Caring for Your Trombone

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

Remove all moisture after you have finished playing.

**Equipment required**
- Slide oil and slide cream
- Slide grease (fishing reel gel, silicone gel)
- Brush - flexible brush for inside of instrument tubing
- Mouthpiece brush or cotton buds
- Soft cloth

**Assembling Your Trombone**

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

Insert the slide section into the bell section. The slide should be to the right of the bell at a 90° angle. The bell and slide should not make contact. Tighten the bell lock to secure the sections together. Always hold your trombone by the slide brace while resting and make sure the slide lock is locked when the trombone is not in use.

**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 Trombone**

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

**Care for the Interior of Your Trombone**

- **Instruments should be given a thorough clean every school holidays.**

**Cleaning the Inside of the trombone:**
Using a flexible trombone cleaning brush, insert it into the tubing and wash out with lukewarm water.

**Lubricating the Hand Slide:**
Carefully remove the outer slide and lay it on a clean, flat surface. Wipe inner slide clean of old cream, dirt, and foreign substances. Apply a small amount of slide cream to the stocking of the inner slides (the part that is slightly thicker than the rest). Spread evenly, until it is coated with a thin film. Do not apply too much slide cream as this will hinder the movement of the slides. Use a trombone spray bottle to spray water evenly over the inner slides. (Note: slide oil may be used instead of slide cream and water. Apply in the same manner, spreading a thin, even film over the stocking of the inner slides.) Replace the outer slide, moving it back and forth to spread the lubricant evenly.

**Lubricating the Tuning Slide:** Slide grease keeps slides airtight and maintains smooth movement. It is an essential factor in the care of your trombone. To apply slide grease, 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, working it in to ensure that the grease is evenly and thoroughly spread.

**Oiling the Rotary Valve (on more advanced models):** The rotary valve must be oiled prior to assembly of the trombone. Remove the complete hand slide assembly and place it on a clean, even surface. Hold bell section with the bell pointed up. Place a few drops of rotor oil into the slide receiver. Depress lever to activate the rotary valve, spreading the oil evenly on the rotor and casing.
Apply a few drops of oil to the rotor stem, directly between the stop arm and the top of the casing. Carefully remove valve cap and apply a few drops of oil to the bearings. Activate rotor and replace the cap. Apply a drop of oil to each linkage of the lever assembly. NOTE: Do not remove the rotary valve. This should be done only by a qualified repair technician during periodic maintenance.

*Restrering the Rotary Valve (when applicable)*: 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. Lay the bell section of the trombone flat, with bell pointing toward you. Inner components should appear as in the illustration.
2. Loosen screws (C) and (E) with 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 bottom of 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 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).

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

**Cleaning the Water Keys**
A tone hole cleaner may be used to clean and dry the water keys.

**Care for the Exterior of Your Trombone**
For daily care, use a soft cloth to remove dust and fingerprints.

**Storing the Instrument**
The case should always be used for storing the instrument after playing and transporting. Be sure the mouthpiece and other accessories are secured tightly, as they can scratch and dent your horn if they fall 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.

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