

Trombone Maintenance Guide

AFTER PLAYING

- Wash the mouthpiece in cool water after playing and then dry it with a soft swab or cloth. Do not rub too hard as this can cause uneven wear of the mouthpiece or loss of silver plating.
- Remove all moisture from the inside of the instrument using the water keys or "spit"- valves. You can also remove the slide and the tuning slides(s) to help empty the water from inside. Allow the instrument to air dry for a few minutes in the case before closing the lid. If you have a swab, this can also be used.
- Always pass the swab through the instrument from top to bottom. Never bunch up the swab as you put it in – it will get stuck inside if you do!
- Never store a wet swab inside the case with the instrument. Allow it to air-dry for a couple of minutes before putting it away.
- Periodically wash the cleaning swab. Replace it if it becomes worn
- Use a separate lint-free, soft, dry cloth to remove finger marks etc from the keys and the outside of the body.
- The mechanism must be in good working order for the trombone to work properly. You need to lubricate the slide every time you play. Ask your teacher to recommend a qualified instrument repairer and to show you how to grease the tuning slides and oil valve(s) if present (ie Bb/F trom or bass trom). Like any other machine, your trombone needs regular servicing/ inspection (at least once a year) by a qualified repairer.

THE SLIDE

There are a number of products available to lubricate the slide. These include oils, slide cream, water, Slide-o-Mix, etc. It is most important to remove old built-up lubricant residue from both the slide and the stocking before applying new lubricant.

This is general information; please see the user guide for your specific instrument.

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CLEAN THE WHOLE INSTRUMENT

Clean the whole instrument in warm water with detergent about once every couple of months. Remove the slide section and the tuning slides and place in a plastic tub or some similar container full of warm water and detergent. You can also run water from a hose through the instrument if it is too big to fit into such a tub. Do this outside! USE A "SNAKE" OR FLEXIBLE BRUSH to remove any corrosion, oil or built up dirt within the bore of the instrument. Allow to air dry before lubricating and re-assembling it.

OTHER

- Lubricate any tuning slides with a little tuning slide grease – this is heavier (more viscous) than trombone slide grease. TUNING SLIDES SHOULD BE MOVED EVERY DAY TO PREVENT THEM FROM BECOMING STUCK OR "Freezing"/
- Changes in temperature will affect the tone and fundamental pitch of your instrument. As the instrument gets warmer, the air inside gets less dense and the pitch goes up (sharper). Conversely, as it cools it goes flatter. Move your tuning slides out to lower the pitch and in to raise it.
- Your instrument is designed to be played at room temperature (defined as 21 Degrees Celsius). Before performing, warm up by playing for at least 5 minutes. Use the water-keys very frequently to drain condensation from the instrument. If you think you are doing this too often, that's probably just about right.
- NEVER use oils, solvents or anti-corrosive products to clean your instrument

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