

Cleaning Your Trumpet

Materials Needed:

- Bathtub
- Cleaning snake
- Slide grease/cream
- Fine grain steel wool
- Liquid dishwashing soap

- 1) Remove all slides from the horn and lay them on a soft surface (i.e. towel).
- 2) Lay an old towel or rag in the bathtub (so that nothing will be dented). Then, fill the bathtub with a couple of inches of cool water and a little bit of dishwashing soap.
- 3) Individually take slides and wash them.
 - a. After you wet them, run the snake through them a couple of times. **BE careful! The snake will get stuck in the slides if you attempt to push it too far in.** (I would go until it feels snug. That should be far enough.)
 - b. After running the snake through them, clean the **unfinished** part (the part of the slide that goes inside the horn) with the steel wool to remove any deposits. **DO NOT use the steel wool on the finished areas of the slides or it will remove the lacquer finish.**
 - c. Once you have completed steps A and B, rinse the slide with cool water, “spin” it to get the water out, and then dry the outside completely.
 - d. Upon completing steps A, B, and C for all of the slides, allow the slides to lay out in a safe, open air place for about 24 hours so that the insides can dry completely.
- 4) Remove the valves from the trumpet.
 - a. You can submerge the valves in the water and use the snake to clean out their holes. You may also use the steel wool to clean any deposits off of the outside of the valves.
 - b. Make sure to dry the valves off with a soft towel.
- 5) Next, submerge the main horn body in the cool, soapy water.
 - a. Use the snake to clean out all of the valve slide openings, but once again, be careful to not get them stuck.
 - b. Then, run cool water through the horn to rinse it out.
 - c. Next, blow through the lead pipe to get as much water out as possible.
 - d. You should dry the outside of the horn body and the valves with a soft towel and allow it to sit out in an out of the way, open-air area to dry for about 24 hours.
- 6) After the horn has had plenty of time to dry (about 24 hours), then grease the slides so that they move easily, re-oil the valves, and reassemble. You can also use the polishing cloth to shine the outside of the horn. **DO NOT use any type of finishing or polishing solution on your horn.** It will damage the lacquer.
- 7) Run the **MOUTHPIECE** under hot water and use the mouthpiece brush and dishwashing soap to clean out deposits. Rinse thoroughly with hot water.

Make sure to be EXTREMELY careful during this process. This equipment is fragile and can be damaged easily. Make sure that when you leave it out to dry that you leave it in a position that normal house traffic or pets will not disturb it.