

Tuba Maintenance

Presented by KBI Music Shoppe

Guidance for you and your parents!!!

A Tuba is a big responsibility and will require a lot of special attention to keep it in working condition! Remember you are in charge of taking good care of this instrument as it is your new responsibility! It is recommended that only people who have musical training to assemble, play, or clean your instrument!



Never EVER EVER EVER

- 1. Use hot water to clean your Tuba!**
- 2. Push or twist your mouthpiece into the lead pipe!**
- 3. Try to "muscle" the valve cap, slide or mouthpiece. The metal bends easily!!**
- 4. Set the instrument on the bell or 2nd valve slide!**
- 5. Take the valves apart!**
- 6. If your mouthpiece gets stuck don't try and fix it yourself! Bring it to your local music shop or teacher to use a mouthpiece puller!**



Daily Care:

- 1. Valves need to be lubricated regularly. To do this: (a) unscrew the valve cap and pull the valve about halfway out. (b) apply a few drops of valve oil. (c) twist valve back and forth to spread the oil. (d) push valve back into position and tighten valve cap. (NOTE: on most instruments there is a valve guide to help. On others, there is a number engraved in the valve. If you are holding the instrument with the mouthpiece facing you, you should be able to see the number.) DO NOT OVER-TIGHTEN THE VALVE CAP!**
- 2. If your mouthpiece gets stuck, there is a special "mouthpiece puller". Do not try to pull it off; you can cause serious damage to the instrument. A gentle twist is all that is needed to free the mouthpiece. DO NOT USE PLIERS!**
- 3. When you are done playing, remove moisture from the inside of the instrument by blowing through the instrument while pressing the water keys. Wipe off the outside of the instrument to remove oil and perspiration from your hands.**
- 4. Always store your instrument in your case. Do not put anything else inside your case, this can cause damage.**

Monthly Care:

- 1. Check all of your slides to make sure that they move easily!**

Yearly Care:

Regular monthly care can eliminate the need for yearly care, but music shops can give your instrument a chemical cleaning that will give your instrument a more thorough cleaning!