

Proper Cleaning of Brass Instruments

Articles needed for cleaning:

Mouthpiece Brush
Valve Oil (Trombotine for Trombones)
Snake
Tuning Slide Grease
Soft clean cloths (old t-shirts work great!)
Pledge (optional)
Armorall (optional)

Procedure:

- Remove all slides.
- Remove valves (trumpets, euphoniums, and tubas only – horns, leave valves in). Keep valves in order.
- Fill tub and/or sink with warm (never hot!!) water and a small amount of dish detergent.
- Immerse “skeleton” instrument and slides in soapy water. ***DO NOT PUT VALVES IN WATER.*** Soak for 15-60 minutes.
 - **HORNS:** Only soak slides – Do not soak rotors in water!
- Run snake through slides, tubing, and valve casings.
- Clean mouthpiece with mouthpiece brush, water and detergent.
- Rinse all parts with clear warm water.
- Drain tub/sink. Carefully turn instrument to get out excess water.
- Wipe instrument dry with a soft cloth. ***Slides/Valves must be dry before new lubricant is applied.***
- Grease slides with tuning slide grease and replace. Wipe off any excess grease.
- To Clean Valves: Soap up hands and gently run over bottom portion of valves. Rinse bottom portion under water. Dry completely. Oil valves and replace. If instrument won't play, check that valves are in the correct order. Trombones, lubricate playing slide with Trombotine/Super Slick.
- To polish instruments, wipe outside with soft cloth. You may use Pledge for extra sheen.
- Don't forget to clean out the sink/tub when you are finished!
- Vacuum inside of case. Wipe exterior with damp cloth and/or Armorall Vinyl Protectant.