

Instrument Maintenance Schedule

FRENCH HORN

(and rotary valve tuba)



Congratulations on the purchase of your new instrument. To ensure continuing trouble-free performance we recommend you maintain it on a regular basis. This will also minimize the possibility of large future repair bills, and maximize your instrument's resale value should you later wish to upgrade it.

Each time you finish playing

- Empty moisture from the instrument by removing all slides and shaking them out;
- Wipe down the outside of the instrument with a lacquer/silver cloth or duster (depending on the finish of your instrument) to remove handling marks (the acid contained in perspiration damages the finish);
- Remove moisture from the mouthpiece with a lint-free cloth (e.g. a handkerchief), and replace in its pouch or case (never leave the mouthpiece in an instrument).

Each week

- Apply two or three drops of rotor bearing oil to both the top and bottom bearings;
- If applicable, apply two or three drops of linkage oil to both ends of linkages;
- Check that all slides move freely, applying a sparing amount of lubricant if required (tuning slide grease should be used on all slides);
- Check the top valve cover for free movement, applying lubricant as required.

Each month

- Clean mouthpiece in lukewarm soapy water (liquid detergent) using a mouthpiece brush.

Additional maintenance

Every two to four months (depending on use) dismantle instrument by removing all slides (keeping them in order); wash the instrument though with lukewarm water only (no detergent) using a flexible brush on the mouthpiece and slides. Towel dry the outside. Re-apply lubricants as per weekly schedule. Clean the slides with a flexible brush and lukewarm water, lubricate and refit. Polish the outside of the instrument with a lacquer/silver cloth or duster.

Servicing

We recommend your instrument in serviced annually in our fully equipped workshop. A service includes full clean and polish (including rotors and rotor casings), renewal of all consumable parts, and removal of minor accessible dents. Please contact the workshop directly on 01494 685137 to arrange an appointment.

Recommended accessories

Cleaning equipment:

- Silver/lacquer cloth or duster
- Mouthpiece brush
- Flexible cleaning brush

Lubricants/consumables:

- Rotor oil
- Rotor bearing oil
- Rotor linkage oil
- Tuning slide grease

Miscellaneous:

- Mouthpiece wallet
- Instrument stand