

Band Instrument Care BUNDLE

Print and
hand out!

Instruments:

Flute
Oboe
Bassoon
Clarinet
Saxophone
Trumpet
French Horn
Trombone
Euphonium
Tuba
Percussion

Easy-to-read
Pictures included!



Flute Maintenance

Before You Play:

Do not consume sugary candy, gum or sodas. This is the biggest cause of sticky keys.

Always lay your case flat on the floor or on your lap before opening and closing your flute case.

Proper instrument assembly is essential to good care of your flute. Remove your flute from the case by the ends, being careful not to squeeze the rods along the side of the instrument. The keys are delicate and you don't want to bend them.



After You Play:

Always swab out your instrument after playing. Keeping your flute dry is the best thing you can do to take care of it. Listen to your teacher for very specific instructions on how to swab your flute.

Cotton handkerchiefs absorb moisture well. Do not use flannel or felt swabs- they do not absorb moisture but instead, spread it around.

To remove moisture from your flute:

1. Take a corner of your swab pull it through the slit of your cleaning rod. Twist part of the cloth around the top of the rod.



2. Carefully push it through each of the three parts of your flute (head joint, body and foot joint). Twist the rod as you swab, so that the actual rod does not make contact with the inside of your flute.



3. After swabbing, carefully wipe the outside of the flute with a clean, soft cloth to remove any oils or perspiration.



Storage:

Always leave your flute placed properly in its case when it is not being used. Never leave it on the ground, a chair or a music stand. Always keep it in your hands or in its case.

Never store your flute in extreme hot or cold temperatures. While running errands, never leave your instrument in the car. Extreme temperatures can damage the delicate parts on your instrument.



Do not put music and other items in your case unless there is a space or compartment designed for it. Loose items can damage your instrument.

When carrying your instrument, double check that the latches are closed securely. It is a good idea to carry the LID of the case against your leg.

Weekly Maintenance:

Wash your swab in warm water and a mild detergent once a week (or at least once a month depending on use). Let it dry completely.

Using a soft, clean cloth, carefully wipe keys one at a time, being careful not to snag any springs.

Monthly Maintenance:

Always check to make sure that screws at the ends of the rods are not sticking out.

Check rods and keys for dust and dirt. Use a natural bristle brush (water color brush or makeup brush) to carefully remove dirt when needed.

Check to make sure that pads are in good condition and that corks and felt bumpers are in place. If they are missing, you will hear a metal on metal sound when you play your instrument. This should never be heard on an instrument that is playing properly. If this happens, take the instrument to your local music store.

Annual Maintenance:

If you own your instrument, summer is a great time to take your flute to a local music store for an annual check-up. Yes, musical instruments need “check-ups” too! The store will do minor repairs such as replacing worn pads and tightening loose screws. If you are renting, this maintenance is usually covered in the rental program.

Oboe Maintenance

Before You Play:

Do not consume sugary candy, gum or sodas.
This is the biggest cause of sticky and waterlogged keys.

Always soak your reed in water prior to assembly.



Proper instrument assembly is essential to good care of your oboe.

Be careful not to squeeze the rods along side of the instrument when putting it together.
The keys are delicate and you don't want to bend them.

Use cork grease on the joints of the oboe as needed to insure that assembly is easy. Putting your instrument together should never be a struggle. It is important to use cork grease, especially when the corks are new.



After You Play:

Take your reed off, remove the excess water and store it properly in your reed case. Labeling your reeds by number and rotating which reed you play on daily is recommended.



Swabbing:

Always swab out your instrument after playing. Think of it as “drying” your instrument, not “cleaning” it. Many find that a weighted swab works great. Never use cotton or flannel- they can leave lint residue inside your instrument.



- 1.) Bell & lower joint- place the swab through the bell end and pull it out through the other side.
- 2.) Upper joint- drop the weight of the swab in the large end (larger hole) and then pull it through the instrument. The swab should not be pulled all the way out the other end. Run the swab far enough through that the swab captures moisture from the instrument.



Storage:

Always leave your oboe placed properly in its case when it is not being used. Never leave it on the ground, a chair or a music stand. Always keep it in your hands or in its case.

Do not put music and other items in your case unless there is a space or compartment designed for it.
Loose items can damage your instrument.



When carrying your instrument, double check that the latches are closed securely. It is a good idea to carry the LID of the case against your leg.

Never store your oboe in extreme hot or cold temperatures. While running errands, never leave your instrument in the car. Extreme temperatures can damage the wood, plastic, pads and corks on your oboe.

Weekly Maintenance:

Carefully wipe the keys one at a time and the body of the oboe with a soft clean cloth. Be careful not to snag any springs.

Wash your swab in warm water and a mild detergent once a week (or at least once a month depending on use). Let it dry completely.

Things to Look For:

Each time you assemble your instrument, check to make sure that screws at the ends of the rods are not sticking out.

Check to make sure that pads are in good condition and that corks and felt bumpers are in place. If they are missing, you will hear a metal on metal sound when you play your instrument. This should never be heard on an instrument that is playing properly. If this happens, take the oboe to your local music store.

Annual Maintenance:

If you own your instrument, summer is a great time to take your oboe to a local music store for an annual check-up. Yes, musical instruments need “check-ups” too! The store will do minor repairs such as replacing worn pads or corks. If you are renting, this maintenance is usually covered in the rental program.



Bassoon Maintenance

Before You Play:

Do not consume sugary candy, gum or sodas. This is the biggest cause of sticky and waterlogged keys.

Always soak your reed in water prior to assembly.

Proper instrument assembly is essential to good care of your bassoon. Be careful not to squeeze the rods along the side of the instrument when putting it together. The keys are delicate and you don't want to bend them.



Use cork grease only when needed, making sure to not use too much grease.

After You Play:

Take your reed off, remove the excess water and store it properly in your reed case. Labeling your reeds by number and rotating which reed you play on daily is recommended.

Remove the bocal and blow hard through the cork end to remove water.

Always swab out your instrument after playing. Keeping your bassoon dry is the best thing you can do to take care of it. Without proper moisture removal, your instrument could rot. Listen to your teacher for very specific instructions on how to swab your bassoon.

Silk, cotton and microfiber swabs absorb moisture well. Do not use flannel or felt swabs- they do not absorb moisture but instead, spread it around. Music stores sell swabs specifically designed for the bassoon. It is a good idea to purchase two- one for the boot joint and one for the wing joint. Do not use a stick/push swab for your bassoon as it could damage the U-shaped tube on your boot joint.

1. Boot joint: insert the swab through the big hole and come out the smaller hole on the other side. One pass through should be plenty.

2. Wing joint: same as above. Remember to insert the swab through the big hole and pull it out through the smaller hole.

After swabbing, wipe down the outside of the bassoon with a clean, soft cloth.

Storage:

Always leave your bassoon placed properly in its case when it is not being used. Never leave it on the ground, a chair or a music stand. Always keep it in your hands or in its case.

Always lay your case flat on the floor before opening and closing your bassoon case.



Before carrying your instrument around the room, remove the bocal and place it in the bell.



Do not put music and other items in your case unless there is a space or compartment designed for it. Loose items can damage your instrument.

Never store your bassoon in extreme hot or cold temperatures. While running errands, never leave your instrument in the car. Extreme temperatures can damage the wood, plastic, pads and corks on your instrument.



When carrying your instrument, double check that the latches are closed securely. It is a good idea to carry the LID of the case against your leg.

Weekly Maintenance:

Wash your swab in warm water and a mild detergent once a week (or at least once a month depending on use). Let it dry completely.

Using a soft, clean cloth, carefully wipe keys one at a time, being careful not to snag any springs.

Monthly Maintenance:

Always check to make sure that screws at the ends of the rods are not sticking out.

Check rods and keys for dust and dirt. Use a natural bristle brush (water color brush or makeup brush) to carefully remove dirt when needed.

Check to make sure that pads are in good condition and that corks and felt bumpers are in place. If they are missing, you will hear a metal on metal sound when you play your instrument. This should never be heard on an instrument that is playing properly. If this happens, take the instrument to your local music store.

Clean the bocal once a month with hot water and a bocal brush to remove any debris that has collected inside.

Lubricate tenons when needed. If your bassoon has cork tenons, cork grease works well.

Annual Maintenance:

If you own your instrument, summer is a great time to take your bassoon to a local music store for an annual check-up. Yes, musical instruments need “check-ups” too! The store will do minor repairs such as replacing worn pads or corks. If you are renting, this maintenance is usually covered in the rental program.



Clarinet Maintenance

Before You Play:

Do not consume sugary candy, gum or sodas. This is the biggest cause of sticky and waterlogged keys.

Always lay your case flat on the floor or on your lap before opening and closing your clarinet case.

Always soak your reed in your mouth while assembling your clarinet.

Proper instrument assembly is essential to good care of your instrument. Be careful not to squeeze the rods along the side of the clarinet when putting it together. The keys are delicate and you don't want to bend them. Always remove your clarinet from the case by holding the ends of each joint, not the keys.

Use cork grease on the joints of the clarinet as needed to insure that assembly is easy. Putting your instrument together should never be a struggle. It is important to use cork grease, especially when the corks are new.



When tightening the screws on the ligature, make sure to not over-tighten them. This can cause the ligature to break.

After You Play:

Take your reed off and store it properly in your reed guard. Labeling your reeds by number and rotating which reed you play on daily is recommended.



Always swab out your instrument after playing. Keeping your clarinet dry is the best thing you can do to take care of it. Listen to your teacher for very specific instructions on how to swab your clarinet.

Silk, cotton and microfiber swabs absorb moisture well. Do not use flannel or felt swabs- they do not absorb moisture but instead, spread it around.

After swabbing, wipe down the outside of the clarinet with a clean, soft cloth.



Storage:

Always leave your clarinet placed properly in its case when it is not being used. Never leave it on the ground, a chair or a music stand. Always keep it in your hands or in its case.

Do not put music and other items in your case unless there is a space or compartment designed for it. Loose items can damage your instrument.

Never store your clarinet in extreme hot or cold temperatures. While running errands, never leave your instrument in the car. Extreme temperatures can damage the wood, plastic, pads and corks on your instrument.



When carrying your instrument, double check that the latches are closed securely. It is a good idea to carry the LID of the case against your leg.

Weekly Maintenance:

Wash your swab in warm water and a mild detergent once a week (or at least once a month depending on use). Let it dry completely.

Using a soft, clean cloth, carefully wipe keys one at a time, being careful not to snag any springs.

Monthly Maintenance:

Check to make sure that there are no loose screws on your clarinet.

Check rods and keys for dust and dirt. Use a natural bristle brush (water color brush or makeup brush) to carefully remove dirt when needed.

Check to make sure that pads are in good condition and that corks and felt bumpers are in place. If they are missing, you will hear a metal on metal sound when you play your instrument. This should never be heard on an instrument that is playing properly. If this happens, take the instrument to your local music store.

Annual Maintenance:

If you own your clarinet, summer is a great time to take your clarinet to a local music store for an annual check-up. Yes, musical instruments need “check-ups” too! The store will do minor repairs such as replacing worn pads or corks. If you are renting, this maintenance is usually covered in the rental program.



Saxophone Maintenance

Before You Play:

Do not consume sugary candy, gum or sodas. This is the biggest cause of sticky and waterlogged keys.

Always lay your case flat on the floor before opening and closing your saxophone case.

Always soak your reed in your mouth while assembling your instrument.

Proper instrument assembly is essential to good care of your saxophone. Always remove your saxophone from the case by the bell, not by the keys.

Apply a small amount of cork grease to the mouthpiece cork (if needed) to help ease assembly.

When tightening the screws on the ligature, make sure to not over-tighten them. This can cause the ligature to break.

After You Play:

Take your reed off and store it properly in your reed guard. Labeling your reeds by number and rotating which reed you play on daily is recommended.



Always swab out your instrument after playing. Keeping your saxophone dry is the best thing you can do to take care of it. Listen to your teacher for very specific instructions on how to swab your instrument.

Silk, cotton and microfiber swabs absorb moisture well. Do not use flannel or felt swabs- they do not absorb moisture but instead, spread it around.

After swabbing, wipe down the outside of the saxophone with a clean, soft cloth to remove oils and perspiration.



Storage:

Always leave your saxophone placed properly in its case when it is not being used. Never leave it on the ground, a chair or a music stand. Always keep it in your hands or in its case.

Do not put music and other items in your case unless there is a space or compartment designed for it. Loose items can damage your instrument.

Never store your saxophone in extreme hot or cold temperatures. While running errands, never leave your instrument in the car. Extreme temperatures can damage the pads and corks on your instrument.



When carrying your instrument, double check that the latches are closed securely. It is a good idea to carry the LID of the case against your leg.

Weekly Maintenance:

Wash your swab in warm water and a mild detergent once a week (or at least once a month depending on use). Let it dry completely.

Using a soft, clean cloth, carefully wipe keys one at a time.

Monthly Maintenance:

Check to make sure that there are no loose screws on your saxophone.

Check between keys for dust and dirt. Use a natural bristle brush (water color brush or makeup brush) to carefully remove dirt when needed.

Check to make sure that pads are in good condition and that corks and felt bumpers are in place. If they are missing, you will hear a metal on metal sound when you play your saxophone. This should never be heard on an instrument that is playing properly. If this happens, take the instrument to your local music store.

Annual Maintenance:

If you own your instrument, summer is a great time to take your saxophone to a local music store for an annual check-up. Yes, musical instruments need “check-ups” too! The store will do minor repairs such as replacing worn pads or corks. If you are renting, this maintenance is usually covered in the rental program.



Trumpet Maintenance

Before You Play:

Do not consume sugary candy, gum or sodas before playing your instrument.

Always lay your case flat on the floor before opening and closing your trumpet case.

Lubricate your valves:

1. Unscrew the valve cap and pull the valve out about halfway.
2. Apply 2-3 drops of valve oil to the wide part of the valve.
3. Push the valve back into position, making sure that it is lined up correctly.
4. Depress the valve for about 5 seconds or so to ensure that the oil has properly spread.

To check for proper alignment, gently try to turn the valve. If it doesn't turn it is lined up properly. If it turns, keep turning the valve until you hear a "click" and the valve stops turning.

Also, confirm that the valves have been placed properly by blowing air through your instrument. If your valves aren't properly placed, air will not flow freely through your trumpet.



Never force your mouthpiece onto your instrument. If you do, it will most likely get stuck. If this happens, never try to remove it yourself by using force. Instead, bring your instrument to your directors because they will probably have a mouthpiece removal tool. If not, it can be removed quickly and easily by a representative at a local music store.

After You Play:

Remove excess moisture from inside your instrument by opening the water keys and blowing through the instrument.



Then, wipe down the outside of the trumpet with a clean, soft cloth to remove oils and perspiration. This will keep it from tarnishing.

Storage:

Always leave your trumpet placed properly in its case when it is not being used. Never leave it on the ground, a chair or a music stand. Always keep it in your hands or in its case.

Do not put music and other items in your case unless there is a space or compartment designed for it. Loose items can damage your instrument and case. Make sure to keep the mouthpiece in its special compartment.

Never store your trumpet in extreme hot or cold temperatures. Extreme temperatures can damage your instrument.



When carrying your trumpet, double check that the latches are closed securely. It is a good idea to carry the LID of the case against your leg.

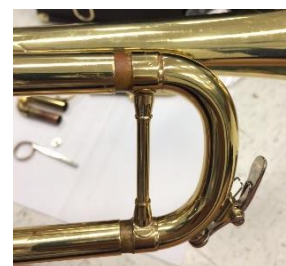
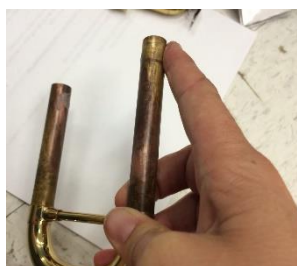
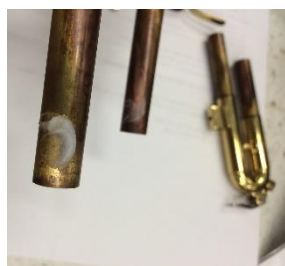
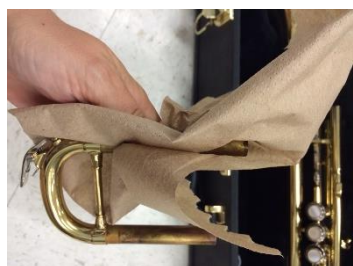
Weekly Maintenance:

Clean out your mouthpiece weekly with soft liquid soap, warm water and a mouthpiece brush.



Monthly Maintenance:

- Pull valves out completely, wipe off old excess oil and residue. Apply 4-5 drops of oil again as shown previously.
- Check to make sure that slides move freely and lubricate them if they are difficult to move. To do this, pull out the slide and wipe it with a soft cloth to remove any residue. Afterward, rub a small amount of slide grease on it and carefully insert the slide back into your instrument. Here are some pictures of the process:



- The inside of your trumpet should be thoroughly cleaned every few months in lukewarm water- NEVER hot water. Your teacher will give you specific instructions on how to give your instrument a deep cleaning at home.

Annual Maintenance:

If you own your instrument, summer is a great time to take your trumpet to a local music store for an annual check-up. Yes, musical instruments need “check-ups” too! The store will do minor repairs if needed and do a thorough chemical cleaning of your instrument. If you are renting, this maintenance is usually covered in the rental program.



French Horn Maintenance

Before You Play:

Do not consume sugary candy, gum or sodas before playing your instrument.

Always lay your case flat on the floor before opening and closing your French horn case.

Apply oil to the valves every time you play your instrument or at least every couple of days. There are specific types of oil made for the French horn. Use what is recommended by your band director or private lesson teacher. Keeping your valves oiled frequently will ensure fast, quiet action on your French horn. Fast action leads to better technique and playing!

How to Oil Valves:

1. Apply oil to the top of the valve:
 - Remove valve caps
 - Place a drop of oil in the center of the valves
 - Replace the caps and gently tighten down
2. Apply oil to the back of each valve
 - Place a drop of oil in the small gap/seam between the stationary valve plate and the turning rotor post.

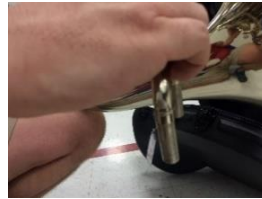


Applying oil to top of the valve

Never force your mouthpiece onto your instrument. If you do, it will most likely get stuck. If this happens, never try to remove it yourself by using force. Instead, bring your instrument to your directors because they will most likely have a mouthpiece removal tool. If not, it can be removed quickly and easily by a representative at a local music store.

After You Play:

Remove excess moisture from the inside of your instrument. Listen to your teacher carefully for Instructions. Here are some pictures to help you remember:



Then, wipe down the outside of your French horn with a clean, soft cloth to remove oils and perspiration. This will keep it from tarnishing.

Storage:

Always leave your instrument placed properly in its case when it is not being used. Never leave it on the ground, a chair or a music stand. Always keep it in your hands or in its case.

Do not put music and other items in your case unless there is a space or compartment designed for it. Loose items can damage your instrument. Make sure to keep the mouthpiece in its special compartment.

Never store your French horn in extreme hot or cold temperatures. Extreme temperatures can damage your instrument.

When carrying your instrument, double check that the latches are closed securely. It is a good idea to carry the LID of the case against your leg.



Weekly Maintenance:

Clean out your mouthpiece weekly with soft liquid soap, warm water and a mouthpiece brush.

Check to make sure that slides move freely. Lubricate them if they are difficult to move. Pull them out, one at a time, and wipe them with a soft cloth. Afterward, rub a small amount of slide grease on them and carefully insert them back into your instrument.



Clean slide first



Apply slide grease



Carefully re-insert slide

Monthly Maintenance/As Needed:

Bathe your slides in lukewarm water (NOT hot) to remove any buildup. Then re-grease the slides before replacing them.

The inside of your French horn should be thoroughly cleaned every few months in lukewarm water- NEVER hot water. Your teacher will give you specific instructions on how to give your instrument a deep cleaning at home.

Oil the inside of the valves. To do this, remove the valve slide and pour the oil into the inner valve slide. Replace the slide, push it all the way in and then turn the horn so the oil will run down into the rotor valve. Gravity will help accomplish this. Afterward, press the valve lever up and down to distribute the oil evenly. If you need help or have questions, ask your director or private lesson teacher.

Annual Maintenance:

If you own your instrument, summer is a great time to take your French horn to a local music store for an annual check-up. Yes, musical instruments need "check-ups" too! The store will do minor repairs if needed and do a thorough chemical cleaning of your instrument. If you are renting, this maintenance is usually covered in the rental program.

For more articles about caring for your French horn, visit www.BandDirectorsTalkShop.com.



Trombone Maintenance

Before You Play:

Do not consume sugary candy, gum or sodas before playing your instrument.

Always lay your case flat on the floor before opening and closing your trombone case.

Take great care in handling your instrument. Even the slightest dent on your trombone slide can cause problems.

Lubricate the trombone slide daily:

1. Make sure your slide is locked and carefully take it out of your case.
2. Unlock the slide lock.
3. Using a soft cloth, remove any old residue and oil from your slide.
4. Apply a small amount of slide oil or cream to the stocking of the slide.
5. Turn the slide upside down and apply a few more drops of oil on each stocking.
6. Slowly move the slide in and out of the outer slide to get full coverage of oil on the stocking. The stocking will then transfer oil onto the outer slide.



Removing old residue



Applying oil to slide



Moving slide in & out to coat w/oil

Never force your mouthpiece onto your instrument. If you do, it will most likely get stuck. If this happens, never try to remove it yourself by using force. Instead, bring your instrument to your directors because they will most likely have a mouthpiece removal tool. If not, it can be removed quickly and easily by a representative at a local music store.

After You Play:

Lock the slide lock so your slide doesn't fall out and get bent. →



Remove excess moisture from inside your instrument by opening the water key and blowing through the instrument.



Then, wipe down the outside of your trombone with a clean, soft cloth to remove oils and perspiration. This will keep it from tarnishing.



Storage:

Always leave your instrument placed properly in its case when it is not being used. Never leave it on the ground, a chair or a music stand. Always keep it in your hands or in its case.

Do not put music and other items in your case unless there is a space or compartment designed for it. Loose items can damage your instrument. Make sure to keep the mouthpiece in its special compartment.

Never store your trombone in extreme hot or cold temperatures. Extreme temperatures can damage your instrument.



When carrying your trombone, double check that the latches are closed securely. It is a good idea to carry the LID of the case against your leg.

Weekly Maintenance:

Mouthpiece Care:

Clean out your mouthpiece weekly with soft liquid soap, warm water and a mouthpiece brush.



Tuning Slide Care:

Check to make sure that the tuning slide moves freely. Lubricate it with slide grease if it's difficult to move. Pull it out and wipe it with a soft cloth to remove any residue. Afterward, rub a small amount of slide grease on it and carefully insert the slide back into your instrument.



Monthly Maintenance:

The inside of your trombone should be thoroughly cleaned every few months in lukewarm water- NEVER hot water. Your teacher will give you specific instructions on how to give your trombone a deep cleaning at home.

Annual Maintenance:

If you own your instrument, summer is a great time to take your trombone to a local music store for an annual check-up. Yes, musical instruments need "check-ups" too! The store will do minor repairs if needed and do a thorough chemical cleaning of your instrument. If you are renting, this maintenance is usually covered in the rental program.



Euphonium Maintenance

Before You Play:

Do not consume sugary candy, gum or sodas before playing your instrument.

Always lay your case flat on the floor before opening and closing your euphonium case.

Lubricate your valves:

1. Unscrew the valve cap and pull the valve out about halfway.
2. Apply a small drop of valve oil to the wide part of the valve.
3. Push the valve back into position, making sure that it is lined up correctly.
4. Depress the valve for about 5 seconds or so to ensure that the oil has properly spread.



Confirm that the valves have been placed properly by blowing air through your instrument. If your valves aren't properly placed, air will not flow freely through your euphonium.

Never force your mouthpiece onto your instrument. If you do, it will most likely get stuck. If this happens, never try to remove it yourself by using force. Instead, bring your instrument to your directors because they will most likely have a mouthpiece removal tool. If not, it can be removed quickly and easily by a representative at a local music store.

After You Play:

Remove excess moisture from inside your instrument by opening the water key and blowing through the instrument.



Then, wipe down the outside of your euphonium with a clean, soft cloth to remove oils and perspiration. This will keep it from tarnishing.



Storage:

Always leave your instrument placed properly in its case when it is not being used. Never leave it sitting on its bell, a chair or a music stand. Always keep it in your hands or in its case. The euphonium will dent very easily and that can affect the beauty of your instrument as well as its ability to produce a good tone.

Do not put music and other items in your case unless there is a space or compartment designed for it. Loose items can damage your instrument. Make sure to keep the mouthpiece in its special compartment.

Never store your euphonium in extreme hot or cold temperatures. Extreme temperatures can damage your instrument.

When carrying your instrument, double check that the latches are closed securely. It is a good idea to carry the LID of the case against your leg.



Weekly Maintenance:

Mouthpiece Care:

Clean out your mouthpiece weekly with soft liquid soap, warm water and a mouthpiece brush.

Tuning Slide Care:

Check to make sure that the tuning slide moves freely. Lubricate it with slide grease if it's difficult to move. Pull it out and wipe it with a soft cloth to remove any old residue. Afterward, rub on a small amount of slide grease with your finger and carefully insert the slide back into your instrument.



Monthly Maintenance:

Pull valves out completely, wipe off old excess oil and residue. Apply 4-5 drops of oil again as shown previously.

The inside of your euphonium should be thoroughly cleaned every few months in lukewarm water- NEVER hot water. Your teacher will give you specific instructions on how to give your instrument a deep cleaning at home.

Annual Maintenance:

If you own your instrument, summer is a great time to take your euphonium to a local music store for an annual check-up. Yes, musical instruments need "check-ups" too! The store will do minor repairs if needed and do a thorough chemical cleaning of your instrument. If you are renting, this maintenance is usually covered in the rental program.



Tuba Maintenance

Before You Play:

Do not consume sugary candy, gum or sodas before playing your instrument.

Always lay your case flat on the floor before opening and closing your tuba case.

Lubricate your valves:

1. Unscrew the valve cap and pull the valve out about halfway.
2. Apply a small drop of valve oil to the wide part of the valve.
3. Push the valve back into position, making sure that it is lined up correctly.
4. Depress the valve for about 5 seconds or so to ensure that the oil has properly spread.



Valve oil application



Putting valve back into position

Confirm that the valves have been placed properly by blowing air through your instrument. If your valves aren't properly placed, air will not flow freely through your tuba.

Never force your mouthpiece onto your instrument. If you do, it will most likely get stuck. If this happens, never try to remove it yourself by using force. Instead, bring your instrument to your directors because they will most likely have a mouthpiece removal tool. If not, it can be removed quickly and easily by a representative at a local music store.

After You Play:

Remove excess moisture from inside your instrument by opening the water key and blowing through the instrument.



Removing water

Then, wipe down the outside of your tuba with a clean, soft cloth to remove oils and perspiration. This will keep it from tarnishing.



cleaning w/soft cloth



Storage:

Always leave your instrument placed properly in its case when it is not being used. Never leave it sitting on its bell or on a chair. Always keep it in your hands or in its case. The tuba will dent very easily and that can affect the beauty of your instrument as well as its ability to produce a good tone.

Do not put music and other items in your case unless there is a space or compartment designed for it. Loose items can damage your instrument and case. Make sure to keep the mouthpiece in its special compartment.

Never store your tuba in extreme hot or cold temperatures. Extreme temperatures can damage your instrument.



Proper storage in case

When carrying your instrument, double check that the latches are closed securely. It is a good idea to carry the LID of the case against your leg.

Weekly Maintenance:

Mouthpiece Care:

Clean out your mouthpiece weekly with soft liquid soap, warm water and a mouthpiece brush.

Tuning Slide Care:

Check to make sure that the tuning slide moves freely. Lubricate it with slide grease if it's difficult to move. Pull it out and wipe it with a soft cloth to remove any old residue. Afterward, rub on a small amount of slide grease with your finger and carefully insert the slide back into your instrument.



cleaning slide w/soft cloth



Applying slide grease w/ finger

Monthly Maintenance:

The inside of your tuba should be thoroughly cleaned every few months in lukewarm water- NEVER hot water. Your teacher will give you specific instructions on how to give your tuba a deep cleaning at home.

Annual Maintenance:

If you own your instrument, summer is a great time to take your tuba to a local music store for an annual check-up. Yes, musical instruments need "check-ups" too! The store will do minor repairs if needed and do a thorough chemical cleaning of your instrument. If you are renting, this maintenance is usually covered in the rental program.



Percussion Maintenance

Before You Play:

Always make sure you are using the correct mallets or sticks on the correct instrument. For example, never use drum sticks on a keyboard instrument like marimba, xylophone or glockenspiel. Drum sticks can damage the bars and cause them to play out of tune.

Remember to strike your instrument only with the head of the stick or mallet. Listen carefully to your teachers to make sure you are always using the proper technique.

Storage:

Always leave your instrument placed properly in its case when it is not being used.

Do not put music and other items in your case unless there is a space or compartment designed for it. Loose items can damage your instrument.

Never store your instruments in extreme hot or cold temperatures.

When carrying your instrument, double check that the latches are closed securely. It is a good idea to carry the LID of the case against your leg.

Store your mallets and sticks properly in a stick bag, labeled with your name.

Monthly Maintenance:

Check that mallets are in good condition. Never touch the felt or yarn on the ends of your mallets. The oils from your skin can damage them.

Using a soft cloth, gently remove any dirt from your snare drum head. Do not apply too much pressure or you may damage the drum head. Wipe down the outside of your snare drum with a clean, soft cloth to remove any dirt or fingerprints.

Check your snare drum to make sure no parts are missing or damaged. Check both the top and bottom heads of the drum. Also, look for missing tension rods and washers, damaged snare wires or cables, and the proper operation of the snare strainer.

Make sure your snare drum is properly tuned. Listen carefully to your teacher's instructions on how to do this.

Check your snare drum and bell kit stands to make sure they are working properly.

Annual Maintenance:

If you own your instrument, summer is a great time to take your snare drum to a local music store for an annual check-up. Yes, musical instruments need "check-ups" too! The store will do minor repairs if needed and will most likely replace the head of your snare drum. If you are renting, this maintenance is usually covered in the rental program.



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