Caring for Your Horn

The following care is recommended to extend the life and maintain the quality of your horn.

Remove all moisture after you have finished playing by tipping out onto a towel etc.

**Equipment required**

- Valve oil and sewing machine oil
- Valve oil and cottong buds
- Flexible brush for inside of instrument tubing (trumpet brush)
- Small screwdrivers that fit into the screws on the back of the valves
- Slide grease (fishing reel gel, silicone gel)
- Soft cloth

**Assembling Your Horn**

Assemble, tune, clean and lubricate your instrument for the first time under the guidance of your teacher.

**Inserting the Mouthpiece**

The mouthpiece and mouthpiece receiver are easily damaged by improper assembly. Insert the mouthpiece into the receiver. Never force a mouthpiece into place, as it may become stuck. If this should happen, take the horn to your local dealer or band director to have it removed, they will have a special tool to remove stuck mouthpieces. Never use pliers or other gripping tools to remove a stuck mouthpiece.

**Tuning Your Horn**

Pitch is affected by temperature, so be sure to warm up your instrument before playing by blowing air through it. Tuning your horn is done by adjusting the tuning slide until you achieve the desired pitch.

**Double F/Bb Horns**

Tune with the main tuning slide, then fine tune your horn by adjusting the individual tuning slides connected to each valve casing, while pressing the corresponding keys for the valve. Consult your instructor when doing this for the first time.

**Caring for the Interior of Your Horn**

Every school holiday give your horn a bath by placing it in the bathtub on a towel. Run very warm water through all the tubing, running the trumpet brush in all the places you can reach. After cleaning the interior of all the tubing, proceed to grease and oil the horn as described below.

**Lubricating the Slides:**

Remove each tuning slide and wipe clean of dirt and foreign substances. Apply a thin coating of slide grease to the inner slide surfaces. Replace the slide, while holding down the key. Work it in to ensure that the grease is evenly and thoroughly spread. Wipe off extra grease.

**Oiling the Rotary Valves:**

Remove valve slides one at a time. Place several drops of rotor oil evenly into the valve slide, insert slide all the way back into slide tube, then turn horn over to let the oil run on to the rotor. Depress lever to activate appropriate rotary valve, spreading the oil evenly on the rotor and casing. Do steps 1 - 3 until all rotors are oiled.

1. Carefully remove valve cap and apply a few drops of valve oil to the bearings. Activate rotor and replace the cap.
2. Apply a few drops of sewing machine oil to the rotor stem between the stop arm and the casing (slit in the back of the valve).
3. Apply a drop of sewing machine oil to each linkage of the lever assembly.
NOTE: Do not remove the rotary valves, only a qualified repair technician should do this during annual maintenance.

**Draining All Fluid:** Drain any excess fluid by removing the appropriate slide, while holding down the key. Drain the mouthpiece by rotating the instrument until fluid flows from the mouthpiece receiver or the slide.

**Cleaning the Mouthpiece:** Soak the mouthpiece in a solution of warm soapy water. Using a cotton bud, scrub the inside and outside. Rinse thoroughly with clean, warm water.

**Restraining the Rotary Valve:** Note: Only use string designed specifically for rotary valves.

You will need a small screwdriver, scissors and rotary string to restring your valves. Please follow these directions carefully:

1. Rotary valve components should appear as in illustration 1 when the rotor stem is to the left of the rod, or as in illustration 2 when the rotor stem is to the right of the rod.

2. Loosen screws (C) and (E) with a small screwdriver. Cut a piece of string approximately nine inches long and tie a knot in one end. Begin by threading the string through the hole at the bottom of the rod (A). Start from the outside of the rod and thread toward the valve. The knot must provide a stop at the hole.

3. With the stop arm (B) to the right of the rod (A), bring the string around the top of the rotor stem in a clockwise direction, then loop the string entirely around the small screw (C) in a counter clockwise direction.

4. Continue around the bottom of the stop arm (B) to the hole (D) near the top of the rod. Thread the string through this hole and loop it under the head of the small screw (E) on the rod in a clockwise direction.

5. Now pull the string fairly taut so that no lost motion occurs when depressing the trigger lever. Tighten screw (E) enough to hold the lever in place.

6. Position the lever so the string rod is parallel to the rotor-casing top.

7. Tighten the string screw (C).

**Caring for the Exterior of Your Horn**

For daily care, use a soft cloth to remove dust and fingerprints. Never use metal polish.

**Storing the Instrument**

The case should always be used for storing the instrument after playing and for transporting. Be sure the mouthpiece and other accessories are secured tightly, as they can scratch and dent your horn if they come loose during transportation. Do not put anything in the case that could place pressure on the instrument.

Please ensure that the Instrument case is labelled with your full name, current roll class and contact telephone number.

**Troubleshooting:**

If the air won’t go through, check:

- Is the mouthpiece clean?
- Is the lead pipe clean?

If valves stick:

- Are the valves oiled daily?

- The replacement of all disposable items needed in the maintenance of the instrument is the responsibility of the hirer. These include slide grease, valve oil, etc.

- Before any major repairs are done, Ms. Dietz must check the damage and authorize repairs to the instrument.

- Before returning to HGHS on completion of hiring for full refund of the deposit, it must be presented for inspection to Ms. Dietz in person. A copy of the receipt for servicing the instrument must be presented to Ms. Dietz at that time.

To keep your instrument in optimum playing condition, have it cleaned and inspected by a qualified repair technician annually.

Source: [www.yamaha.com](http://www.yamaha.com)