



MCS

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CARE AND CLEANING OF BRASS INSTRUMENTS

Always take care when putting in and taking out a brass mouthpiece. Special devices are available at music stores to remove a brass mouthpiece that is stuck in an instrument. **NEVER TRY ANYTHING OTHER THAN A REGULATION MOUTHPIECE PULLER TO REMOVE A MOUTHPIECE THAT IS STUCK IN A BRASS INSTRUMENT!**

1. Apply a drop of valve oil to the valves daily, or every day that one plays to keep the valves working freely. Apply a couple of drops of slide oil to trombone slides each day. If using trombone slide cream, slides should be cleaned and new cream applied every month or two, depending on amount of playing. Water should be sprayed on the slide each time the trombone is played, and sometimes more than once during a long playing session.
2. Mouthpieces should be washed out with mild soap, water, and a mouthpiece brush each week to keep them clean and to make playing easier. Rinse well after cleaning.
3. All brass instruments need to be “bathed” regularly (two or three times a year) so that they play their best. Use the following procedure:
 - a. Take out the valves in order and keep them in order. (Placing them on a sheet of paper that is numbered “1, 2, 3” is helpful.
 - b. Using a soft, clean cloth, wipe off the old oil from the valves and lay them back in order.
 - c. Pull out all of the slides and wipe off old grease. Set them aside for now.
 - d. Submerge the body of the instrument in warm, not hot, soapy water. (Use a mild soap such as that for dishes, not a harsh detergent.) Allow to soak about 15 minutes. While the body of the instrument is soaking, dip the slides in the water and run the flexible snake brush through them until all foreign matter is removed from the inside of all of the slide tubings.
 - e. Rinse the slides, wipe dry, and put aside. Take the body of the instrument and run the flexible brush through all of the tubings to remove foreign matter. Flush thoroughly with clean water. Wipe the instrument dry.
 - f. Using a steel rod with a soft cloth wrapped around it, or a valve casing brush, wipe out the valve casings to remove the last bit of grim and/or water. Make sure that the rod is covered entirely with the cloth so that the instrument is not scratched.
 - g. Coat the tuning slide surfaces with a thin coat of Vaseline or slide grease. Replace the slides in the body of the instrument.
 - h. Wipe off the valves and put on three or four drops of valve oil. Smear a little Vaseline on the threads of the top valve caps. Replace the valves in the instrument in the proper casings. Be sure that the valve guides are in the right notches correctly.
 - i. Wipe off the entire body of the instrument with a clean, soft cloth.

BATHS FOR TROMBONES, ONLY:

Omit all information pertaining to valves. Use a snake brush or rod covered tightly with a cloth to clean both the slide and stocking (inner slide) thoroughly. Apply slide oil or slide cream to the clean, dry slide.