

IMPORTANT FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Care of Baritones & Euphoniums

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 SLIDES

AFTER you have received instructions from your teacher, the slides should be removed, cleaned with a snake-type brush (also available at the music store) and dish soap, dried and greased with slide grease (or vaseline) before being replaced. Squirting a teaspoon of valve oil in to the leadpipe (part that holds the mouthpiece) once every month will help to prevent corrosion in the tubing.

THE VALVES

As soon as possible obtain a bottle of valve oil (either from your teacher or the music store) and begin to oil the valves regularly. Unscrew the top cap, pull the valve straight out and apply the oil to the side of the exposed valve core, around the holes. Use plenty of oil — you can't "over-oil" a valve. DO NOT use ANY OIL unless it is designed especially for valve instruments. Other oils may cause the valves to become sticky.

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 instrument to the music store or your band director who has a special tool designed for this job.
2. Always keep the instrument 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 instrument can dry thoroughly. Be sure to put your instrument out of reach of any little brothers or sisters.
5. If you have any problems concerning your instrument, see your music teacher, the music store representative, or have your parents call the music store.