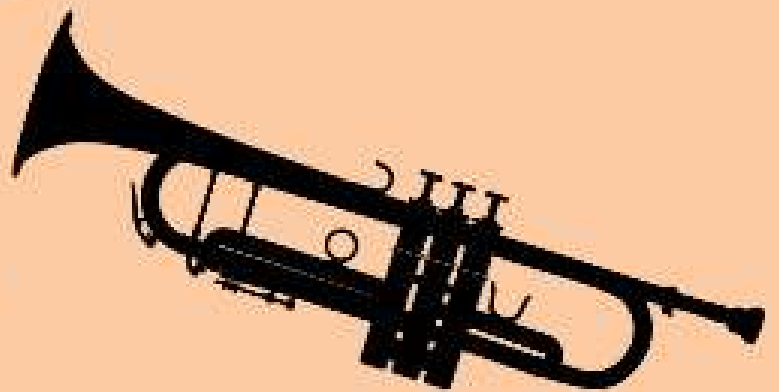


Band Parent's Guide to Brass



Supplies/ Maintenance

Cleaning cloth: A simple cleaning cloth takes off fingerprints and dust.

Cleaning snake: This will help you get all the gunk out of your horn.

Valve casing brush: The brush fits into the instrument's valve casings to clean out any dirt. The casings should be scrubbed out at least once a month to prevent sticking.

Lacquer Polish: Spray a small amount on a cleaning cloth and wipe down your instrument gently to remove stains or dirt.

Slide oil/grease: Slide oil/grease is necessary to lubricate an instrument's slide each time you play it. Don't overdo it or else it will be too much, oil/grease your slides at least once a month.

Valve oil: This prevents the corrosion of the inside of your instrument and should be placed on valves before they're placed back in the horn. Make sure to oil the valves a couple times a week.

Spitballs: These are used for a quick clean when you don't have time to give your instrument a bath. Just push one into the mouthpiece receiver, put the mouthpiece in and blow it through.

Mouthpiece brush: This is used along with warm soapy water to scrub the mouthpieces.

Accessories

Neck Guard: A neck guard for a trombone provides neck comfort and prevents contact with the horn to prevent moisture corrosion.

Valve Guard: A valve guard is a good idea for someone who's hands sweat a lot when they play. The guard provides a secure comfortable grip and protects the finish from moisture, oils, and acids.

Finger Saver: A finger saver attaches to the trumpet to alleviate finger pressure and discomfort. It also protects the finish from moisture, oils, and acids.

Mute Bag: A good idea if you own multiple mutes to keep them in good condition. A padded bottom is ideal to keep mutes from making a noise or being dented when dropped in.

Lyre: A clamp on a stem that is used to hold the flip folder in a marching band and attaches to the instrument or the player's arm.

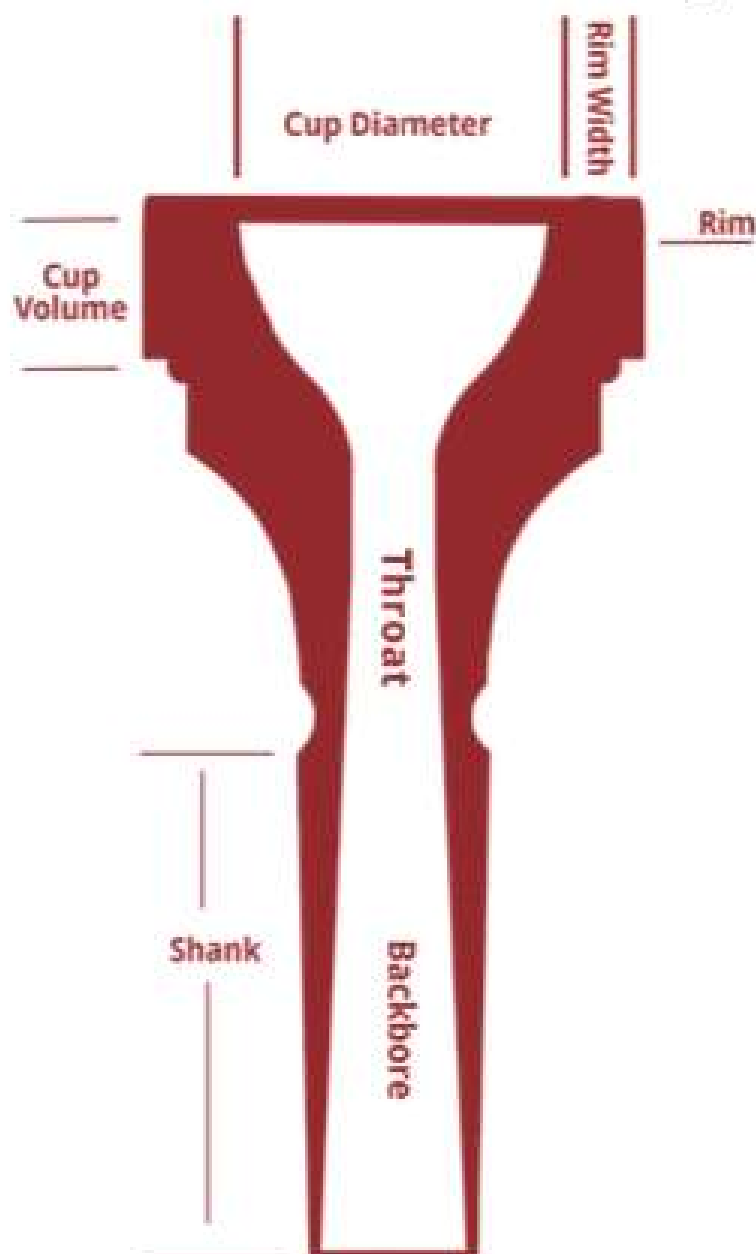
Flip folder: Keep music sheets safe from the elements and is easy to flip through.

Music stand: A music stand makes your sheet music vertical and easy to see. Otherwise, you have to lean over a table or bed which can lead to back/neck pain and bad posture.

Instrument stand: An instrument stand is a nice addition if you are practicing and need to set down the instrument in between or it's airing out after being cleaned. It's never a good idea to set the instrument on a bed, chair, or floor as it can get stepped on or sat on. It's also better than setting it on a table or desk as it can get scratched if it is dragged.

Mouthpieces

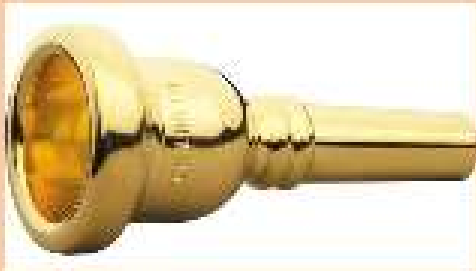
The size of the shank ensures that the mouthpiece fits comfortably into the instrument. They are a standard size for trumpets, cornets and other horns but for trombones and lower brass there are small and large shank options. Generally, student and small bore instruments use the small, and professional and larger bore instruments use the large.



Trumpet



Trombone



Tuba



French Horn



Mutes

A mute changes the sound of the brass instrument in a certain way depending on the type of mute used. Mutes can help trombone and trumpet players blend better with others. A brass player will also often use a mute to help lower their volume when playing with a vocalist.

Straight mute: These mutes produce a stuffy sound when made of cardboard but a brighter, piercing sound when made of aluminum



Cup mute: A cup mute produces a softer, mellower, more muffled sound than the straight mute.

Wah-Wah mute: This mute is used often in jazz. When the player uses their hand to open and close the end of the mute, it makes a "wah-wah" sound.



Bucket mute: This mute clips onto the outside of the bell with three large spring clips. It's made from cardboard and has cotton inside to muffle the sound.



Plunger mute: This mute is held to the instrument by the player. It sounds similar to the wah wah mute but without the bright sound of metal.

Practice mute: Although nowhere close to being silent this mute greatly muffles the player. This isn't a mute ever written into a piece of music but it's very useful to practice without overly disturbing others as well as warming up before a performance.



Cleaning Instructions

This means an extra step for a valve instrument, such as a trumpet/baritone/euphonium/tuba/french horn

1. Take instrument apart.

Lay out a towel to place tuning slides, caps and valves on. Position parts on towel carefully in a way that will remind you where to put them back. If a slide or cap is frozen in place, DO NOT FORCE. Take to a repair shop for removal.

Take the spring and felt off of the valves so they don't get wet, but make sure you know EXACTLY how to put it back together!

2. Wash instrument/pieces

Place a towel into the tub so the instrument isn't laying on the hard surface. Submerge the instrument in warm soapy water in a bathtub. While under water, scrub out all the parts with your cleaning snake. Be sure to rinse well before taking out and be careful not to dent or scratch surface or edges.

Scrub the inside of the valve casing with your valve casing brush

3. Dry instruments and parts

Dry each part individually using lint free towel or cloth. Let the instrument sit out overnight unassembled to air dry.

Valves in particular must be cleaned with lint free materials and checked for lint or dust before placing back into instrument

4. Lubricate and reassemble

Put slide grease completely on tuning slides. Failure to use grease will result in frozen/stuck slides.

Put valve oil on valves before placing in horn. NEVER use slide grease on valves. Once a week remove valves and rinse with water to keep them from sticking.

5. Wash Mouthpiece

The mouthpiece should be washed more often than the instrument. The mouthpiece is the only part of the instrument that can and should be boiled for a few minutes at least twice a year to keep germ free. Also, remember to boil mouthpiece after a cold/flu.

Every 6 months you should bring your instrument to a music store for an acid bath, which will remove mineral deposits that can't be washed out with soap and water