

## **Is There An Ideal Embouchure?**

“How would you define ideal lip position to the cup?”

I don't know, I'd have to see your teeth, your lips, and your cup. I don't mean to be dismissive, but there is no one solution for everybody.

For me, I would define it as whatever allows you the easiest access to your entire range. If you play with big underbite, or with a big overbite; and you're really living on one end of the spectrum of a pivot; then that's probably handicapping you from being able to have equal access to real tone quality throughout the range, something like that. If you've got too much lip, too much of one of your lips inside the mouthpiece; or if it's - whatever -

If there's something that you or a trusted friend, teacher, someone better than you; someone who is able to observe you- if they can help you find something about your playing that is handicapping you, in one part of your range, or that's not providing you access to the tone quality that you're looking to achieve, or whatever, then make that change.

But I don't really have a definition in terms of physical description of what a perfect embouchure or ideal lip position is. I would just say thick lips is a piece of universal advice. Play with your lips as thick as you can, push the mouthpiece away from your teeth, as much as you can; that's a big thing.

But otherwise, all the other details, there are a lot of answers to that, and it depends on your goals - it depends on musculature, depends on what's going on with your teeth, depends on what type of music you want to play, what kind of equipment you like to play. So anyone that speaks about this subject in terms of absolutes is either full of shit, or they're just not considering a bigger picture.