

**Zephyr**  
band instruments

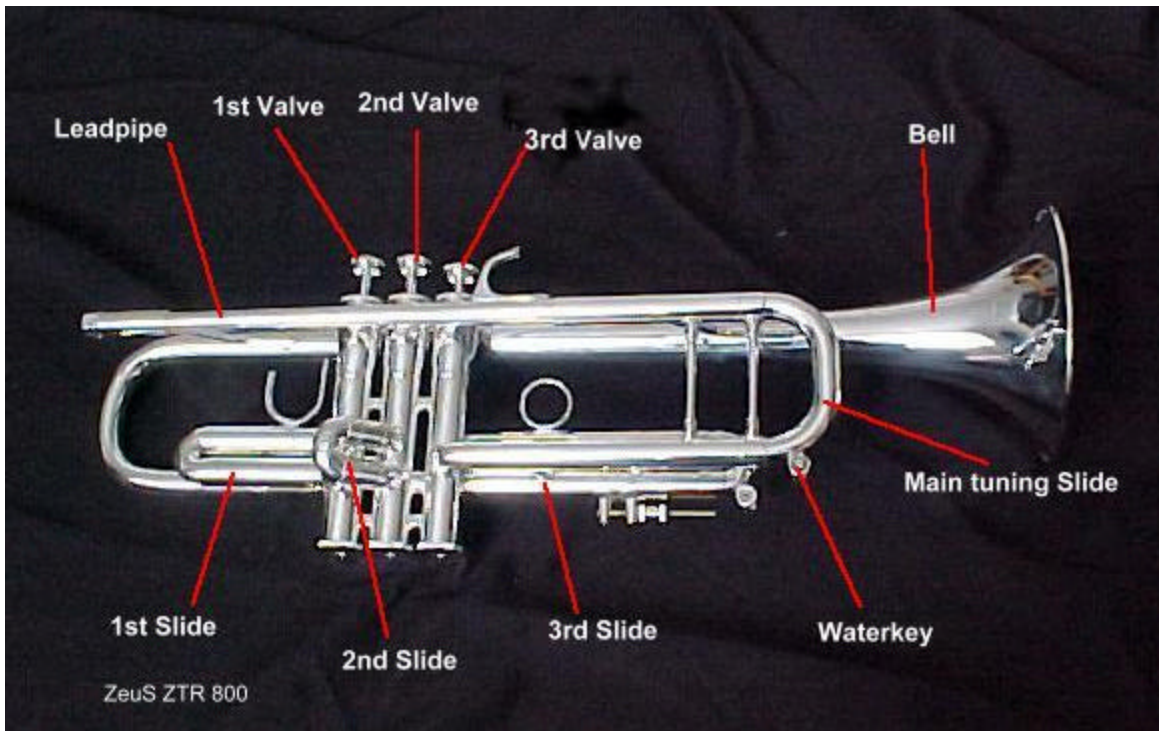
**CARE & MAINTENANCE**  
**Trumpet**

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# Care and Maintenance

## Trumpet



## ACCESSORIES

Valve oil and slide grease are needed to play the trumpet. Its good to have a mouthpiece brush to clean the mouthpiece and cloth to clean the outside of the trumpet. If the trumpet is silver-plated you'll need a specially treated silver polishing cloth. A swab or "snake" is also recommended to clean the inside of the instrument.

### Valve oil

Valve oil has three purposes: it cleans, lubricates, and it fills air space.

An un-oiled piston will wear faster than a regularly oiled piston. Oil also flushes out any small debris and dirt that gets in between the valve and walls of the valve casing. A layer of oil will also fill the small gap between the valve and the casing, reducing any air leakage, making your trumpet more efficient.

## OILING THE VALVES - do this about 2 times a week.



Hold your trumpet exactly like you would when playing it but hold it at a 45 degree angle downward. Unscrew the top cap and lift the valve only half way out of the casing. Do not remove it completely.

Put about 5 drops of valve oil on the valve surface. Spread the oil around by rotating the valve up and down and around in the casing. Let the valve fall into the casing all the way down. Turn the valve until you hear a click, indicating that the valve guide has fallen in the right space. This aligns the valve with all the ports.

(The valve guide is a small plastic piece located under the valve spring. This valve guide must snap into a little notch inside the casing. When it does, the valve will be

perfectly aligned. You will know when the valve guide is in the right place because you will feel and hear a click and the valve will not rotate any longer.



## **GREASING THE SLIDES**

*do this about once a month*

### **Why do you have to grease the slides you ask.**

If you do not lubricate the slides the mineral deposits from saliva will literally weld the tubes together and you are looking at an expensive repair and acid bath to mobilize them again. This is how you get "stuck slides".

Your trumpet dries out and all that remains are the deposits. You will not be able to remove these deposits with any soap or water or any cleaning kit. It must be removed by acid at a professional repair shop.

To avoid all this hassle and expense, all you have to do is grease the slides. In case you are too lazy to grease the slides and you feel that you are handy anyway will have not trouble pulling out the stuck slides with some tools from the garage, you will be in for an unpleasant surprise. You will tear your trumpet apart. There is a chance that you will rip apart all the solder joints. If you grease your slides regularly they will never get stuck. If you are lazy or forget and your slides get stuck, take your trumpet to a trusted repair technician and the clever repair tech should be able to remove the slides without any damage. In the worst case scenario some slides get stuck so bad that the slides themselves have to be unsoldered and the individual pieces of slide tubing have to be removed independently piece by piece.

**DON'T FORGET TO GREASE YOUR SLIDES!**



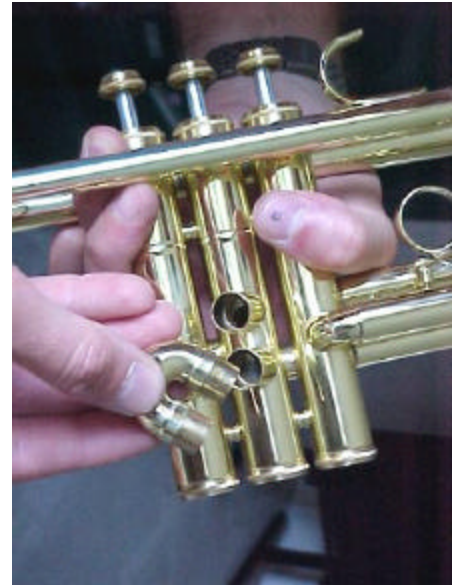
## How to grease your slides!

*(Do this about once a month)*

There are two types of slides on your trumpet. We'll refer to them as the *slow slides* and *fast slides*. Slow slides are designed to move slowly and placed in one position like your main tuning slide. Fast slides are designed as fine tuning slides and are designed to move fast to fine tune your trumpet while playing. You activate them with your finger so they must be free to move easily and quickly while you play sweet music. Therefore you **grease anything that is meant to move slowly** and **oil anything that is meant to move fast**. If you grease anything that is meant to move fast, you will slow it down. Grease is thick like molasses and slows everything down. Valve oil is very thin and has the consistency of water, therefore it makes everything move fast.

### Greasing "slow slides"

Remember these are "slow slides", so you must grease them, not oil them. Take the slides out every month and put a thin coat of grease on the tubes and slide them back in place. You can buy tuning slide grease at most music stores for just a few dollars. You can even use Vaseline.



**Here is how you grease your slides** - Remember you do this to all the slides with the exception (on some trumpets) of maybe the 1st and 3rd valve slides, which are designed to be fast moving, so you put oil on them. Remember?.

**Remove the slide** - Put a layer of messy and sticky slide grease on the slide. Spread it around with your fingers.

Yes your fingers will get all greasy. Replace the slide tube.

With your fingers wipe off any excess grease that squeezes out after you insert the slide. Use this excess to put on the next slide. Do the same thing with the next slide.



### **Oiling "fast slides"**

These are usually the 1st and/or 3rd valve slides. On many trumpets the 1st and 3rd valve slides are designed to be a fast moving, fine tuning slide. This is why you have a finger ring on it, so that you can move it while playing with your finger. On better quality trumpets these slide are made to move freely and if you want to retain this function then you do not put grease on it, since grease will sow it down. Instead you put oil on it. Remember anything you want to move fast on a trumpet you put oil on it, anything you want to move slow or leave in a certain position, you put grease on it. So if you want to retain the quick movement of the 1st and 3rd slides then put a drop of oil on each slide tube of the 1st and 3rd slides every time you oil the valves. Always press down on the corresponding valve to move the slide and when spreading the oil around since there is vacuum inside the trumpet.

### **NOTE:**

If you are a beginner or have only played for a few years, chances are you will not be using your 1st and 3rd fast moving, fine-tuning slides. Therefore, its a good idea if you grease them and just make them into slow slides, since you are not using their fast slide capabilities anyway. The choice is yours what you want to do. Sometimes its just

easier to grease every slide the same way.

**As long as you oil and grease it regularly, you will not need to do anything else and your trumpet will be happy.**

### **Amado Waterkey Maintenance**

These days many trumpets have Amado waterkeys instead of the traditional "spitvalves" (I always thought that was a crude name). Amado waterkeys are actually small valves that open and close if pressed on. The tolerances are quite tight inside these gismos and there is a tiny spring inside of them. So, needless to say, don't take them apart because you will never find the small parts and even if you do, you will never be able to put them all back. Mineral deposits from saliva, just like on any other internal part of your trumpet will jam or freeze the Amado waterkeys. This is why Amado waterkeys should never be allowed to dry out. They should always be oiled.

Just put a drop of oil in the actual waterkey hole and around the small waterkey button. Put another drop on the other side of the Amado waterkey as well. A total of 3 drops of oil once a month will do the trick and you will never curse Mr. Amado for his invention. After oiling each Amado waterkey in these three places, work in the oil by pressing the button a number of times.

You are probably wondering what type of oil to use. NOT VALVE OIL. It must be thicker oil. Motor oil is perfect. You can also use woodwind key oil.

## **Cleaning your trumpet**

### **CLEANING CLOTH**

Wipe the outside of your trumpet after use with a cloth. If you have a silver trumpet use a silver polishing cloth. This process is very important especially with silver instruments. The acids in your hands can deteriorate finishes. Wiping the instrument after playing doesn't take much time and will always keep your trumpet looking new.

### **MOUTHPIECE BRUSH**

Using a mouthpiece brush to clean your mouthpiece is a good idea. Food particles from your mouth can collect, enter the trumpet and eventually work their way to the valves slowing piston action.

### **TRUMPET SNAKE**

A trumpet snake is made out of wire with a brush on the end. Picture what the "Roto Rooter" man uses to unclog pipes - only much smaller. Every three months you should take off the slides and use the snake. It will help remove mineral deposits inside walls of the tubing. Not cleaning the tubes could lead to the deposits being permanently fused to the inside of the tubes. If this happens you must have it acid cleaned by a professional. Fused deposits inside your trumpet are like the hard mineral deposits on your bathroom walls, water alone will not remove mineral deposits, only acid will.

Most of the time if your valves and slides don't function it's not due to lack of cleaning but due to mechanical problems

such as worn valves, dented slides, dented or twisted valve casings etc. Remember your trumpet is made of metal but its soft brass, which bends and dents very easily. There is very close tolerance between the valves and the valve casing which the valves are inserted into and move inside of. If you get just the slightest dent in the casing your valves will not be able to move inside. If your valve casing twists the casings go out of round, your valves will jam.

### **How to Clean Properly**

This is the best way to clean valves.



Valve casing brushes are made to clean valves. But here's something cheaper and easier. Go to a Chinese restaurant and steel a chopstick. Preferably a wooden one. These are absolutely perfect for the job since they have a rectangular surface on one end where you wrap a piece of cloth on it. Wrap the cloth around the thicker square end of the chopstick and then fold the cloth over the top.



Insert it into the valve casing, spin it around and move up and down.





Do the same thing from the top. Insert the cloth from the top of the valve casing. After this your valve casing will be unbelievably clean.

You can also take a cloth and clean the surface of your valves as well. You can even clean in the valve ports in the valve itself, that's optional.

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### **THE MOUTHPIECE**

Be sure to always put your mouthpiece in its proper spot in the case and never in with your trumpet. It will smash up your instrument if it bounces around in the case.

Never try to remove your mouthpiece if it gets stuck. Take it to a repair shop that has a special tool for this purpose. The mouthpiece shaft is tapered and so is the leadpipe that the mouthpiece is inserted. When you want to put the mouthpiece in the leadpipe just drop it in and an easy twist of the mouthpiece will do it. To remove, twist the other way while pulling out gently.

Don't drop the mouthpiece into the leadpipe and "tap" the mouthpiece with your hand. You will most likely jam the tapered mouthpiece shaft into the opposite tapered leadpipe. Again - if this happens DO NOT try any remove the mouthpiece - only a mouthpiece puller is going to do the job.

### **THE BELL**

Never stand your trumpet up on its bell. It will fall over and get damaged. When you are not playing the trumpet, put it in the case or use a trumpet stand.

### **Polishing Your Trumpet Lacquered Instrument**

Do not shine the outside of the trumpet using any polish. Did you know that there is a clear coat of lacquer on your instrument? You will only scratch off this lacquer and destroy the appearance of the instrument. With the lacquer scratched off, the instrument will tarnish like crazy and it will look awful. Use a polishing cloth designed for lacquered instruments.

### **Silver Plated Instruments**

Do not use any silver polish on silver plated instruments. Silver polish is an abrasive which is somewhat like sandpaper. You will wear through the silver plating. You will also get some polish residue left behind in hard to reach areas and your instruments will look bad. You may also get this polish into your valve casings and then you will be in trouble.

If you really must shine up your silver trumpet, the best thing to do is buy a *silver cleaning cloth*. Silver cloths are impregnated with some mild polish called "rouge".

