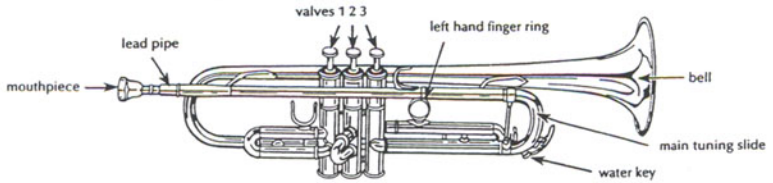
Name _____ Date _____

How to Care for Your Trumpet (I)



Trumpet

Before You Play

There is very little to assemble on a trumpet. All you have to do is place the mouthpiece into the lead pipe. Do this with a gently twisting motion. Do not hit or pop the mouthpiece into place. This can lead to a stuck mouthpiece. Oil the valves every day you play your trumpet or every second day. Remove the valves one at a time and apply three or four drops of high quality thin oil. Replace the valve, slotting it into place or turning it until it clicks. If the valve is not in the proper position, you can blow hard, but no air will go through the horn. If this happens, check the position of each of the valves to correct the problem.

Tuning and Playing

To lower the pitch of the trumpet, lengthen the instrument by pulling the main tuning slide out. To raise the pitch, push the main tuning slide in. Trumpets have an adjustable third valve slide to adjust the pitch of notes that are usually sharp. For example, when playing low C-sharp with fingers 1-2-3, use the fourth or fifth finger of the left hand to push out the third valve slide. This will flatten the pitch of the C-sharp. This "trigger" will not always be used by beginners, but is essential for advanced trumpet players.

The moisture that accumulates inside the trumpet is not "spit." It is condensation from the player's breath—just like the moisture from a steaming kettle that condenses on windows. When this moisture accumulates inside the trumpet, it makes it gurgle and has to be released through the water key or spit valve. Open the water key and blow air (don't buzz) into the instrument. Empty your spit valve onto the floor, not on your chair or your neighbor's shoe!

If your mouthpiece gets stuck while you are playing, do not attempt to remove it yourself or have anyone yank it out for you. Forcibly removing a stuck mouthpiece can break the braces on a trumpet. Carry the trumpet to your teacher (it won't fit into your case) and he or she will remove it with a tool made specially for pulling mouthpieces. To prevent stuck mouthpieces, always insert the mouthpiece gently, don't pop it during rehearsal, and don't use too much pressure while you play. Keep the shank of the mouthpiece and the receiver clean.

After playing, wipe the instrument clean with a soft cloth. This will remove perspiration which can damage the lacquer and metal. Do not use polish on lacquered instruments because it can scratch the finish.

Name _____ Date _____

How to Care for Your Trumpet (II)

Regular Maintenance

A clean trumpet works and sounds better than a dirty one. Once a week clean the mouthpiece with warm water and a mouthpiece brush. Help keep the mouthpiece and instrument clean by avoiding gum, candy, and pop before you play. Rinse your mouth if you have been eating anything sweet.

Once a month give your trumpet a bath. Take all the slides out and the bottom caps off. Take the valves out one at a time and lay them in order on a towel. This will help you to put them back in the correct order when you have finished. Put the slides and the body of the trumpet into warm soapy water. Run snake brushes through all the tubes. Use a valve casing brush or a cleaning rod and cloth to clean the valve casings. Rinse them off in clean lukewarm water. Wash the valves thoroughly, checking so that no lint, dirt, or other substance remains in the ports (holes). Wipe the water off the outside of the horn. Don't leave the instrument in the water too long or the lacquer finish can peel off.

Put the trumpet back together. Oil the valves and grease the slides. For slide lubrication you can use petroleum jelly, anhydrous lanolin, or commercial slide grease. Wipe off excess grease. If you have a trumpet with a push-type water key, apply a few drops of oil to keep it lubricated. This type of water key can break off if it is forced open. A drop of oil once a month is a pound of cure for this problem.

Supplies Needed to Care for the Trumpet

1. Valve oil
2. Slide grease
3. Mouthpiece brush
4. Soft cloth
5. Snake brushes
6. Valve casing brush or cleaning rod and cloth

Handling the Trumpet

When you are playing the trumpet, hold it by the valve casings, not by the slides or the bell. Don't lay the trumpet down on a music stand or a chair or stand it on the floor on its bell. The trumpet will dent easily. Dents look ugly, affect the tone of the instrument, and are expensive to remove. Always put the trumpet in its case correctly. Never set the trumpet in its case with the bell hanging over the edge. Anyone accidentally closing the case on a trumpet left like this will crinkle the bell. Don't cram books and music into your trumpet case because the pressure on the tubing can cause damage. Be sure the mouthpiece and other accessories are put away properly so they don't jar loose and cause damage. Remember that the trumpet is an expensive instrument—not a toy—and should be handled with care.

Name _____ Date _____

How to Care for Your Trumpet (III)

Directions: Match each clue in the left column with the correct answer in the right column. Write the letter of the answer in the blank.

1. _____ A trumpet works best when it is _____ .
2. _____ You should never do this to your mouthpiece.
3. _____ Your valves need this each time you play.
4. _____ Never eat this before you play.
5. _____ Clean your mouthpiece this often.
6. _____ These should be removed with a soft cloth after you play.
7. _____ This can scratch the finish of your trumpet.
8. _____ You should bathe your trumpet this often.
9. _____ A flexible brush used to clean the tubes of a trumpet.
10. _____ Bathe the trumpet in this.
11. _____ Valve casings can be cleaned with a brush or with this.
12. _____ If your mouthpiece gets stuck, do not attempt to _____ it!
13. _____ You can grease slides with this.
14. _____ The third valve slide is used to _____ individual notes.
15. _____ Always remember that your trumpet is an _____ musical instrument and handle it with care.

A. metal polish
B. tune
C. clean
D. snake
E. candy
F. once a month
G. oil
H. finger marks
I. anhydrous lanolin
J. cleaning rod
K. soapy water
L. remove
M. once a week
N. pop
O. expensive