

Care and Maintenance of the Euphonium and Piston-Valve Tuba

You Will Need:

- 1) Soft cloth (cotton or flannel)
- 2) Flexible brush (also called a “snake”)
- 3) Mouthpiece brush
- 4) Valve brush
- 5) Tuning slide grease
- 6) Valve Oil

Daily Care

- 1) Never leave your instrument unattended. It takes very little time for someone to take it.
- 2) The safest place for your instrument is in the case. Leave it there when you’re not playing.
- 3) Do not let other people use your instrument. They may not know how to hold and care for it.
- 4) Do not use your case as a chair, foot rest or step stool. It is not designed for that kind of weight.
- 5) Lay your case flat on the floor before opening it. Do not let it fall open.
- 6) Do not hit your mouthpiece, it can get stuck.
- 7) Do not lift your instrument by the valves. Use the bell and any large tubes on the outside edge.
- 8) No loose items in your case. Anything loose will damage your instrument or get stuck in it.
- 9) Do not put music in your case, unless space is provided for it. If you have to fold it or if it touches the instrument, it should NOT be there.
- 10) Avoid eating or drinking just before playing. If you do, rinse your mouth with water before playing.
- 11) You may not need to do it every day, but keep your valves running smooth with valve oil.
 - Put the oil directly on the exposed valve, not in the holes on the bottom of the casings.

Weekly Cleaning

- 1) Brush the inside of the mouthpiece with a mild soap and water. Rinse and dry.
- 2) Wipe the fingerprints and dirt off of your instrument with your soft cloth. This will keep it looking nice. Also, the acid from your hands will eventually cause the lacquer (shiny stuff) to fall off if you leave it on the instrument.
 - Do NOT use any kind of polish on the instrument. Wiping it clean is enough.

Monthly Cleaning

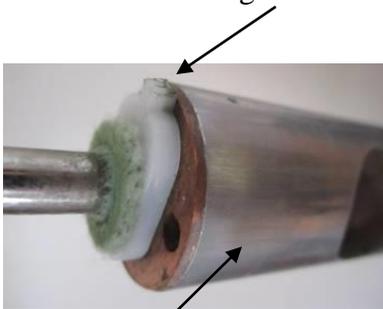
1. While you are practicing, leave your empty case open in the sun. The warmth will dry out any moisture and keep your case from smelling bad.
2. Vacuum the inside of your case.

Winter Break, Spring Break, and Summer

1. Read all of this before starting! You do not want to get halfway through and then find out you don’t understand something.
2. Fill a tub with lukewarm (not hot!) water deep enough to cover your instrument. Add some mild soap (not detergent!) while it is filling. Hot water and/or detergent might strip the lacquer off your instrument.
3. Remove all of the pistons (keep them in order!).
 - a. Brush the holes in the pistons in the tub. Do NOT put the entire piston under water!
 - b. Rinse the pistons and set them aside (in order!).
4. Remove the caps on the bottom of the valve casings and put them in the water.

< INSTRUCTIONS CONTINUE ON OTHER SIDE >

5. Remove all of the slides and put them in the water along with the instrument. Let them soak for a few minutes. If your tuba won't fit all the way underwater, carefully flip it over when you need to.
6. Wipe all the parts with a soft cloth and brush the insides of all tubes several times with a snake and valve brush.
7. Drain the tub. Rinse the caps, slides and instrument, inside and out, then dry with a soft, lint-free cloth.
 - *NOTE* If you are not going to play the horn for months, don't oil or grease the parts. Leave them dry.
8. Grease all tuning slides with tuning slide grease.
9. Push the slides ALL the way in, and then pull them back out to where you want them.
10. Put the caps for the bottom of the valve casings back on.
11. Oil the pistons and put them back in the same order.
 - a. Make sure the guide on the side of the piston lines up with the notch in the valve casing.



Put valve oil here.

Regular Check-ups

To keep your instrument in top working condition, have it checked by a qualified repair person once per year (Winter break is better than summer, repair shops are not as busy). Regular maintenance keeps an instrument in good playing condition for a period of years, rather than allowing it gradually to deteriorate, becoming more difficult to play and more expensive to repair.

