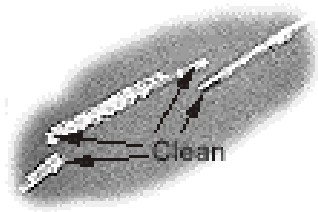


# Flute Care

## Daily Care

1. When removing your flute from its case never pick it up by its keys. Remove it by the ends where there are no keys.
2. Put the flute together with a slow back-and-forth twisting motion, never push or pull the flute when assembling or disassembling this can cause the instrument to become bent at the joints.



3. Each time you put the flute together a small amount of debris will build-up on the tenons (this is normal); however, this can make it difficult to assemble. As a part of your cleaning routine, wipe the tenons (joints) with a soft cloth.

4. The use of lubricants on the tenons is not recommended - this can cause damage over time. If regular cleaning isn't working, one thing that is okay to use on sticky tenons is a light application of graphite pencil.



5. After you are finished playing, use a cleaning rod with an absorbent cloth to swab out the inside of all parts to remove moisture. Carefully wipe off the outside of the flute to remove oils or perspiration caused by your hands.

6. Always store your flute in its case when not in use, this helps prevent damage and aids in keeping the instrument from tarnishing. Do not place anything in the case that can press on the flute since this can bend keys.

## Monthly Care

Check all screws and springs to see if any are coming loose. If they are, take your flute to your teacher to have them adjusted. It is not suggested that you try and adjust them yourself because they can be over-tightened or damaged.

## Yearly Care

If needed, it is recommended that you have your instrument checked and adjusted by a repair professional. The shop may find adjustments or worn pads that are affecting the optimal performance of your instrument.

# Oboe Care

## Daily Care

1. When removing your oboe from its case, never pick it up by the keys. Remove it by the ends where there are no keys.
2. When putting your oboe together, first apply a small amount of cork grease to the tenon corks as needed. Newer instruments or instruments with recently repaired corks will become sticky and need cork grease more often.
3. Put the oboe together with a slow back-and-forth twisting motion. Never push or pull the oboe when assembling or disassembling since this can damage the tenon or tear the cork.
4. After you are finished playing, pull a cleaning swab through all parts of the oboe to remove moisture. Make sure you take the oboe apart and swab each section individually. Never attempt to pull the swab all the way through the top joint or the swab will get stuck. Carefully wipe off the outside of the instrument and keys to remove oils or perspiration caused by your hands.
5. Always store your oboe in its case when not in use. Do not place anything in the case that can press on the oboe, this can bend keys.
6. NEVER leave your oboe standing upright. If you must walk away from it, leave it lying horizontally with the keys pointed upward.

## Monthly Care

Check all screws and springs to see if any are coming loose. If they are, take your oboe to your teacher to have them adjusted. It is not suggested that you try and adjust them yourself because they can be over-tightened or damaged.

## Yearly Care

If needed, it is recommended that you have your instrument checked and adjusted by a repair professional. The shop may find adjustments or worn pads that are affecting the optimal performance of your instrument.

# Clarinet Care

## Daily Care

1. When removing your clarinet from its case never pick it up by the keys. Remove it by the ends where there are no keys.



2. When putting your clarinet together, first apply a small amount of cork grease to the tenon corks as needed. Newer instruments or instruments with recently repaired corks will become sticky and need cork grease more often.

3. Put the clarinet together with a slow back-and-forth twisting motion. Never push or pull the clarinet when assembling or disassembling since this can damage the tenon or tear the cork.

4. When tightening the screws on the ligature (the device that holds the reed on the mouthpiece), take care not to over-tighten them. Only tighten until they are snug.



5. After you are finished playing, pull a cleaning swab through all parts of the clarinet to remove moisture. Start the swab at the BIGGEST end (the bell) and pull towards the smallest end (the mouthpiece). Carefully wipe off the outside of the instrument and keys to remove oils or perspiration caused by your hands.

6. Always store your clarinet in its case when not in use. Do not place anything in the case that can press on the clarinet, this can bend keys.

7. NEVER leave your clarinet standing upright. If you must walk away from it, leave it lying horizontally with the keys pointed upward.

## Monthly Care

Check all screws and springs to see if any are coming loose. If they are, take your clarinet to your teacher to have them adjusted. It is not suggested that you try and adjust them yourself because they can be over-tightened or damaged.

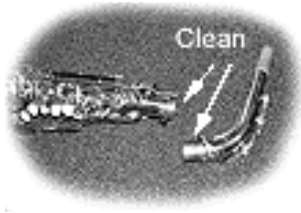
## Yearly Care

If needed, it is recommended that you have your instrument checked and adjusted by a repair professional. The shop may find adjustments or worn pads that are affecting the optimal performance of your instrument.

# Saxophone Care

## Daily Care

1. When removing your saxophone from its case never pick it up by the keys. Remove it by picking it up by the bell.



2. Each time you put the saxophone together a small amount of debris will build-up on the neck joint (this is normal); however, this can make it difficult to assemble. As a part of your cleaning routine, wipe off the joint with your swab.

3. The use of lubricants on the neck joint is not recommended - this can cause damage over time. If regular cleaning isn't working, one thing that is okay to use on a sticky neck joint is a light application of graphite pencil.

4. Apply a small amount of cork grease to the mouthpiece cork to help the mouthpiece move into position.



5. When tightening the screws on the ligature (the device that holds the reed on the mouthpiece), take care not to over-tighten them. Only tighten until they are snug.

6. After you are finished playing, pull a cleaning swab through the saxophone to remove moisture. Start at the bell end and pull towards the neck end. Carefully wipe off the outside of the instrument and keys to remove oils or perspiration caused by your hands.

7. Always store your saxophone in its case when not in use. Do not place books or folders in the case since this can bend keys.

## Monthly Care

Check all screws and springs to see if any are coming loose. If they are, take your saxophone to your teacher to have them adjusted. It is not suggested that you try and adjust them yourself because they can be over-tightened or damaged.

## Yearly Care

If needed, it is recommended that you have your instrument checked and adjusted by a repair professional. The shop may find adjustments or worn pads that are affecting the optimal performance of your instrument.

# Trumpet, Baritone, and Tuba Care

## Daily Care



1. Valves on brass instruments need to be lubricated on a regular basis. To do this:

- Unscrew the valve cap and pull the valve out.
- Apply a few drops of valve oil to the sides of the valves.
- Push the valve back into position making sure that it is lined up correctly.

*Note:* The valve has a guide that keeps it in place. To check for correct alignment gently try to turn the valve. If it doesn't turn it is lined up. If it turns keep turning the valve until you hear a slight "click" and the valve stops turning.

2. Occasionally a mouthpiece will become stuck in the horn. If this happens, **don't** try force—or a pliers or a wrench—to remove it. This can cause major damage to the instrument. Bring it to Mrs. Juhl or Mr. Manley...we have a special tool that removes mouthpieces.

3. After you are finished playing, make sure you remove any excess moisture from the inside of the horn by opening the water keys and blowing through the instrument. Carefully wipe off the outside of the instrument to remove oils or perspiration caused by your hands.

4. Always store your trumpet in its case when not in use. Do not place books or folders in the case since this can bend slides and cause valve problems.

## Monthly Care



1. Check all slides to see that they move freely and lubricate them with slide grease if needed.

2. The inside of your instrument needs to be cleaned regularly. This may not be needed every month but should be done at least every 3 months. See the page on **Brass Cleaning** for more information.

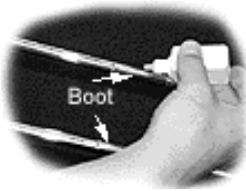
## Yearly Care

If you clean your instrument on a regular basis you may not need any additional yearly care; however, repair shops have the ability to chemically clean your instrument which is a more thorough cleaning than can be done at home.

# Trombone Care

## Daily Care

1. Great care is needed when handling your trombone. The smallest bump or dent in the slide can cause problems with its proper movement. Due to the precision needed in adjustment of the slide, repairs are time consuming and costly so...**Be Careful!**



2. The slide needs to be lubricated on a regular basis. Before applying new cream, always remove the old with a paper towel or rag. After the slide is clean, apply a small amount of new cream to the boot area of the slide as needed. Then use your water bottle to spray a small amount of water on the boot area of the slide to keep it moving freely.

3. Occasionally a mouthpiece will become stuck in the horn. If this happens, **don't** try force—or a pliers or a wrench—to remove it. This can cause major damage to the instrument. Bring it to Mrs. Juhl or Mr. Manley...we have a special tool that removes mouthpieces.

4. After you are finished playing, make sure you remove any excess moisture from the inside of the trombone by opening the water key and blowing through the instrument. Carefully wipe off the outside of the trombone to remove oils or perspiration caused by your hands.

5. Always store your trombone in its case when not in use. Do not place books or folders in the case since this can bend slides and cause problems.

## Monthly Care

1. Check the tuning slide to see that it moves freely and lubricate it with slide grease if needed.

2. The inside of your trombone needs to be cleaned regularly. This may not be needed every month but should be done at least every 3 months. See the page on **Brass Cleaning** for more information.

## Yearly Care

If you clean your instrument on a regular basis you may not need any additional yearly care; however, repair shops have the ability to chemically clean your instrument which is a more thorough cleaning than can be done at home.

# French Horn Care

## Daily Care

1. Valves on brass instruments need to be lubricated on a regular basis. To do this:
  - One at a time, remove the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> slides. When doing this, make sure you are pushing down the on corresponding rotor.
  - Tilt the horn up, and as you work the rotor up and down, squeeze a few drops of oil down the slide and into the valve. Continue to work the rotor for several seconds so the oil spreads around the valve area.
  - While holding down on the rotor, replace the slide.
2. Occasionally a mouthpiece will become stuck in the horn. If this happens, **don't** try force—or a pliers or a wrench—to remove it. This can cause major damage to the instrument. Bring it to Mrs. Juhl or Mr. Manley...we have a special tool that removes mouthpieces.
3. After you are finished playing, make sure you remove any excess moisture from the inside of the horn by removing and dumping each valve slide. Carefully wipe off the outside of the instrument to remove oils or perspiration caused by your hands.
4. Always store your French Horn in its case when not in use. Do not place books or folders in the case since this can bend slides and cause valve problems.

## Monthly Care

1. Check all slides to see that they move freely and lubricate them with slide grease if needed.

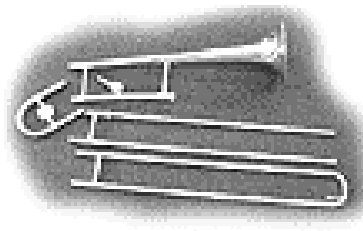
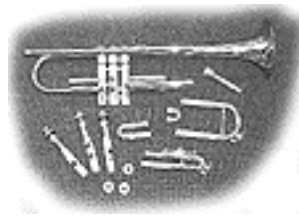
## Yearly Care

In May, check with Mrs. Juhl or Mr. Manley to see if your French Horn is scheduled for a “chemical clean” during the summer months. Due to the special requirements of the French Horn valves, it should not be cleaned at home.

# Brass Cleaning

**Brass instruments need to be cleaned internally on a regular basis. The following is a description of that process. Please note that rotor instruments such as French Horns, Rotor Tubas, and Rotor Trombones should not be cleaned at home. They have special requirements and should only be cleaned by a qualified repair shop.**

To clean your instrument, you must take it apart completely. You will also need some cleaning brushes (available at music stores or from the school), valve oil, slide grease, and some liquid dish soap. You will also need a place to clean the instrument. Unless you have a large sink, the bath tub is probably the best place.



1. Carefully remove all slides, valves and valve bottom caps. Extreme care should be taken with trombone slides as they are very delicate, especially when they are apart! If any of the slides are stuck take your instrument to a repair shop to have them removed. They can be damaged if not removed properly.
2. Place all the parts, except for the valves, in warm (*NOT hot!*) water. Let the instrument parts soak in the water for 10-15 minutes.
3. While the instrument soaks, take the valves and run warm water over them and brush out all openings in the valves with the valve brush. Shake off any extra water and set valves aside to dry. Also, use warm water and your mouthpiece brush to clean your mouthpiece. If there's any stubborn debris on it, you may use a small amount of liquid dish soap to clean it off.
4. Next, brush out all tubes with the "snake" and the valve casings with the valve brush. Be sure to clean any debris from inside the valve bottom caps.
5. Use clean water and rinse out the instrument. Wipe off any excess moisture and set the instrument aside to dry thoroughly. It is important that the inside of your instrument is completely dry before you proceed to step 6.
6. Apply a small amount of slide grease to each slide and reassemble. (Be sure not to put slide grease on the main trombone slide. Use slide cream on this slide.)
7. Install the valve bottom caps. Put a few drops of valve oil on each valve and install them in their proper location. Valves are numbered and must be in the correct location to operate properly.
8. You are finished. Enjoy playing your newly-cleaned instrument!



# Snare Drum Care & Tuning

## Drum Heads

Heads that are new are essential to a good sound. If you practice and play your snare drum a lot, you should be changing the batter head and the snare head at least once a year for optimum results. (*The batter head is the top head of the drum, the one you hit when you play. The snare head is on the bottom of the drum, it is the one that makes contact with the snares*).

## Snare Strainer (*the pieces of twisted metal that stretches across the underside of the drum*)

This is often an overlooked part of a snare drum, but it is responsible for a large part of the sound of it, so it had better be right. The main problem with the snare strainer is that it applies pressure unevenly to the strands, so some will stretch more than others. This uneven wear can cause problems such as snare "buzz" or "dead" snares. When in doubt, ask about having it changed.

## Preparation for Changing Drum Heads

Remove the old heads and snare. Clean the hoop and drum edges, removing dust, stick debris, and any build-up that is found. Cleaning and polishing should be done now, as there are no tension rods, hoops, or snare in the way. Do not use any liquid because your drum is wooden.

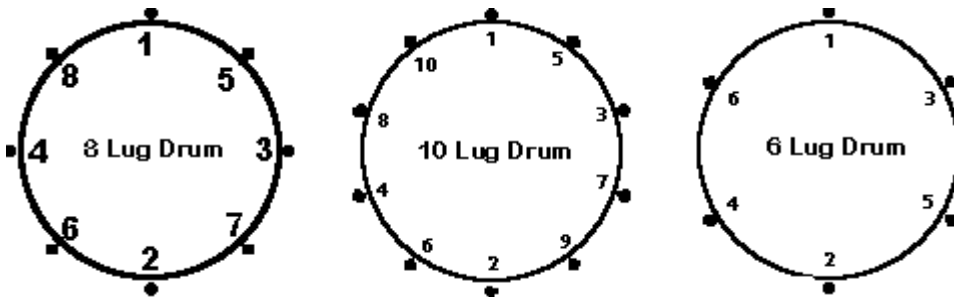
## Fit New heads

Place the head onto the drum and spin it around the edge to ensure clean contact. Tighten the tension rods until they make contact with the hoop. Do not tune it yet.

## Batter Head Tuning

Put the snare flat on the floor. This deadens the snare (bottom) head, allowing you to isolate the batter (top) head.

Following the order in the diagram below, take your drum key and begin tensioning by turning each key rod 1 complete turn, then continue using a quarter turn at a time, until the pitch is the same all the way around the drumhead. (Personally, I like a medium- or high-sounding batter head.) Tap around the circumference of the head listening for high and low spots and correct accordingly.



## Snare Head Tuning

Flip the snare drum around, dampening the batter head on the floor, and tune the snare head to approximately the same pitch as the batter head to start. Then tune to the desired tension. The way you tune your snare head controls the sound the snares produce. If you tune looser, you will get more "ringing"; if you tune tighter, the sound will be more controlled.

## Snare Strand Tuning

Once again, experimentation is the key here, but as a general guide: The looser a snare strainer is, the more it will work and the "fuller" it will make the sound of the drum, as well as adding sustain. Tighter will give more controlled sounds, but be prone to "buzzing" sympathetically with other drums or instruments. If you can hear the pitch of the drum change as you tighten the strainer, you are tuning it too high.