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Do It Yourself Musical Instrument Care

(Trumpet, Trombone, Baritone horn, French horn, Tuba)

- When placing your instrument back into its case, make sure it fits in all the correct indentations. Do not force your case closed.
- Make sure your instrument is completely dry prior to placing it in your case. Use water key(s) to remove excess moisture after playing and wipe your instrument dry with a clean, soft cloth. This will avoid costly repairs and possible corrosion.
- Avoid eating, drinking sugary liquids or chewing gum prior to playing your instrument. Always rinse your mouth out with tap water.
- Always remove your mouthpiece after playing. Regularly clean your mouthpiece with warm water and mild soap.
- If your mouthpiece is stuck or sticking, take your instrument to a certified specialist. **Never forcefully twist your mouthpiece.**
- Bare brass sticks together when unmoved for long periods of time. Take time to gently push and pull all slides at least once a week, and if needed apply grease.
- Regularly oil French horn rotors (3x per week) by placing a drop or two on bearings and rotors. Press down on each level and release. Repeat a couple of times to ensure oil is spread evenly throughout the rotor.

- Unscrew trumpet valves, wipe clean carefully with cleaning rod and cloth. Apply 1-3 drops of valve oil, coating the entire valve. Apply small amount of oil to valve cap and bottom cap.
- Apply slide oil to your trombone at least once a week by placing hand slide in to third position and adding oil to each slide. Slowly move slide in and out to evenly spread oil.
- Use lanolin or similar grease to lubricate tuning slides.
- Never try to hammer out dents at home, take your instrument to a certified specialist.
- Tune-up is required every 12 months by a certified specialist.
- Yearly professional Sonic Cleaning is recommended for brass.
- See next pages below for Instrument diagram.