

ALTERNATE POSITIONS ON THE TROMBONE

- **Alternate positions** are a direct result of certain notes being available in different overtone series. Because of this, these notes are possible in more than one slide position; for example, middle F can be played in both 1st and 6th positions.
- However, due to intonation problems in the overtone series (certain partials are out of tune), most alternates are **not** in the normal place on the slide. For example, middle D, normally in 1st position, is found in a **flat (or lowered) 4th** position. This is because the 6th partial is sharp; middle D is the 6th partial in 4th position. Music marks these intonation tendencies either with a - or b marking, or a + or # marking.
- Alternate positions are used for two reasons:

1. To make passages easier to play (see below):



2. To eliminate awkward slide motions (see below):



The most common alternate positions are given below:

