

Tuba Maintenance

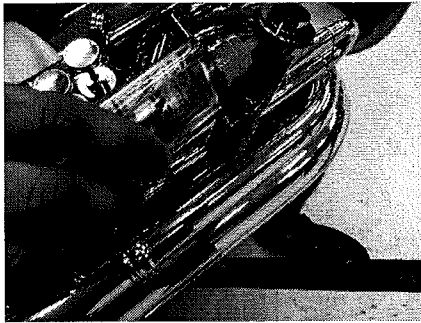
Before You Play:

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



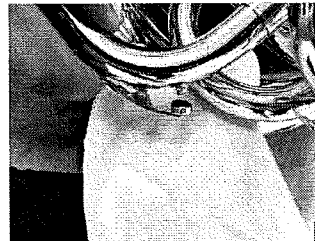
Putting valve back into position

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



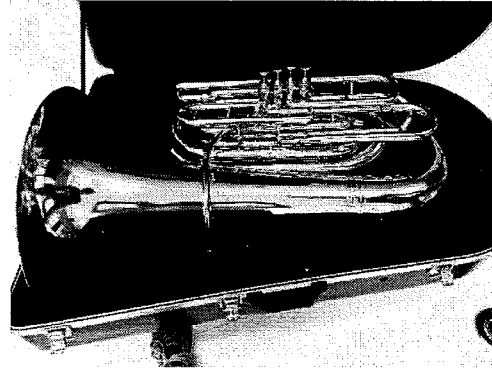
Storage:

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.

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.



Proper storage in case

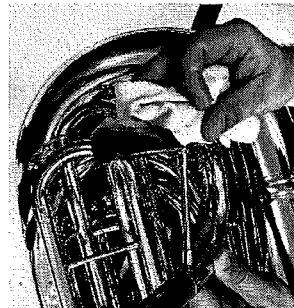
Weekly Maintenance:

Mouthpiece Care:

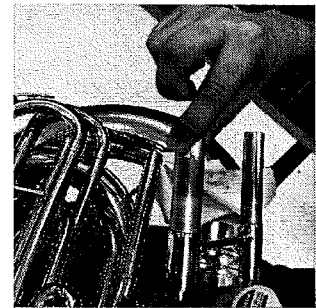
Clean out your mouthpiece weekly with soft liquid soap, warm water and a mouthpiece brush.

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.

