

IMPORTANT FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Care of Trombones

THE MOUTHPIECE

A mouthpiece that is not cleaned often not only becomes unsanitary but the bore becomes smaller and this affects the tone. The mouthpiece can be easily cleaned by using regular dish soap, warm water and a small brush (available at the music store). Under running warm water, place a small amount of soap on the brush and run it through the mouthpiece a few times. Then rinse thoroughly. This should be done at least once a week.

THE SLIDE

Because of the size and construction of the trombone, it requires more care and attention than any of the other brass instruments. Even the smallest dent in the hand slide makes the instrument very difficult to play. For this reason, you will need lots of room when you practice so that you won't bump the slide into any objects.

As soon as possible obtain a container of slide cream (either from your teacher or the music store) and instructions on how to lubricate the slide properly. First, pull the inner slide completely out and lay it gently in the bathtub. Wash it with dish detergent and warm water. Make sure to rinse it thoroughly and dry it with a cotton rag. Clean the outer slide with a snake-type brush (available from your teacher or the music store) and warm water and dish detergent. Again, rinse it completely before setting it aside. Apply just a little slide cream on the bottom part of the inner slide tube (where it gets slightly larger; this is called the stocking). Use your hand to work it in and up the slide until it is no longer visible. Then, spray a little water on the slide (with a spray bottle obtained from your teacher or the music store) before sliding back into the outer hand slide. Do this as soon as the slide starts to get sluggish, as often once or twice a week. DO NOT use any creams or oils not designed specifically for the trombone. Other oils may cause the slide to become slow and sluggish.

PREVENTING TROUBLE

1. If, for any reason, the mouthpiece becomes stuck, DO NOT attempt to pull it out with pliers or other tools. Rather, bring the trumpet to the music store or your band director who has a special tool designed for this job.
2. Always keep the flute in the case when not in use!
3. Do not carry books, pencils or other items in the case which could damage your instrument.
4. At home, after playing, open the case for about an hour so the flute can dry thoroughly. Be sure to put your instrument out of reach of any little brothers or sisters.