


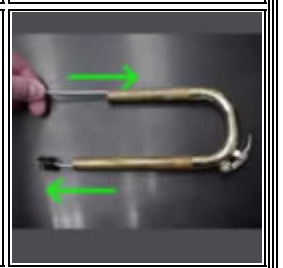



Cleaning Brass Instruments

All instruments become dirty inside over time and use. Flushing is a procedure to remove deposits from within brass tubing. If done regularly, it can be one of the most beneficial maintenance procedures you can do to prolong your instrument's life. Instrument repair shops will do a chemical flush, which is like this procedure, only with the use of an acid. This can be expensive, and is unnecessary if you give your instrument a bath at least twice yearly. Please review the parts of your instrument before going ahead, as the instructions use specific terminology. (French Horns, Euphoniums, and Tubas are cleaned by HMS. Do not do this at home.)

Flushing

<p>1.</p> <p>Make sure you have the following items before beginning: (a) Polishing Cloth (b) Shop Rag (c) Valve/Slide Oil (d) Slide Grease (e) Mouthpiece Brush (f) Snake Brush (g) Valve Brush - trumpet only (h) Cloth Towels - not shown</p>		<p>4.</p> <p>Allow your instrument to soak for 20-30 minutes. Trumpet valves should be cleaned by hand at this time. Use the valve or mouthpiece brush with a small amount of water. Valves should be inspected for corrosion or damage. Once clean, set them aside. Remember: the valve number is stamped on the brass near the spring. Valves must be put back in their valve casings in order.</p>	
<p>2.</p> <p>Disassemble your instrument - Pull all slides, remove valves, remove valve cap bottoms. Trumpet piston valves must be set aside and cleaned by hand. Do not disassemble trumpet pistons.</p>		<p>5.</p> <p>Using the snake brush and valve brush, scrub the inside of all tubing. Run water through tubing and repeat until it comes out clean.</p>	
<p>3.</p> <p>Fill a bathtub with lukewarm water. The water does not need to be deep, just enough to cover your instrument body. Place the disassembled parts in the water on towels or rags so the instrument does not get scratched.</p>		<p>6. Apply grease to slides and reassemble them into the body of the instrument. Trumpets apply oil to piston valves and reassemble them in order.</p> <p>7. Polish your instrument with the polishing cloth once it is dry. This will remove any water stains you might have missed.</p> <p>8. Play test your instrument and empty any excess water with the water keys. Trumpets will not be playable if the valves were reassembled in the wrong order, or not aligned in the valve casings.</p>	

Regular Maintenance

Every Use

1. Apply Valve Oil / Slide Oil /Rotor Oil every time you use your instrument. This is not only a good practice in keeping your valves / slide / rotors working, but it also keeps them clean and free from debris like metal shavings or buildup. It is helpful to wipe the surfaces clean with a cloth, when able, to ensure good, clean coverage. Trombone players should inspect their slide closely at this time, looking for dents or corrosion.
2. Brass players should try to wipe off places where their hands contact their horns with a soft cloth, or polishing cloth. This helps defeat corrosion and wear marks of the brass.

Monthly

1. Remove old tuning slide grease with a cloth and reapply. Make sure to wipe off excess grease and work the slides back and forth. A drop of Valve oil can help to make slides easier to move if the grease feels too stiff. This is important on the first and third tuning slides of trumpets.
2. Clean your mouthpiece using a mouthpiece brush, warm water, and soap. This kills bacteria and germs that might surface and keeps the shank of your mouthpiece free from buildup.

Twice Yearly

1. Follow the flush procedure and give your instrument a bath. Remember that this only applies to instruments you own. Do not flush school instruments ... these are the responsibility of HMS.

Yearly

1. Do a thorough inspection of your instrument taking note of dents, loose solder fittings, and other physical damage. Bring your instrument to a music repair facility and have these items repaired. Regular repair of physical damage prolongs the life of your instrument, keeps it in better condition, and retains the value if you ever decide to move to a higher level instrument or sell it later on. In the case of trombone players, dents often accumulate on the slide causing poor performance and ease of use. Consider having these dents removed sooner than later and players will often be surprised at how bad the slide had really gotten over time.