

Baritone and Tuba Care and Maintenance

Updated 2013

Supplies:

1. Valve oil
2. Tuning slide cream
3. Mouthpiece brush
4. "Snake" cleaning tool
5. Clean rag

Before You Play:

1. Always rinse out your mouth with water
2. Make sure your hands are clean
3. Make sure the case has the correct side up when opening it.

After You Play

1. Empty the water from all water keys before putting the instrument away.

Once a Week (or as needed):

1. Apply valve oil to the valves. Do one valve at a time:
 - Unscrew the top of the valve casing (not the top pearl keys!) and pull the valve out.
 - Apply 4 - 6 drops of oil on the valve, avoiding the holes in the valve.
 - Insert the valve back into the casing, making sure that the valve guide is lined up with the "notch" in the interior of the valve casing.
 - Once it's lined up, check it to make sure the valve doesn't turn right or left.
 - Screw the top of the valve casing back on and push the valve 10 - 15 times to work the oil into the valve.
2. Clean the mouthpiece out with a mouthpiece brush under warm running water. Make sure the brush is wet before putting it in the mouthpiece.

Once a Month:

1. Remove the tuning slide (carefully!) and clean the interior of the lead pipe and turning slide with the "snake" brush under running water. Make sure the brush is wet before putting it into the lead pipe.
2. Remove all the slides to apply new slide grease. Before applying a thin layer of grease, wipe off the old grease with a clean rag.
3. Remove fingerprints from the exterior of the instrument with a polishing cloth.

Once a Year:

1. Take the instrument into the music store to have a technician sonic clean the interior of the instrument, check the valve alignment, check the cork on the water key, and remove dents.

WARNING:

1. NEVER leave anything extra (book, papers, music) on top of your instrument in the case when you close the lid. This can cause significant damage. Keep your book in its own folder.
2. NEVER leave your instrument unattended. Make sure it's in the case, resting on the floor or on a stand.
3. Secure your mouthpiece inside the case. If you let it rattle around it can cause dents.