



STAR BAND

TROMBONE MAINTENANCE

Part of being a good musician means knowing how to care for your instrument. If you follow the directions below, your trombone will stay in great shape and play beautiful music for a very, very long time. Always ask your band director if you notice something is not working correctly. NEVER attempt to fix something yourself!

DAILY:

YOU WILL NEED: Tuning slide grease, Rag.

Wipe down your trombone, inside and out.

- Grease your slide if it is slow and empty your spit valve (water key).
- Move the tuning slide so it does not freeze over time. Apply grease if needed.
- Carefully place the instrument in the case, checking for weak or broken case latches.

WEEKLY:

YOU WILL NEED: Soft cloth (lint-free), Mouthpiece brush, 1 drop of dish soap, sink.

Wipe down your trombone, inside and out.

- Take an extra moment to gently wipe down the outside of your trombone. This will remove excessive oil and fingerprints and help keep the trombone dirt- and dust-free.

Wash your mouthpiece.

- Squeeze one drop of dish soap into the mouthpiece.
- Use your mouthpiece brush to make the soap bubble and scrub away any gunk that has collected in your mouthpiece.
- Wash the mouthpiece and swab under warm water (not too hot!) until the water runs clear.
- Carefully dry everything and put the pieces back in your case.

MONTHLY:

YOU WILL NEED: Mouthpiece brush, Dish soap, Sink or bathtub, 3 towels, Baking soda (optional), Tuning slide grease, 30 minutes.

- Place a towel in the bottom of your bath tub and draw a bath of warm water.
- Add dish soap to the water. Optional: place baking soda in the water to take away smells.
- Take trombone apart.
- Place trombone in water. Make sure water is in every piece.
- Let the trombone soak for 5-10 minutes.
- Clean out the pipes and any other openings on the body of your trombone with a cleaning snake. Run it through a few times. You should see gunk come out in clouds or chunks!
- Also scrub the slides and bell. Some sections are easier if you use a wash cloth.
- Rinse thoroughly. Residual soap gums-up the trombone valves (and tastes bad!).
- Dry trombone and all slides.
- Put the slide grease on the slides (a little goes a long ways).