Multiple Tonguing

Multiple tonguing is a necessary skill for all instrumentalists, not just brass players. It is executed by applying two different attacks: one with the front of the tongue, on the reed; the other with the back of the tongue, in the soft palate area. The problem single reed players have is with the mouthpiece occupying a significant portion of the oral cavity, which results in a somewhat constricted tongue motion. In addition, the two different attacks produce a different quality of sound. The challenge is in achieving both even rhythm and consistency of tone between the two attacks. Syllables used are either “Ta - Ka” or “Tu - Ku”. I prefer the latter, as they are slightly softer and more agile. When first attempting multiple tonguing, practice the following examples on just the mouthpiece & neck. Play these in sequence, moving on only after the current example is mastered. DO NOT MOVE YOUR JAW while multiple tonguing.

Example 1:

```
| T | T | K | T | T | K | T | T | K | T |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
```

Example 2:

```
| T | K | T | K | T | T | K | T | K | T |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
```

Example 3:

```
| T | K | T | K | T | T | K | T | K | T |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
```

When you are comfortable performing these examples on the mouthpiece & neck, then move on to the instrument. Once you have made the move back to the instrument progress as follows:

- First practice repeated notes in different registers of the instrument.
- Next practice two adjacent notes, moving back-and-forth between the two.
- Practice this two note exercise in different registers.
- Finally, work into scale passages beginning with 3-5 note patterns, and gradually extend these patterns into longer examples that cover different registers of the instrument.