

Zephyr
band instruments

CARE & MAINTENANCE
Trombone

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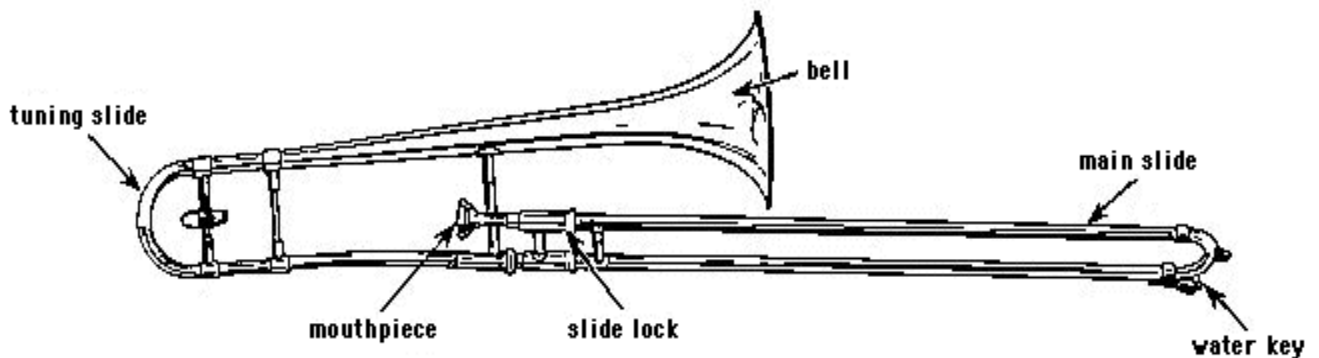
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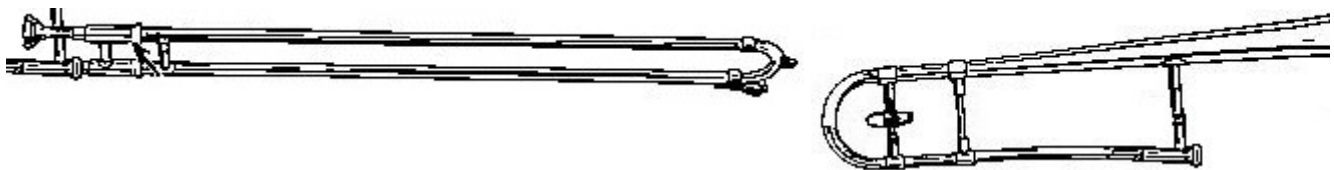
Care and Maintenance

Trombone

Parts



The trombone consists of two main sections: the *hand slide* and the *bell section*



The Hand Slide

The hand slide consists of the inside slide tubes and the outside slide tubes. These are two pairs of 4 tubes which must be absolutely parallel and without dents, bends, twist etc. in order to move freely inside each other. If you bump the slide or twist it out of alignment you will damage the slide and it will not function properly. It will be hard to move freely and will need to be repaired. This is why extra caution will have to be taken to protect the hand slide from any damage.

The Bell Section

The bell section consists of the bell and the tuning slide (not to be confused with the hand slide). The tuning slide tunes the trombone and is something found on all brass instruments.

Assembly and Care of the Trombone

The trombone is one of the most delicate of musical instruments. It cannot be built heavy enough to withstand bumps and falls and still be light enough for effortless performance. The outer slide of any trombone has the lightest metal of any musical instrument, ranging from .007 to about .012 of an inch thickness. When it is realized that this is only three to four times the thickness of a human hair, it will be clear why a trombone should always be handled carefully, protected against bumps and falls, and placed in its case when not in use.

Assembling the Instrument

The first step in assembling the instrument is to lubricate the slides. This should be done every day when breaking in a trombone, then as needed.

There are two ways a slide may be lubricated. A few drops of slide oil may be put on the upper and lower portions of the inner slides. Wipe the inner slides clean of dirt with a lint-free cloth anytime before applying oil. Work the slide back and forth so the oil spreads evenly over the entire slide.



More advanced players use slide cream and a spray bottle to lubricate the slide. Starting with a clean slide, apply a small amount of cream to each stocking on the inner slide being careful to cover the entire area. Wipe off any excess with a lint-free cloth. Spray the inner slide with water until a light mist covers the entire slide. Insert each inner slide into its outer separately and work it back and forth with a rotary motion. This will allow the lubricant to work into the pores of the metal.

Both of these lubricating methods allow the slide to work easily and provide necessary protection against corrosion and 'freezing'. Be sure never to mix slide oil with slide cream - the two methods of lubrication cannot be used together.

Inserting the Mouthpiece

Gently place the mouthpiece into the receiver and twist lightly to seat it properly. Do not force the mouthpiece by hitting it with the palm of the hand as this can cause the mouthpiece to become stuck or 'frozen'. * An easy twisting motion is all that is necessary to insure a firm fit. If you get the mouthpiece stuck ***do not try to remove it yourself***. Take it to a repair shop. They have a special mouthpiece remover tool that will remove the mouthpiece without breaking the instrument.

Cleaning the Instrument Interior

The most critical points of the slide trombone are the slides, mouthpiece, and mouthpiece. When dirt or foreign matter of any kind is allowed to accumulate in any one of these parts, it can hinder the ease of playing and adversely affect tone quality and intonation. The mouthpiece should be thoroughly washed and cleaned daily using a mouthpiece brush to make sure there are no accumulations in the back bore. The tuning slide in the bell section should be removed and cleaned several times a year depending on the amount of playing. First - run warm water (NEVER HOT) through the slide. Work the slide vigorously to loosen the accumulations of dirt and dry lubricant.



Second, separate the slide and bell sections, rinse thoroughly, drain, and wipe exposed surfaces with a soft, lint-free cloth.

The Slide

Use a trombone "snake" or Trumpet/Cornet (shown) cleaning rod to clean rod and a piece of clean cloth about 12" square. One corner of the cloth should be inserted through the eye of the cleaning rod and the remainder rolled around the shank of the cleaning rod. Wipe out the inside of the tubes until the cloth comes out clean. If difficulty is encountered in inserting the swab into the tuning slide tubes unroll some of the cloth around the cleaning rod until it fits the slide tubing snugly.

To clean the main slide assembly, use a trombone cleaning rod and a piece of soft, clean cloth 6" wide by 78" long. Cheesecloth is acceptable. For removing accumulation from inside the slide bow, the easiest method is the use of a flexible cleaning brush.



This is inserted into the outer slide tube, pushed through the bow until the other end appears from the opposite slide tube, and then pulled on through. This operation should be repeated until brushes come through clean.

The inner slide is cleaned the same as the outer except a smaller amount of cloth should be used to fill the tube. If, by accident, the cloth becomes bunched and locked just past the stocking, rotate the looped handle of the swab until it can be pulled out.



Cleaning the Exterior

After playing, wipe fingerprints and other marks off the outside of the instrument carefully with a soft, dry cloth. This removes perspiration which can damage lacquer and metal.

In order to keep the finish on the instrument looking bright and new, wipe carefully with a polishing cloth developed especially for lacquered finishes. Do not use commercial metal polishes on lacquered instruments as they will damage the lacquer and expose metal to air and cause it to tarnish.

Special Instructions

- * Always hold a trombone by the outside hand-slide brace when not playing.
- * Extra care should be taken not to damage the slide. Do not press hard with a cleaning or polishing cloth because trombone slides are supported at the end of the inner slide. For this reason even comparatively light pressure can be enough to spring the tubing and cause the slides to bind and drag.
- * Never strike or bump the slide against anything that will bend or dent it impairing its action.
- * When using a mute, set carefully so as not to dent the bell of the instrument.

The brass used in manufacturing musical instruments is relatively soft. It is alloyed, not for rigidity and strength, but to produce the best tone. All brass instruments can be easily dented. A dent alters the tone and when a dent is removed it changes the metal affecting the quality.

If any time you feel the instrument needs maintenance or repair, it is a good idea to take it to a professional repair technician. Doing it yourself can damage the instrument.

Special Care of the Trombone

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