

Practice with the Tremulant

The Tremulant has an immediate effect on the player, regardless of whether the vibrato is to be generated primarily by changes in pitch, as is the case with strings, or by the fluctuations of volume or timbre that is typical for wind instruments.

For string players, it is good if the basic sequences of movements for generating vibrato is already in place. If you have not yet had experience with vibrato, you should first play a single sustained note without the tremulant and avoid any unnecessary body tension. Then follows a phase of practicing with the tremulant. After an initial familiarization period, the waves should be internalized in order to actively support the vibrato and ultimately to feel comfortable with it. It can help to close your eyes. Immediately afterwards, the same exercise should be repeated a few times without the tremulant to internalize the effect.

For advanced learners, it makes sense to choose a clear phrase in a slow tempo (preferably with a metronome), which is initially repeated a few times with your own vibrato without the tremulant (see examples below). Then the same phrase is practiced by heart with tremulant, using the metronome as an aid. This is followed by the control of the same phrase without the tremulant.

♩ = 60

The image shows four staves of musical notation for violin/flute, viola, cello, and bassoon. Each staff is in 3/4 time. Above the staves, a tempo marking indicates a quarter note equals 60 beats per minute. The violin/flute staff starts on a G4 note, with fingerings 2, 1, 2, 3, 4, 3, 2, 1 and vibrato markings (IV, III). The viola staff starts on a G3 note, with fingerings 2, 1, 2, 3, 4, 3, 2, 1 and vibrato markings (III, II). The cello staff starts on a G2 note, with fingerings 1, 3, 4, 2, 1, 4, 3, 1 and vibrato markings (III, II, III). The bassoon staff starts on a G2 note and has vibrato markings. The exercise consists of a sequence of notes: G, A, B, A, G, F, E, D.

Quiet or slow passages of music literature can of course also be practiced using the tremulant throughout, whereby the speed (S) must be adjusted. Often only a small correction of a few tenths of a Hz is necessary to meet your own taste. The focus is on both the evenness of the waveform and the regularity in relation to the tempo of the vibrato.

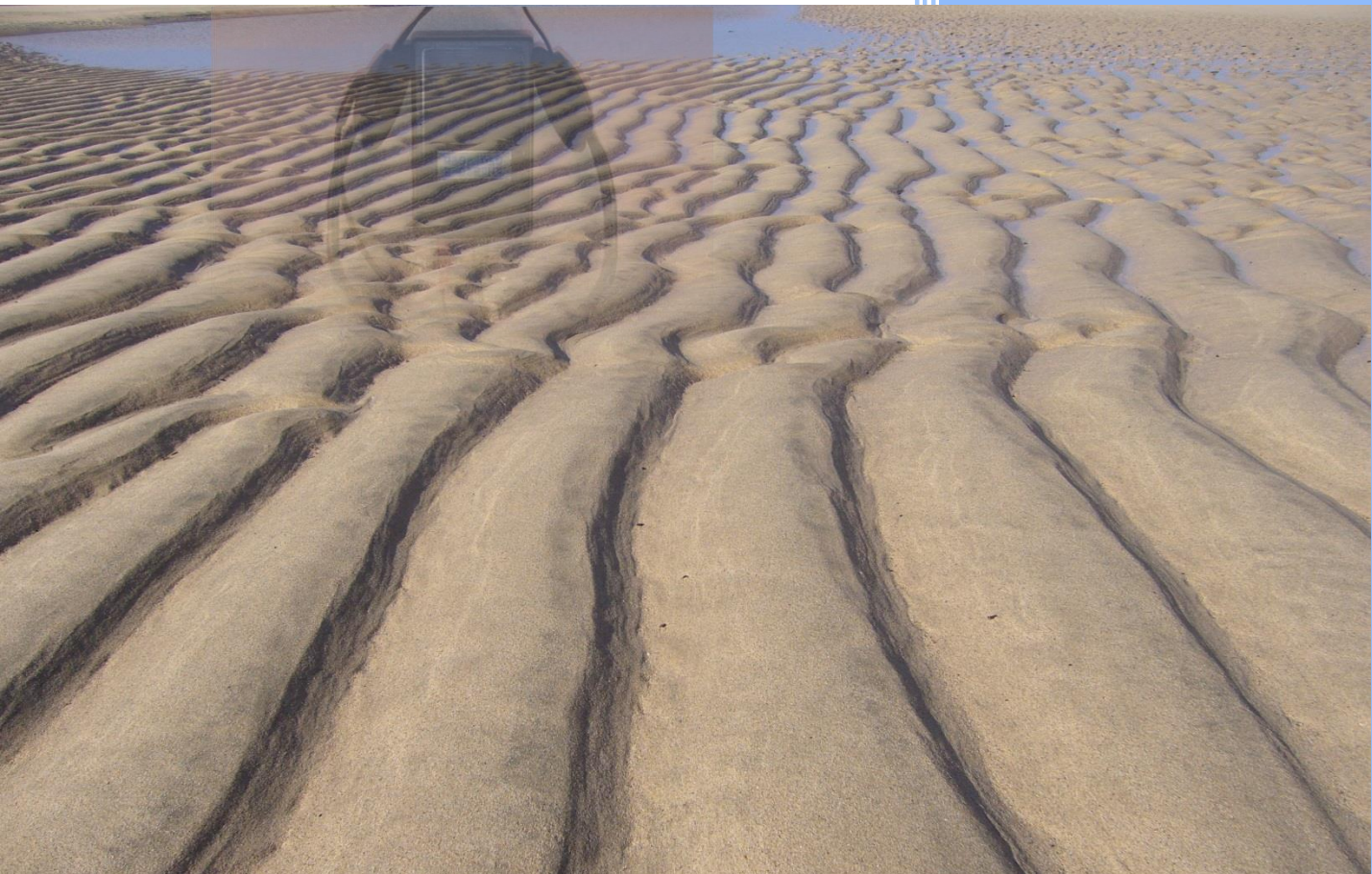
In order to be able to assess the effect of the training yourself during the phase with headphones, it makes sense to make a video or sound recording. In this way, the condition can be documented before, during and after training. Otherwise one must rely on the observations of a listener.

OPERATION MANUAL



Vibrato

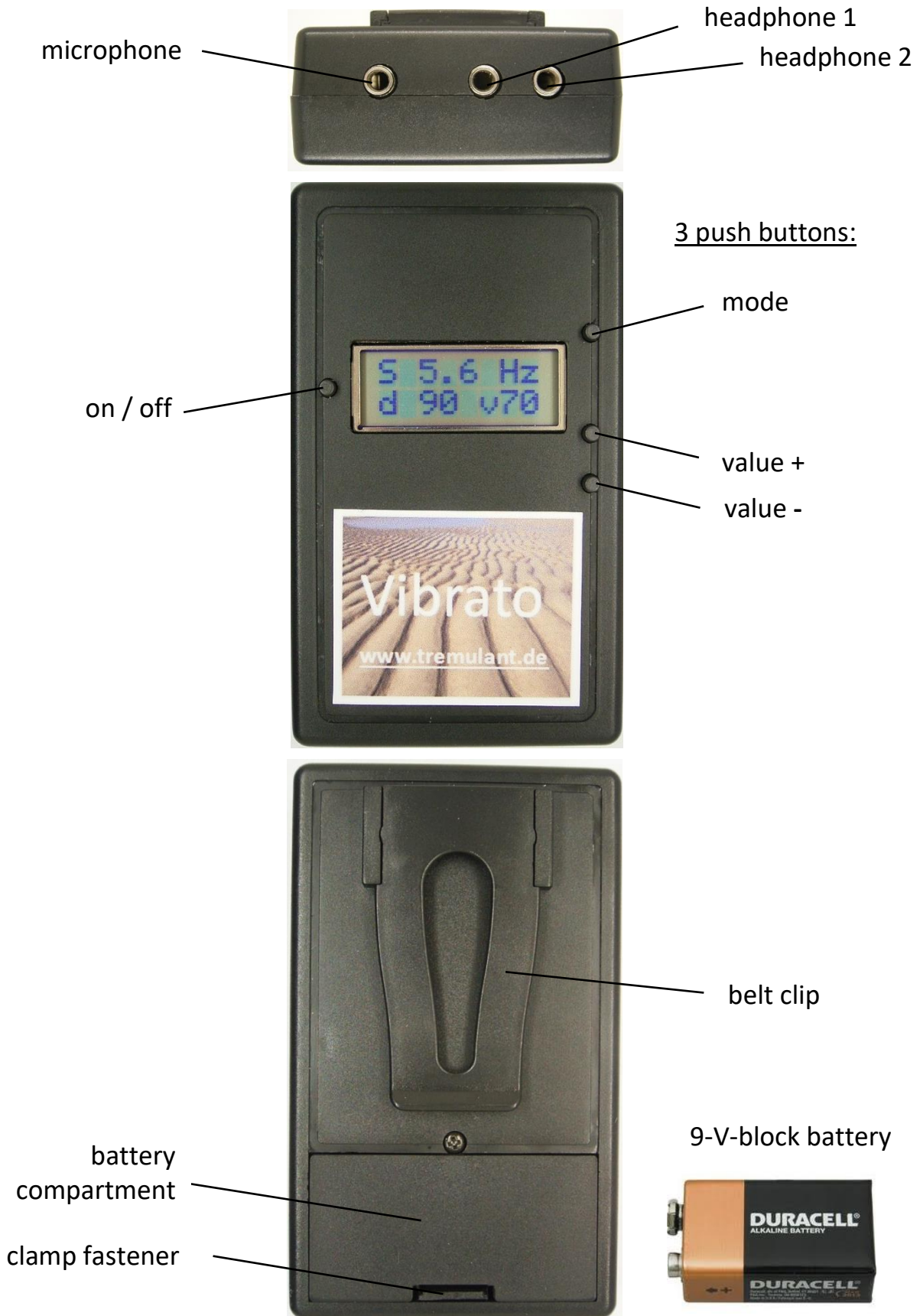
TREMULANT



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Tremulant for learning and practicing musician's vibrato



Operation Manual

- Open the **battery compartment** with a pointed object and insert a 9V block battery.
- Insert the **microphone** plug of the headset into the single microphone socket.
- Connect the **headphone** plug of the headset to one of the two adjacent headphone sockets. (The second headphone jack can be used with commercially available headphones as a control for teaching.)
- **Switch on the device** by pressing the on/off button to the left of the display. The button must be held for two seconds until the switch-on message "Tremulant" disappears.
- Press the top push button to the right of the display (mode) repeatedly until the S (Speed) appears in the display as a capital letter. Now the **speed** of the vibrato can be set with the bottom push button (down) or the button above (up) (5.6 Hz is a popular output value).
- Press the top push button to the right of the display (mode) until the D (Depth) appears in the display as a capital letter. Now the **intensity** with which the waves of the vibrato vary in volume can be set with the bottom push button (down) or the button above (up) (90% is a standard value).
- Press the top push button to the right of the display (mode) until the V (volume) appears in the display as a capital letter. Here the **volume** for the headphones is selected, which can be changed with the bottom push button (down) or the button above (up) (70 is a good starting value).
- When the tremulant is attached to the belt with the clip or is securely put down, the **headset** is put on so that the microphone is on the left side of the headphones and both ears are well covered. The microphone is turned upwards or at an angle forwards, i.e. not placed in the immediate vicinity of the mouth or nose.
- Before the generation of tones, the surrounding noise can already be perceived as pulsating noise. During the sound generation, the volume (V) should be set so that the vibrato impulses are clearly audible together with the surround sound. Here it is important to find out the appropriate **individual setting**.
- If all settings (speed, intensity, and volume) are suitable, all values can be stored in the **memory** by simultaneously pressing the lower two push buttons on the right side of the display. "Saved" then appears in the display. The tremulant starts with these values the next time it is switched on.
- To **switch off**, the on/off button must be pressed for two seconds. Otherwise the device switches itself off after 25 minutes. Before this, the flashing message "Auto Off" appears for 5 minutes. With a long press on the on/off button, the exercise time can be extended by another 25 minutes.
- When the **battery voltage** drops, the message "Low Bat" appears. However, the device can still be used normally for a few hours after the first battery warning. Then the volume decreases, and the contrast of the display becomes weaker.