

Trumpet Maintenance

So...what did you have for lunch last month?

Keeping your trumpet clean is essential to playing your best.

Materials

large tub big enough to bathe your entire instrument such as your bath tub

luke warm water

coffee mug

simple green or dawn dishwashing liquid

shower mat

cloth towel

washcloth

lots of paper towels

trumpet snake brush with rubber coating, or REKA system

trumpet mouthpiece brush

valve brush

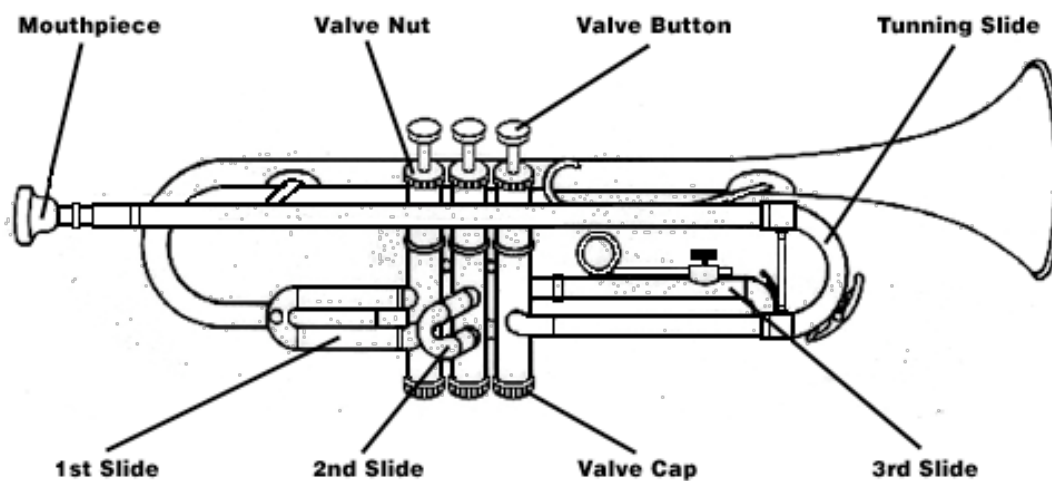
valve oil (I recommend Hetman's valve oil)

slide oil (I recommend Hetman's slide oil or valve oil + petroleum jelly combination)

slide grease (I recommend Hetman's heavy bodied slide grease or house hold product, Petroleum Jelly)

q-tips

never dull (optional)

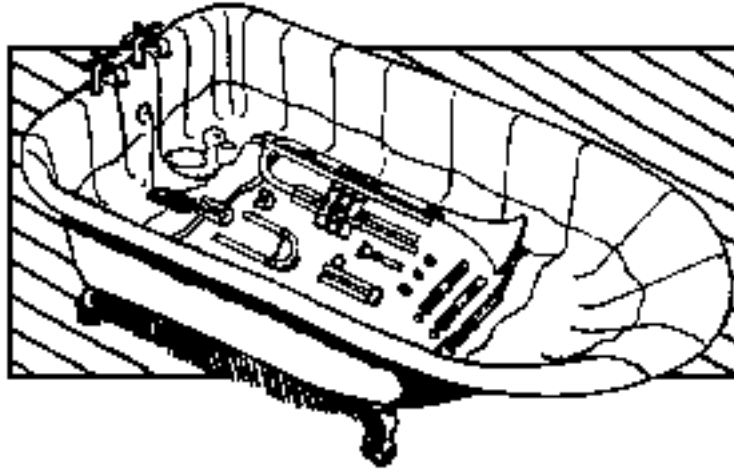


Step 1 Preparing your trumpets bath

Fill your **large tub** with **luke-warm water** and a splash of **degreaser** so that your entire instrument will be totally immersed once put into the tub. You may want to line the bottom of your bathtub with a **shower mat** or towel in order to protect your instrument from possible scrapes and dents. Take your **coffee mug** and fill completely with water and soap suds from tub.

Step 2 Preparing your trumpet for its bath

Place a **towel** on the floor in front of bath tub. Completely dismantle your trumpet and place onto towel. This includes your mouthpiece, three valve slides, tuning slide, three valves, and three bottom valve caps.



Step 3 Soaking your trumpet

First take your three valves and place in **coffee mug** making sure that the felts do not get wet. Soak the rest of your trumpet together in your large tub for 20 minutes. While the trumpet is resting in the tub, the luke-warm water and degreaser will do a good job of loosening up the particles sitting in your horn.

Now you ready for the fun and dirty part!

Step 4 Cleaning your trumpet!

- 1) Starting with the three valve slides and tuning slide, hold one of the slides under the water with one hand and push the **trumpet snake brush** through the slide with the other hand making sure to keep the slide beneath the water the entire time. You want to make sure the slides are under the water so that the particles will flush out thoroughly. Once you are satisfied with the slide, place it onto the towel on the floor and wipe off any remaining oil with a **paper towel**. Continue this process with the other two valve slides and tuning slide.
- 2) Do the same thing with your mouthpiece using your **mouthpiece brush** then place on towel.
- 3) Now you are ready to clean the three valve slides on the body of the trumpet. Make sure to keep the trumpet under the water when running the snake through.
- 4) Now it is time to clean the lead pipe of your trumpet where you should see the most particles flush out. Hold the trumpet still against the tub floor with one hand, and use your other hand to run the snake through the lead pipe again and again until you don't see anything flush out anymore.

Step 4 Cleaning your trumpet! (Continued)

- 5) Using a **washcloth**, gently wipe down the outside of your trumpet focusing mostly on the bell where a lot of dirt collects.
- 6) Place your trumpet and the three valve caps beside the three valve slides on the towel. Use a **paper towel** to wipe off any remaining oil on the slides.
- 7) Use **Q-tips** to clean the inside of the three bottom valve caps.
- 8) Clean your valves one at a time in the tub by holding each one under water, making sure their felts stay above the water, and running your **valve brush** through each of the valve casings. Use a **paper towel** to wipe off the excess oil.
- 9) **OPTIONAL: Never Dull** is a wooly material that can be used to get rid of any discoloration on the non-lacquered part of your outer slides. It can be purchased at any hardware or automobile store. Take a small piece and rub the Never Dull only on the outside of the non-lacquered part of your slide until the true brass color is revealed. Do not use on the lacquered part of the slide. Take a paper towel to clean off the excess gunk and your slides will look brand new.

Step 5 Assembling your trumpet

- 1) Apply a small amount of **slide grease** (Hetman's heavy bodied slide grease or house hold product, Petroleum Jelly) to the ends of your tuning slide and second valve slide. Assemble. Also apply a small amount of slide grease to the threads on the bottom ends of your valve casings to prevent the valve caps from later getting stuck.
- 2) Apply **slide oil** (Hetman's slide oil) to the first and third valve slides only for quick slide control. You can also grease these slides lightly with petroleum jelly then add a few drops of valve oil to add slickness.
- 3) **OILING YOUR VALVES.** Find the valve with the number one labeled on it and place it into the valve casing also labeled with the number one. Continue in the same manner with the second and third valves. Lay your trumpet across your lap or on the floor so that the valves are facing away from you. Squirt the valve oil directly onto the piston valve surface, oiling from the top to the bottom of the valve so that there is a coating of oil over the entire piston surface. Turn valves until they lie inside the valve casing and you hear a click sound. Blow into horn to make sure the valves are in properly. If you can't blow air into the horn, the valves are not aligned correctly. First, start by making sure the numbers on each valve match the numbers on the valve casing they are in. If everything was put in correctly, take the first valve out and twist it back in until you hear a click. Blow into your trumpet. If you still can't blow air in the trumpet, do the same procedure with the second valve. Continue with the third valve if there is still a problem. If you are still having a problem, usually the big side of the valve guide aligns with the bell and smaller side of the valve guide aligns with the lead pipe. Check that this is correct as a last resort.