

Cleaning Guide for FRENCH HORN

I. MOUTHPIECE

- a. Materials – liquid dishwashing soap (Dawn, Ivory, Palmolive, etc.), warm water, mouthpiece brush, wash cloth, isopropyl alcohol or hydrogen peroxide
- b. Procedure
 - i. Fill a small bowl with warm soapy water.
 - ii. Put the mouthpiece in the bowl and let it soak for a few minutes.
 - iii. Scrub the inside of the mouthpiece with the mouthpiece brush.
 - iv. Wash the outside of the mouthpiece with the washcloth.
 - v. Rinse with clean water.
 - vi. Wipe down or soak mouthpiece in alcohol or hydrogen peroxide
 - vii. Let the mouthpiece air dry in a safe place.

II. BODY

- a. Materials – liquid dishwashing soap; wire snake (optional); washcloth; clean towels.
- b. Procedure – This is to be done in the bathtub.
 - i. Fill the bathtub with warm (not too hot) soapy water.
 - ii. Pull the tuning slide out, and then carefully put the tuning slide in the tub.
 - iii. Remove each valve slide, and then carefully put each one of these in the tub.
 - iv. Carefully put the body in the tub. If the water does not cover the entire bell, add more water to the tub.
 - v. Let all parts soak for at least 20 minutes.
 - vi. If you have a wire snake, run the snake through all of the parts: the valve slides, the tuning slide, the slide receivers, and the lead pipe. Be very careful as you pick up each part and return it to the tub that you do not bump one of the other parts.
 - vii. Using the washcloth, carefully wash the outside of all of the parts, returning each to the tub as you finish. Drain the water from the tub.
 - viii. Turn on the cold water. Run water through the tuning slide, dry it off with a clean towel, and put it down on a towel. Follow this same procedure with each of the three valve slides.
 - ix. Run water through all of the openings in the body, rinse off the outside, and dry it off with a clean towel.

III. RE-ASSEMBLING

- a. Materials – Vaseline or tuning slide grease, valve oil
- b. Body and Slides
 - i. Put a thin layer of Vaseline or tuning slide grease on the tubes of the tuning slide that insert into the body.
 - ii. Insert the tuning slide into the body. Wipe away any grease that accumulates where the parts meet.
 - iii. Follow the same procedure with each valve slide.

IV. THE CASE

- a. You should clean the case each time that you clean your instrument. Remove any unnecessary items and find them another home.
- b. Thoroughly vacuum the inside of the case while the instrument is in the tub. If you keep a cloth in your case, be sure to wash it or exchange it for a clean one each time you clean your instrument.