

Taking care of your Brass Instrument

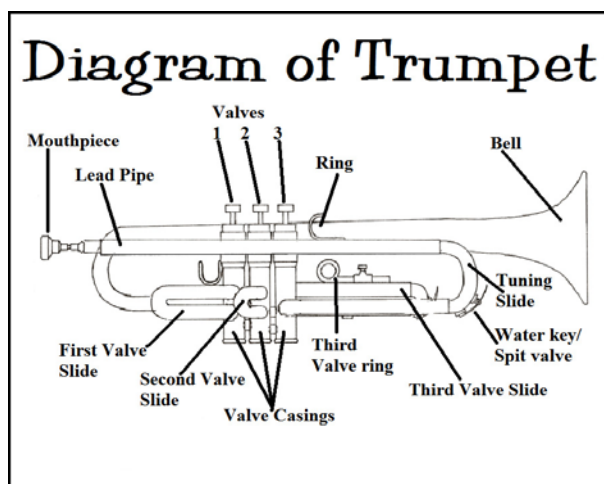
Things you'll find handy to have:

Cleaning snake, mouthpiece brush, valve or rotor oil, slide grease, valve casing brush, a soft polishing cloth
Much of the care and maintenance of brass instrument can be done at home, however we recommend you have the instrument serviced annually by a qualified technician to ensure it is performing at its optimum.

Oiling your instrument: Before playing check your valves and rotors are sufficiently lubricated. **For rotary valves:** see your retailer or technician to learn the correct method for oiling your particular rotary valves.

Pistons – The valves are usually numbered on the outside with a matching number on the piston. Oil in this sequence: 3, 2, 1. Unscrew the top cap and pull out the piston. Place a few drops of oil onto the outside of the piston then replace it. Trumpets: rotate the piston until it clicks, blow through the trumpet to make sure the air passes through, then screw up the top cap. Lower brass instruments have a guide inside the casing to ensure the correct alignment of the piston.

Slides: Remove slides, apply slide grease and replace



Oiling the pistons



Greasing the slides

Bath your brass instrument every 3-4 months to reduce the build up of organic matter.

Tip: take a photo of your instrument so you know where all the parts belong!

1. Lay a bath mat in the bottom of the bath or a large sink. Fill with lukewarm water with a few drops of detergent. Remove the trumpet valves, springs, valve guides, felts and slides and put aside in order.
2. Place everything **except the felts** into the bath.
3. Feed the cleaning snake through the pieces to clean out all the debris. Use a valve casing brush to remove any old valve oil from the casing, a mouthpiece brush to clean the mouthpiece, and make sure to clean out the leadpipe. Remove old grease from the slides with a cloth.
4. Rinse the instrument in clean water and allow to dry
5. Reassemble the instrument with fresh oil and grease.

Polishing Cloth

Sweat and acid from your hands can slowly eat away at the plating and lacquer. Wipe off after every session with a soft microfiber cloth. For badly tarnished silver instruments use a silver polish impregnated cloth.

Oils and Greases

Use good quality oils and greases such as Al Cass and Hetman. Different thicknesses and applicators are available for specific uses - check with your teacher or specialist music store to make sure you have the right ones.

Stuck Mouthpieces

Never force or twist a mouthpiece into place or it will become stuck. If a mouthpiece does become stuck **DON'T** attempt to remove it yourself! You will damage the mouthpiece and possibly the instrument. Your music shop, school or teacher will have a mouthpiece puller specifically designed for the job.