

## HOW TO GIVE YOUR INSTRUMENT A BATH

(Note – Brass instruments only!!)

First, you will need:

- Warm (NOT Hot) Water
- Dish soap (NOT detergent)
- Towels (Dish towels work best)
- Cleaning snake
- Mouthpiece brush
- Slide grease
- Valve Oil
- Slide Cream (trombones only)

1. Fill a tub or sink with warm water and add a few drops of dish soap.
2. Set a towel down to put your instrument parts on.
3. Pull out all valve and tuning slides and set them on a towel. (Hint – keeping them in the same order will help you to put them back correctly.)
4. Trumpets, Baritones, Tubas – carefully remove each valve and set them on the towel. Also, remove the bottom valve caps and set on the towel.
5. Place each piece of your instrument in the water. Use the cleaning snake on all tubing by pushing it in a little, then pulling out, and then pushing in some more. This will keep it from getting stuck – never force the cleaning snake around a tight corner.
6. Some parts may require that you use a washcloth to remove grease, or a Q-tip to get into tight areas. Use the mouthpiece brush for the mouthpiece and short lengths of tubing.
7. Place the main body of your instrument in the water and clean it – DO NOT LEAVE IT TO SOAK FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME.
8. Rinse each part completely with clear water, then dry completely with a lint-free towel (a dishtowel works well).
9. Re-grease all slides and replace them on the instrument. Re-oil valves (re-cream trombone slides) and return them to the instrument (be sure to put them back in the correct place!)

Other Hints –

Larger Instruments (Baritones and Tubas) may be washed outside with a hose. Make sure to set your instrument on a towel, and not on the grass or mud!

Be sure to blow air through the instrument after oiling it – this will circulate the oil inside and prevent rusting.

Trombones – use your cleaning snake on both parts of the main slide, and wipe off the inner slide completely.