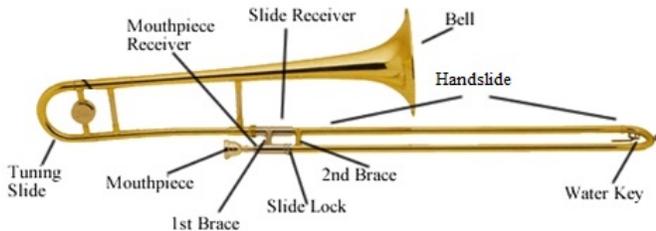


WINDWORKS

WOODWIND & BRASS REPAIRS, RENTALS, & RETAIL

Trombone Care



You've got your trombone! It's shiny and wonderful! Be careful with it, please. Remember that it is a machine with moving parts, and *could* break without proper care. Here's how to take care of it, so it lasts for a long time.

Assembling a trombone is as simple as inserting the slide into the bell's slide receiver, screwing it on, and then twisting the mouthpiece gently into the mouthpiece receiver. Be careful not to push the mouthpiece too hard into the trombone, or "pop" it with the palm of your hand or it can get stuck. If it does get stuck, don't twist it or use pliers on it, since brass is a very soft metal and can break easily. Bring it to Wind Works, (or possibly your teacher), who has a special tool for removing stuck mouthpieces.

Every couple of days, you'll want to lubricate your handslide (as it starts to feel dry or sticky). To do this, pull the slide all the way out (but not off!) and apply a thin layer of trombone slide cream to the thicker part at the end of each inner slide tube (this is called the stocking). Spray a little water on each stocking, and push the slide back in. To refresh every time you play, spray a little water on the stockings. If your slide still feels sticky or grabs at a certain point, your slide may have dents and you'll need to bring it in to Wind Works. You will also want to apply a thin layer of slide grease (different than trombone slide cream) to your tuning slide.

After you are done playing for the day, empty your spit valve, and wipe down the exterior of your instrument with a soft cloth or treated polishing cloth. Avoid using Brasso, Silvo, or other cleaners on your horn, since they can break down the lacquer and cause your trombone to discolor. A good polish cloth recommended by your music store will accomplish what you're looking for.

Once a month clean your mouthpiece thoroughly. Soak it in a cup of warm (not hot) water for half an hour, and then brush it out with a mouthpiece brush. Wash your instrument every month or so. Use lukewarm water (hot water can strip the lacquer) and a little liquid dish soap. Use a "snake" to clean the slide and other tubing. After cleaning, grease the slide and tuning slide very well.

Once a year, bring your trombone in to the repair shop for a bath in the ultrasonic cleaner. This removes any residues and keeps your trombone in top condition. Vacuum out the inside of the case every few months or when visibly dirty.

Your trombone case is designed to hold the trombone and small accessories. If something doesn't fit in the pocket of your case, it should be kept somewhere else. Laying music books or folders or sheet music can put too much pressure on slide, and can actually dent the outer slide, so those are better kept in an outside pocket or a backpack.

Always keep your trombone in the case or on a trombone stand when you are not playing, so that you prevent it from being sat on or falling off a stand or chair.

Enjoy your new trombone! Call us at 360-733-5840 if you have any questions about how to take care of it. We are always happy to talk.