ZO Musical Instruments Ultra-Lite Bb Trombones

The ZO Ultra-Lite trombones were developed to solve many of the problems that music educators encounter with beginning band students: instruments that are too heavy, easily dented, expensive to repair, and difficult for young players to carry. Rather than being novelty instruments, they are intended to be practical educational tools.

Construction

ABS Polymer Body

The bell section, tuning slide assembly, and outer body are molded from high-impact ABS polymer.

Benefits include:

- Will not dent like brass
- Will not corrode or tarnish
- Much less affected by moisture
- Maintains its appearance for years
- Reduces repair costs dramatically

Fiberglass Slide

The slide is one of the most important parts of any trombone.

ZO uses a fiberglass slide that offers several advantages:

- Extremely lightweight
- Resistant to dents
- Smooth action (even when not properly lubricated)
- Doesn't permanently crease like brass slides

For school use, this can mean far fewer trips to the repair shop after students accidentally bump their instruments.

Weight Comparison

Instrument	Approximate Weight
ZO ZTB-20	about 1 lb
Brass student trombone	4–5 lbs
Weight reduction	roughly 75%

That reduction makes a huge difference for:

- 4th and 5th grade beginners
- Smaller students
- Long rehearsals
- Marching season

Playing Characteristics

The ZTB-20 was designed to play like a standard Bb tenor trombone.

Players can expect:

- Quick response
- Easy upper register
- Stable intonation
- Surprisingly full tone
- Good projection

The biggest tonal difference compared with brass is usually heard in advanced solo literature, where a professional brass instrument offers a richer palette of overtones. In a beginning or middle school band, however, the difference is often much less noticeable because the sound blends into the full ensemble.

Ideal Programs

These instruments work especially well in:

- Elementary school beginning band
- Middle school concert band
- Marching band
- Pep band
- Community bands
- Parade bands
- Music therapy programs

Why Schools Like Them

School districts often spend thousands of dollars every year repairing student brass instruments.

Common repair issues include:

- Bent slides
- Crushed bells
- Dented tuning slides
- Broken braces
- Finish damage

The polymer construction greatly reduces cosmetic damage and many dent-related repairs. Schools can often keep these instruments in service for years with routine maintenance rather than frequent body work.

Outdoor Performance

Traditional brass instruments can become very hot in the sun or quite cold during winter performances.

The polymer construction is generally:

- More comfortable to hold in extreme temperatures
- Resistant to rain and humidity
- Less susceptible to finish damage
- Well suited for marching band and pep band use

The ZTB-30 Trigger Model

The ZTB-30 includes an **F attachment** (Bb/F).



Advantages include:

- Alternate slide positions
- Easier low register playing
- Better intonation on difficult notes
- Preparation for advanced literature
- Similar layout to traditional intermediate brass trigger trombones

It is an excellent step-up instrument for advancing students who need an F-attachment without the added weight of a brass trigger trombone.

Accessories

ZO typically supplies:

- Lightweight padded gig bag
- Mouthpiece
- Cleaning accessories (varies by distributor)

Color Options

One of the most popular features is the variety of finishes.

Available finishes commonly include:



- Matte Black
- Matte Blue
- Matte Red
- Matte Green
- Matte Purple
- Matte Orange
- Mirror Silver
- Mirror Gold

These colors are especially popular with marching bands, pep bands, and schools that want instruments matching school colors.

A Strong Points for Dealers

ZO Ultra-Lite trombones offer several compelling benefits:

- Professional appearance with unique color options
- Significantly lighter than brass models
- Lower long-term maintenance costs
- Attractive pricing compared with traditional brass trombones
- Easy for younger students to handle
- Excellent choice for schools purchasing classroom instrument inventories

For programs focused on beginner and intermediate players, the combination of **low weight, durability, and affordability** makes the ZTB-20 and ZTB-30 distinctive alternatives to conventional student brass trombones.