 *ing*	D4 *of*	C4 *the*	B♭3 *Lord;*		
2	B♭3 *He*	A3 *is*	G3 *tram-*	G3 *pling*	G3 *out*	A3 *the*	B♭3 *vin-*	A3 *tage*	B♭3 *where*	G3 *the*	F3 *grapes*	G3 *of*	F3 *wrath*	D3 *are*	F3 *stored;*	
3	F3 *He*	F3 *hath*	F3 *loosed*	F3 *the*	F3 *fate-*	E♭3 *ful*	D3 *light-*	F3 *ning*	B♭3 *of*	C4 *His*	D4 *ter-*	D4 *ri-*	D4 *ble*	C4 *swift*	B♭3 *sword;*	
4	B♭3 *His*	C4 *truth*	C4 *is*	B♭3 *march-*	A3 *ing*	B♭3 *on.*										
5	F3 *Glo-*	E♭3 *ry!*	D3 *glo-*	F3 *ry!*	B♭3 *Hal-*	C4 *le-*	D4 *lu-*	B♭3 *jah!*	G3 *Glo-*	A3 *ry!*	B♭3 *glo-*	A3 *ry!*	B♭3 *Hal-*	G3 *le-*	F3 *lu-*	D3 *jah!*
6	F3 *Glo-*	E♭3 *ry!*	D3 *glo-*	F3 *ry!*	B♭3 *Hal-*	C4 *le-*	D4 *lu-*	B♭3 *jah!*	B♭3 *His*	C4 *truth*	C4 *is*	B♭3 *march-*	A3 *ing*	B♭3 *on.*		

Tip: The verse is almost all dotted-eighth and sixteenth pairs. Make the long note of each pair three times as long as the short one, not a lazy swing. Then let the Glory, glory, hallelujah chorus broaden out.

Words: Julia Ward Howe (1861). Music: "John Brown's Body", from a camp-meeting tune credited to William Steffe (1856).

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6 Anchors Aweigh

HARDER F major · 11 notes, F2 to A3 · 2/2 time

1	F2 *An-*	A2 *chors*	C3 *a-*	D3 *weigh,*	A2 *my*	D3 *boys,*	F3 *An-*	F3 —	G3 *chors*	C3 *a-*	F3 *weigh!*				
2	D3 *Fare-*	F3 *well*	D3 *to*	C3 *col-*	D3 *lege*	E3 *joys,*	F3 *we*	B2 *sail*	D3 *at*	G3 *break*	F3 *of*	E3 *day-*	C3 *ay-*	B♭2 *ay-*	G2 *ay.*
3	F2 *Through*	A2 *our*	C3 *last*	D3 *night*	A2 *on*	D3 *shore,*	F3 *drink*	G3 *to*	C3 *the*	F3 *foam,*					
4	D3 *Un-*	F3 *til*	D3 *we*	C3 *meet*	D3 *once*	E3 *more,*	F3 *here's*	A3 *wish-*	C3 *ing*	B2 *you*	C3 *a*	G3 *hap-*	C3 *py*	B2 *voy-*	C3 *age*	F3 *home!*

Tip: It is a march counted in two big beats per bar, so the whole notes are long. Hold "boys", "aweigh" and "foam" for their full length. Then tongue the quick notes near the end ("here's wishing you a happy voyage") lightly.

Music: Charles A. Zimmermann (1906). Words of this verse: 1926 revision of Alfred Hart Miles's 1906 lyrics.

7 The Star-Spangled Banner

HARDER F major · 11 notes, F2 to C4 · 3/4 time
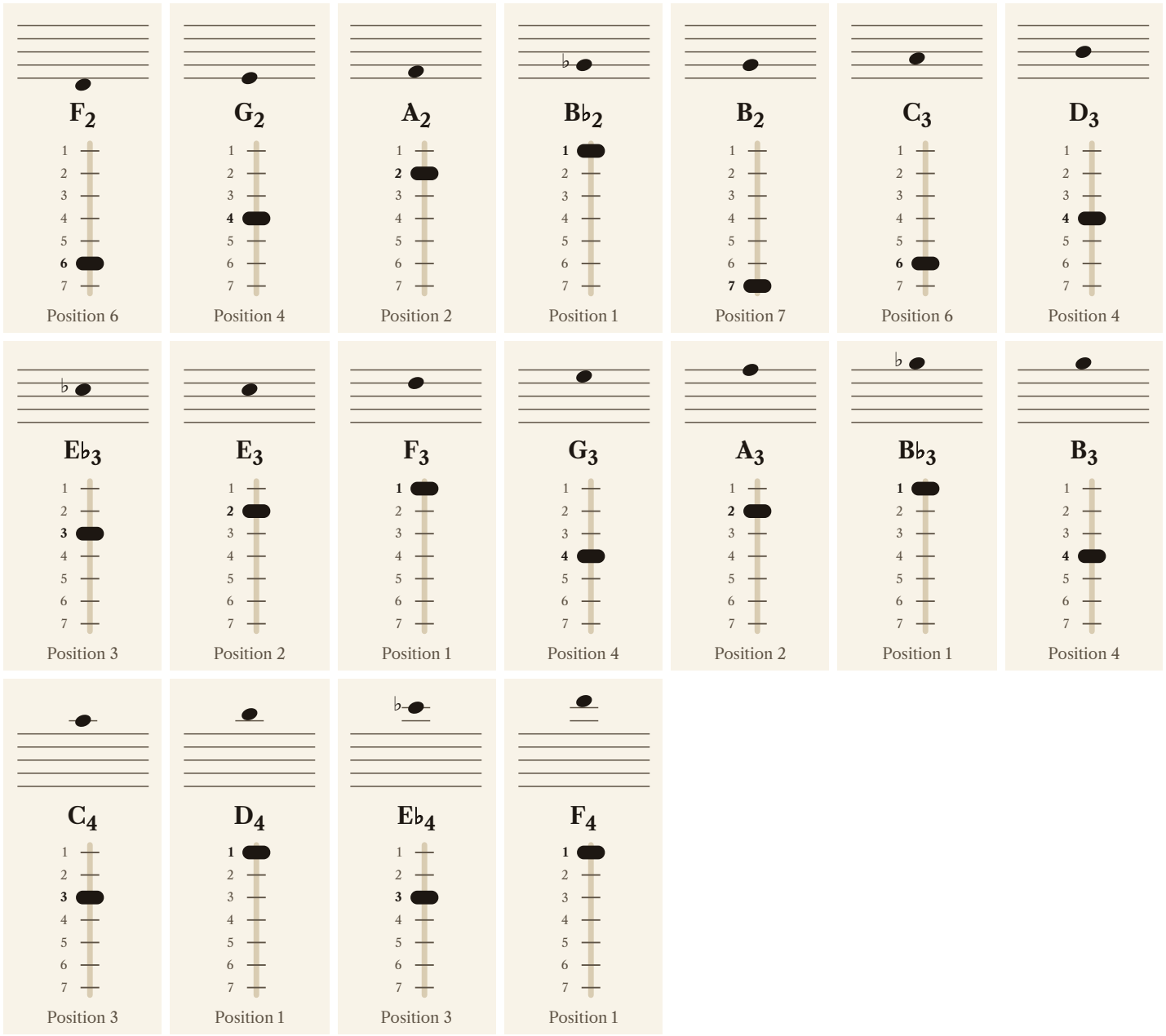
1	C3 *O*	A2 —	F2 *say,*	A2 *can*	C3 *you*	F3 *see,*	A3 *by*	G3 *the*	F3 *dawn's*	A2 *ear-*	B2 *ly*	C3 *light,*
2	C3 *What*	C3 *so*	A3 *proud-*	G3 *ly*	F3 *we*	E3 *hailed*	D3 *at*	E3 *the*	F3 *twi-*	F3 *light's*	C3 *last*	A2 *gleam-*	F2 *ing?*
3	C3 *Whose*	A2 *broad*	F2 *stripes*	A2 *and*	C3 *bright*	F3 *stars,*	A3 *through*	G3 *the*	F3 *per-*	A2 *il-*	B2 *ous*	C3 *fight,*
4	C3 *O'er*	C3 *the*	A3 *ram-*	G3 *parts*	F3 *we*	E3 *watched,*	D3 *were*	E3 *so*	F3 *gal-*	F3 *lant-*	C3 *ly*	A2 *stream-*	F2 *ing?*
5	A3 *And*	A3 *the*	A3 *rock-*	B♭3 *ets'*	C4 *red*	C4 *glare,*	B♭3 *the*	A3 *bombs*	G3 *burst-*	A3 *ing*	B♭3 *in*	B♭3 *air,*
6	B♭3 *Gave*	A3 *proof*	G3 *through*	F3 *the*	E3 *night*	D3 *that*	E3 *our*	F3 *flag*	A2 *was*	B2 *still*	C3 *there;*
7	C3 *O*	F3 *say,*	F3 *does*	F3 *that*	E3 —	D3 *star-*	D3 *span-*	D3 *gled*	G3 *ban-*	B♭3 *ner*	A3 —	G3 *yet*	F3 —	F3 *wave*	E3 —
8	C3 *O'er*	C3 *the*	F3 *land*	G3 —	A3 *of*	B♭3 *the*	C4 *free*	F3 *and*	G3 *the*	A3 *home*	B♭3 *of*	G3 *the*	F3 *brave?*

Tip: The anthem covers the widest range on this page, so practice the high part ("And the rockets' red glare") and the last line slowly before playing it straight through. Take a full breath before each of those lines.

Words: Francis Scott Key (1814). Music: "To Anacreon in Heaven" by John Stafford Smith (c. 1773). Service version of 1918.

Fingerings for every note in these songs

18 notes, from F2 up to F4. Concert pitch, bass clef. Trombone sounds the note that is written. The dark bar marks the slide position; position 1 is the slide all the way in.



Free to copy for students. The full trombone chart, scales and easy songs are at thefingeringchart.com/trombone/