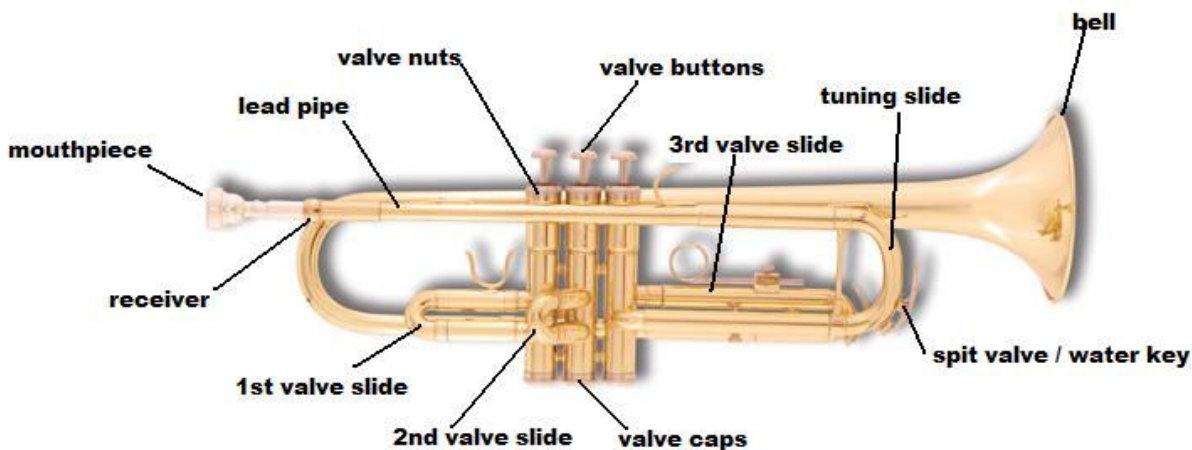


Cleaning Your Trumpet

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To clean your trumpet, you will need the following resources:

- A bathtub and “utility” towel (don’t use Mom’s good monogrammed ones!)
- Plastic cup
- Old dish rag
- Dish soap: Joy or Palmolive work great.
- Trumpet Cleaning Brushes: valve casing, mouthpiece, and a snake
- Valve Oil
- Slide Grease
- Another “utility” towel or soft cloth to dry your horn
- 30-60 minutes of time



Preparation

To clean your trumpet, begin by running lukewarm water into the bathtub. Do NOT use hot water, as extreme temperatures can sometimes ruin the lacquer on your instrument. Add about one tablespoon of dish soap to the water. To prevent unnecessary scratches or dents to your instrument, I recommend lining the tub with a towel. Turn the water off when the level has reached about six inches, or just enough to cover your trumpet.

Disassembly

Begin taking your trumpet apart. Remove the mouthpiece and place it in the water. Gently remove the tuning slide and valve slides. If any of these slides are stuck, do not use force to free them. Continue cleaning the

trumpet without removing them and take the trumpet to a qualified instrument repair shop for removal. As you remove each slide, clean off any excess slide grease or other residue with an old dish rag. Place each slide in the water.

Next, remove the valves, beginning with the 1st valve. Unscrew the valve nut and gently pull the valve straight up until it is halfway out. There should be a number “1” stamped somewhere on the valve. Locate the number and take note of which direction the number faces. You may even want to write it down. When you reassemble your valves, the number will have to be facing the exact same way. Continue to pull the valve straight up and out of the valve casing. Take the second and third valves out in the same manner. Once removed, place each valve into the plastic cup. Fill the cup with soapy water from the tub until the water covers the valve, but doesn't touch the felt.

Finally, remove the valve caps from the bottom of the valve casings. Again, don't use excessive force if they are stuck. You can clean the trumpet with them still on and have a repair shop loosen them later. Place the valve caps into the tub.

Cleaning

Once the horn is disassembled and soaking in lukewarm soapy water, begin cleaning it with the brushes. On the valves use your valve casing brush to clear the holes in each valve of any grime and buildup that may be interfering with airflow. Don't worry about discoloration, but be careful not to scratch or mar the surface of the valve as that will prevent the valve from moving properly. Gently brush each valve clean, rinse it off and set it aside for assembly.

Use your snake brush to clean out the slides of your instrument. Run the snake down each slide until it comes to a stop. Don't try to force the slide all the way around a tight curve. Instead, take it out and run it in from the other end of the slide. You can use a gentle brushing motion while using the snake, and rinse each slide with soapy water after brushing it. Once they are clean, rinse them and set each slide aside for assembly. Use the snake to clean out other tubing in your trumpet in a similar manner, including the leadpipe.

Next, use your valve casing brush to clean out the valve casings (the empty spots where the valves used to be). Use an up-and-down motion to clear out any loose particles. Be very careful not to scratch the surface of the interior as the valves will not work properly without a tight, smooth valve casing.

The last step in the cleaning process is to clean your mouthpiece. Insert your mouthpiece brush into the shank, or back side of the mouthpiece (not the end you blow in). Gently twist it and push forward until you can just see the tip of the brush coming through the bottom of the mouthpiece cup. Continue to twist the brush while pulling it out again. Do this a few times and then rinse the mouthpiece and set it aside for assembly.

Assembly

As you assemble your trumpet, first dry each piece using a soft cloth that doesn't leave a lot of lint on the instrument's surface. An old towel or T-shirt should work fine. The first parts to replace are the slides. Begin with the tuning slide, the largest slide. Put a small amount of grease on the slide and spread it around with your finger. If you use too much grease, just wipe it off with your towel when the slide is pushed all the way in. Continue with the other slides, putting slide grease only onto the exposed parts of the slide, whether they are attached to the slide of the body of the trumpet itself.

Next, make sure the valve caps are dry and free of dirt. When they are, screw the valve caps back onto the bottom of the valve casings.

Once that is done, oil each valve before inserting it into the proper casing. Do this over a towel to catch any oil that may drip. Find the valve that is stamped with the number 3. Turn the valve as you drip oil over it to coat all sides. You don't have to use much oil. If you use too much, it will just drip off the valve. When it has a thin coat, gently slide (never force!) the valve into the 3rd valve casing, the one that is farthest from you as you play. Remember to make sure that the number is facing the same way that it was when you removed the valve. Once the valve is in, twist it a little until you hear a "click," and then screw the valve nut down to secure the valve. Do this with the other two valves as well.

After everything is back together, put your mouthpiece in and play your trumpet. If the notes don't come out easily, you probably have a valve in the wrong spot. Take each valve out and make sure that they are in the right valve casing and that the numbers are facing the right way. Then try it again. If it still doesn't work, take your trumpet to a teacher or instrument repair person. They will probably be able to fix it right away without any problems.

Cleanup

Make sure you put your brushes away, wring out the towel that was soaking in the bathtub, throw towels and rags into the laundry, and put the plastic cup and dish soap away! Enjoy the feeling of a clean, clear-sounding trumpet!