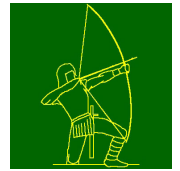
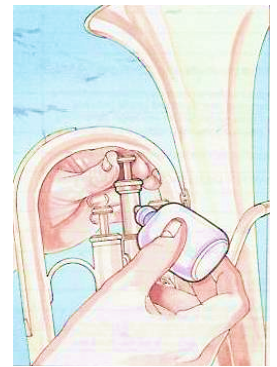


# Middleton Youth Band Instrument Care

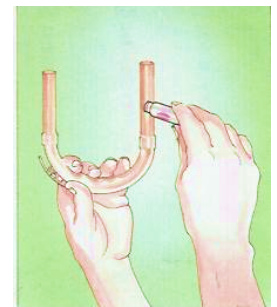


1. Wash your instrument regularly in warm soapy water, this not only keeps it looking nice, but washes away any bacteria and dirt to keep it smelling nice too.
2. Polish your instrument with a silver cloth or ordinary duster if it is silver or an ordinary duster / lacquer cloth if it is brass. **Do not use metal polish, Duraglit or polish wadding** on any instrument as this is abrasive and will scratch the instrument, remove the lacquer and in some cases remove the plating. Re-lacquering /re-plating is a very expensive repair.

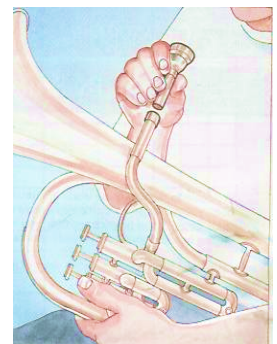
3. Oil your valves regularly. Do this **one valve at a time**. Loosen the valve cap, lift the valve **partially** out of the casing, apply a few drops of oil, return the valve, you may need to gently rotate the valve to align the valve guides. **Do not remove all three at once**. Each valve is different and only fits in its own casing. If you mix up your valves it will be difficult to put them back into the right casing. Damaged valves / casings are expensive to repair. ( If you cannot get a valve back in, please wait to see your tutor, **do not force the valves in**)



4. Grease your valve slides and tuning slides regularly with Vaseline. Slides should move easily. If a slide is stuck in, or you cannot get a slide back, please see one of your tutors, **do not force the slide** as you may damage it, again damaged slides are expensive to repair.



5. When putting your mouthpiece in the instrument, do so gently with a little twist to keep it in, **never force the mouthpiece in**. Put Vaseline on the part of your mouthpiece that goes inside the instrument, to help stop it from sticking. If your mouthpiece becomes stuck in, please see one of your tutors, **do not try to force it out** yourself, you may damage the instrument.



## Please Note:

**Expensive instruments are loaned free of charge with the understanding that they will be well looked after and that any repairs / damage caused will be paid for by the borrower.**