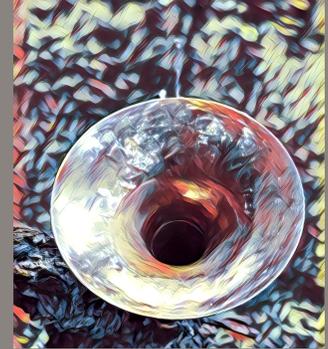
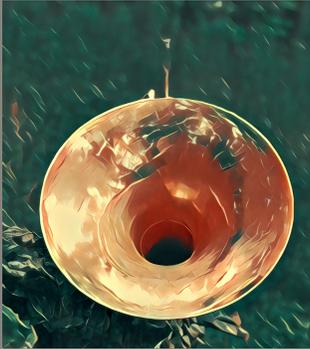


Horn Maintenance



A key to good horn playing is a well maintained horn. If your valves are slow or sticky, then you won't be able to play up to your potential. If slides don't move, you can't make quick tuning adjustments during a performance.

Overall Maintenance

1. Never eat food or drink any type of sugary liquid, such as soda, juice, or even sports drinks right before playing. If you do eat or drink something, make sure that you brush your teeth. This will remove anything left over in your mouth. If you follow this guideline, you will encounter fewer problems with your horn.
2. Clean your horn regularly. This will save you money in the long run, because you won't have to get your horn chemically cleaned but every several years. This includes cleaning out your mouthpiece with a mouthpiece brush you can buy at a local music store.

Maintaining Valves

1. You should oil your valves with some sort of valve oil or rotor oil once a week. If you are unsure of what brand to buy, Al Cass or Hetman Oil is always a good choice. You can never use too much oil. There is such a thing as wasting oil, but never using too much.
2. You should oil under the valve caps and oil the bearing next to the valve stops with a thicker oil. Key oil, sewing machine oil and/or Superslick Oil works well.
3. Oil the valve springs to prevent them from becoming sticky and slow with valve oil.

4. At least once a month, run some warm, soapy water (Ivory Liquid Soap) through the valves. Put the horn directly under the tap, usually in the bathtub. Nothing is really going to be removed by simply pouring water into the valve slides. After rinsing out the valves with clean water, be sure to re-oil the valves. Doing this once a month, helps prevent lime deposits from forming in the horn. If you're not sure how to do this, ask your teacher or a professional.

Maintaining the Tubing

1. Wash out the tubing, especially the lead pipe, with plenty of warm, soapy water at least once a month. As with the valves, put the horn directly under the tap. This will help remove the grime. You can also use a snake, a long plastic-coated wire that has a brush on both ends, to help clean out the pipe. Please ask for assistance the first time.
2. After doing so, re-rinse making sure all the soap has been rinsed out. Otherwise, a soapy residue could be left inside. You should, ideally, have your horn chemically cleaned once a year. This is especially so if you tend to play your horn after eating or drinking anything sugary. However, if you brush your teeth before you play, and you maintain your horn well, you may not need to chemically clean horn more than once every few years.

Maintaining the Slides

1. Wipe your valves clean with a rag.
2. Grease the valves with some sort of lubricant. Any standard slide grease will work. Anhydrous lanolin is always a favorite since it is thicker and seems to stay longer; however, it is a little messier. Slide grease that comes in a tube is very convenient.