

Flute

- * **Before purchasing an instrument, ask your band director for advice.**
- * Do not eat or drink while playing. The starch in your saliva will build up in your instrument. Besides being disgusting, it will also make your keys stick. If you have just had a meal or drink prior to playing, you should brush your teeth or rinse your mouth out with water. NO GUM
- * Do not wear lip balm or lipstick when playing your instrument.
- * Do not allow others to play your instrument.
- * Do not put pressure on the key mechanisms when putting your flute together.
- * Swab your instrument out after playing it.
- * When not being held your flute should be in its case or a flute stand.
- * Do not place anything on top of the instrument in its case.
- * Make sure all pieces are secure in their assigned spots.
- * If your instrument is not functioning optimally, let your band director know as soon as possible.
- * Do not place any lubrication on the joints (tenon). The flute joints should not be too loose or tight. Use a lint free cloth to keep the joint (tenon) areas clean.
- * Occasionally your key mechanisms may need to be lubricated. Special key oilers are available for this purpose or send your instrument in for maintenance work.

Saxophones

- * **Before purchasing an instrument, ask your band director for advice.**
- * Do not eat or drink while playing. The starch in your saliva will build up in your instrument. Besides being disgusting, it will also make your keys stick. If you have just had a meal or drink prior to playing, you should brush your teeth or rinse your mouth out with water. NO GUM
- * Do not wear lip balm or lipstick when playing your instrument.
- * Make certain your octave key tone hole is completely free of gunk and debris. This is especially true if you eat/drink before or while playing. Because the opening is so tiny, any slight variation will have a big effect on the way your instrument sounds. You can use a pipe cleaner to clean it **carefully**. Pipe cleaners from craft stores work well.
- * Do not allow others to play your instrument.
- * Swab your instrument out after playing it.
- * When not being held your saxophone should be in your case or a saxophone stand. If the instrument must be placed on a table (never a chair) it should be placed with keys facing up.
- * When carrying the sax hold it by the bell to avoid bending keys and rods.
- * Do not place your music or folder on top of the instrument in your case.
- * Make sure the mouthpiece and neck are secure in their designated slots. Do not allow them to bounce around inside your case.
- * If your instrument is not functioning optimally, let your band director know as soon as possible. If your instrument must go in for repair, hold on to your mouthpiece and neck strap so you can borrow a school instrument while waiting for repairs to be completed.
- * Rotate between 4 or 5 reeds. Reeds are made of wood and therefore have a bit of variation to them. You will notice that not all reeds sound or feel the same. Reeds also need to go through a break in period to sound their best. Rotating through reeds in this fashion will mean you will always have a “good” reed to play for a performance.
- * Remove your reed from the mouthpiece after playing.

Clarinet

- * **Before purchasing an instrument, ask your band director for advice.**
- * Do not eat or drink while playing. The starch in your saliva will build up in your instrument. Besides being disgusting, it will also make your keys stick. If you have just had a meal or drink prior to playing, you should brush your teeth or rinse your mouth out with water. **NO GUM**
- * Do not wear lip balm or lipstick when playing your instrument.
- * Do not allow others to play your instrument.
- * Swab your instrument out after playing it.
- * When not being held your clarinet should be in your case or on a clarinet stand. Never place your clarinet on any surface standing from its bell or laying on a surface with the keys downward.
- * Do not place your music on top of the instrument in your case.
- * Make sure every part of the clarinet including the mouthpiece is secure in its designated slot. Do not allow any part to bounce around inside your case.
- * The clarinet should not need force to put together. If your instrument is difficult to assemble, add cork grease. If the instrument is still difficult to put together, it may need to be sent in for repair.
- * Most damage to clarinets occurs when assembling your instrument. Here is the proper way to assemble your instrument.
 - a) Pick up the lower joint and place your palm on the two large keys at the bottom. Your thumb should be on top of the upper large key, **not wrapped around the bottom of the instrument.**
 - b) Pick up the upper joint. Your pinky should press down on sliver key. Your ring finger presses the large ring key. Middle finger presses the closed key and the pointer presses the smaller ring key.
 - c) Gently twist these two pieces together making sure everything is lined up properly.
 - d) Pick up the barrel with your left hand while still holding the clarinet by the Upper Joint as explained above and gently twist the barrel on.
 - e) Attach your bell and mouthpiece.
 - f) Finally place your reed on the mouthpiece. Your reed should **NOT** have been on the mouthpiece. Always remove your reed after playing.
 - g) Disassemble your clarinet by following the steps above in reverse order.
- * If your instrument is not functioning optimally, let your band director know as soon as possible. If your instrument must go in for repair, hold on to your mouthpiece and neck strap so you can borrow a school instrument while waiting for repairs to be completed. Rotate between 4 or 5 reeds. Reeds are made of wood and therefore have a bit of variation to them. You will notice that not all reeds sound or feel the same. Reeds also need to go through a break in period to sound their best. Rotating through reeds in this fashion will mean you will always have a “good” reed to play for a performance.
- * Remove your reed from the mouthpiece after playing.

Trumpet and Mellophone

- * **Before purchasing an instrument, ask your band director for advice.**
- * Do not eat or drink while playing. The starch in your saliva will build up in your instrument. Besides being disgusting, it will also make your valves stick. If you have just had a meal or drink prior to playing, you should brush your teeth or rinse your mouth out with water. **NO GUM**
- * Do not wear lip balm or lipstick when playing your instrument.
- * Do not allow others to play your instrument.
- * Do not hit your mouthpiece to secure it into place. It does not need any force when put into place.
- * Empty your spit valves before putting your instruments away.
- * When not being held your trumpet should be in its case or a trumpet stand. If the instrument must be placed on a table (never a chair) it should be placed with the 2nd valve slide facing up. **Never place your trumpet standing from its bell!!**
- * Any slight pressure to your 2nd valve slide will cause your 2nd valve to become stuck.
- * Do not place your music or folder on top of the instrument in your case.
- * Make sure the mouthpiece is secure in its designated slot. Do not allow it to bounce around inside your case.
- * If your instrument is not functioning optimally, let your band director know as soon as possible. If your instrument must go in for repair, hold on to your mouthpiece so you can borrow a school instrument while waiting for repairs to be completed.
- * Do not put valve oil on the valves from the bottom holes. Remove the valve half way and place a few drops on each valve. After securing the valve into its slot, turn the valve clockwise until you hear a click.
- * Each valve is designed to function in its designated slot. If you have trouble playing, you may have accidentally changed the order. Check your valve for a number on it to correspond with its appropriate slot.
- * Every slide should move freely. Move every slide weekly and add slide grease as necessary. If your slide becomes stiff even after greasing, it may need to be cleaned. See your band director for assistance.
- * When removing a slide, press its corresponding valve to prevent pressure build up within the slide.
- * **Be careful with your instrument !!** Every time you add a dent to your instrument you change its intonation and resistance which makes it harder to play. Handle it with care.
- * Your instrument is an amplifier for your mouthpiece. See your band director for advice on mouthpiece choices. Periodically use a mouthpiece brush to make certain it is fully open and clear of debris. If you drop your mouthpiece and it develops a bend in the shank (the part that enters your instrument), see your band director to straighten it out.
- * Once a year, take your instrument apart and clean it using a trumpet snake and lukewarm water.

French Horn

- * **Before purchasing an instrument, ask your band director for advice.**
- * Do not eat or drink while playing. The starch in your saliva will build up in your instrument. Besides being disgusting, it will also make your valves stick. If you have just had a meal or drink prior to playing, you should brush your teeth or rinse your mouth out with water. NO GUM
- * Do not wear lip balm or lipstick when playing your instrument.
- * Do not hit your mouthpiece to secure it into place. It does not need any force when put into place.
- * Do not allow others to play your instrument.
- * Empty the spit from all slides before putting your instruments away.
- * When not being held your french horn should be in its case or a french horn stand. If the instrument must be placed on a table (never a chair) it should be placed with the valves facing up.
- * Do not place your music or folder on top of the instrument in your case.
- * Make sure the mouthpiece is secure in its designated slot. Do not allow it to bounce around inside your case.
- * If your instrument is not functioning optimally, let your band director know as soon as possible. If your instrument must go in for repair, hold on to your mouthpiece so you can borrow a school instrument while waiting for repairs to be completed.
- * Every slide should move freely. Move every slide weekly and add slide grease as necessary. If your slide becomes stiff even after greasing, it may need to be cleaned. See your band director for assistance.
- * When removing a slide, press its corresponding valve to prevent pressure build up within the slide.
- * **Be careful with your instrument !!** Every time you add a dent to your instrument you change its intonation and resistance which makes it harder to play. Handle it with care.
- * Your instrument is an amplifier for your mouthpiece. See your band director for advice on mouthpiece choices. Periodically use a mouthpiece brush to make certain it is fully open and clear of debris. If you drop your mouthpiece and it develops a bend in the shank (the part that enters your instrument), see your band director to straighten it out.
- * Once a year, take your instrument apart and clean it using a french horn snake and lukewarm water.

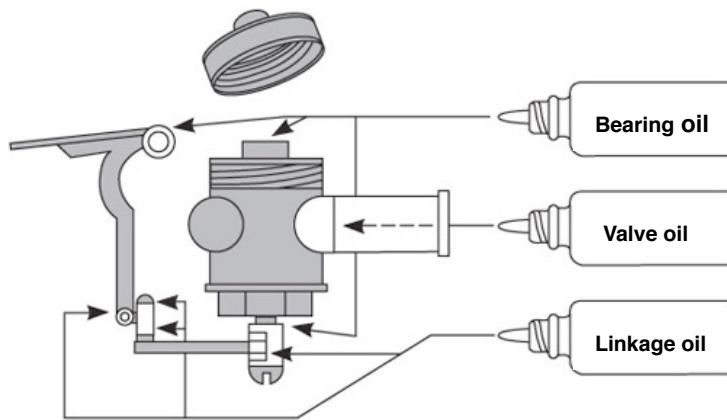
Trombone

- * **Before purchasing an instrument, ask your band director for advice.**
- * Do not eat or drink while playing. The starch in your saliva will build up in your instrument. Besides being disgusting, it will also make your valves stick. If you have just had a meal or drink prior to playing, you should brush your teeth or rinse your mouth out with water. NO GUM
- * Do not wear lip balm or lipstick when playing your instrument.
- * Do not hit your mouthpiece to secure it into place. It does not need any force when put into place.
- * Do not allow others to play your instrument.
- * Empty your spit valve before putting your instruments away.
- * When not being held your trombone should be in its case or a trombone stand. If the instrument must be placed on a table (never a chair) it should be placed laying down.
Never lay a trombone on a chair.
- * Do not place your music or folder on top of the instrument in your case.
- * Make sure the mouthpiece is secure in its designated slot. Do not allow it to bounce around inside your case.
- * Always lock the slide when the instrument is not being played.
- * If your instrument is not functioning optimally, let your band director know as soon as possible. If your instrument must go in for repair, hold on to your mouthpiece so you can borrow a school instrument while waiting for repairs to be completed.
- * **Do not** put valve oil on the slide.
- * Periodically use a lint free rag to wipe your slide clean, then apply and work in some slide cream. Then use a spray bottle to add lubrication. The spray should be used before you begin playing and added any time the slide becomes resistant during a rehearsal.
- * **Be careful with your instrument !!** Every time you add a dent to your instrument you change its intonation and resistance which makes it harder to play. Handle it with care. The slide is especially sensitive to dents and misalignment. The slightest change to the slide will make it difficult to move.
- * Your instrument is an amplifier for your mouthpiece. See your band director for advice on mouthpiece choices. Periodically use a mouthpiece brush to make certain it is fully open and clear of debris. If you drop your mouthpiece and it develops a bend in the shank (the part that enters your instrument), see your band director to straighten it out.
- * Once a year, take your instrument apart and clean it using a trombone snake and lukewarm water.

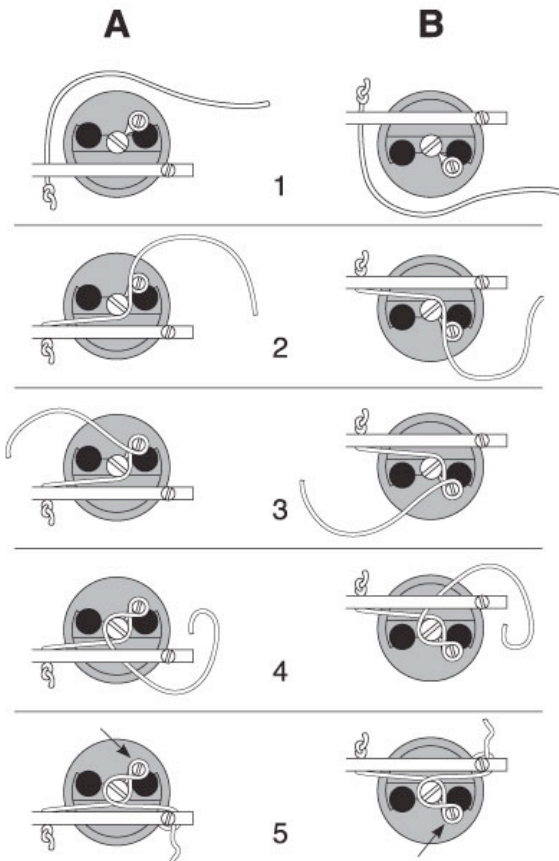
Tuba and Euphonium

- * **Before purchasing an instrument, ask your band director for advice.**
- * Do not eat or drink while playing. The starch in your saliva will build up in your instrument. Besides being disgusting, it will also make your valves stick. If you have just had a meal or drink prior to playing, you should brush your teeth or rinse your mouth out with water. **NO GUM**
- * Do not wear lip balm or lipstick when playing your instrument.
- * Do not hit your mouthpiece to secure it into place. It does not need any force when put into place.
- * Do not allow others to play your instrument.
- * Empty your spit valves before putting your instrument away.
- * When not being held your Tuba should be in its case or a stand. If the instrument must be placed on a table it should be placed laying down. **Never place your tuba or euphonium standing from its bell!!** Even though it may be stable, it will scratch and crease the bell. it can be knocked over and the bell can easily be stepped on or kicked.
- * Do not place your music or folder on top of the instrument in your case.
- * Make sure the mouthpiece is secure in its designated slot. Do not allow it to bounce around inside your case.
- * If your instrument is not functioning optimally, let your band director know as soon as possible. If your instrument must go in for repair, hold on to your mouthpiece so you can borrow a school instrument while waiting for repairs to be completed.
- * Do not put valve oil on the valves from the bottom holes. Remove the valve half way and place a few drops on each valve. After securing the valve into its slot, turn the valve clockwise until you hear a click.
- * Each valve is designed to function in its designated slot. If you have trouble playing, you may have accidentally changed the order. Check your valve for a number on it to correspond with its appropriate slot.
- * Every slide should move freely. Move every slide weekly and add slide grease as necessary. If your slide becomes stiff even after greasing, it may need to be cleaned. See your band director for assistance.
- * When removing a slide, press its corresponding valve to prevent pressure build up within the slide.
- * Be careful with your instrument !! Every time you add a dent to your instrument you change its intonation and resistance which makes it harder to play. Handle it with care.
- * Your instrument is an amplifier for your mouthpiece. See your band director for advice on mouthpiece choices. Periodically use a mouthpiece brush to make certain it is fully open and clear of debris. If you drop your mouthpiece and it develops a bend in the shank (the part that enters your instrument), see your band director to straighten it out.
- * Once a year, take your instrument apart and clean it using a tuba snake and lukewarm water.

Rotary valves (images from paxman.co.uk)



The valve oil is placed through the slide. Do this by pressing the corresponding valve and removing the slide. Then press a few drops and repeatedly press the valve to work in the oil. Give it a bit of time to allow the oil to work its way down to the valve. Valve oil should be used every two weeks or so. The other oiling points should be oiled as necessary.



A shows a top view and **B** shows a bottom view. See your band director for assistance.