

Fowler MS Band

Care and Feeding of the

Rotary Valve Instrument

- Your instrument case is to protect your instrument from slight scratches and minor bumps. It will NOT protect your instrument from damage if you drop the case or sit on top of the case.
- Your instrument has some type of Brand-Name/Logo Decal on the side of the case. This side must be "UP" when you open the case. Always open your case on a flat surface like the ground or a table, not on your lap.
- Always keep one hand on your instrument. If you need to set it down, put it under your chair and NOT on your seat where it can be bumped off accidentally.
- Never use abrasive cleaners on ANY part of your instrument!
(NO Brasso, NO Comet, etc.) If your instrument is "gold" in color, then it is covered in a professionally baked-on Lacquer finish! According to the repair technicians, you may wipe off the exterior with an extra soft cloth (clean cloth diapers work great) with a spray furniture cleaner like "Pledge" or "Behold."

There are two procedures that must be maintained on your instrument WEEKLY:

(1) **Oiling the valves.** Every week you should oil your valves. You must use industry standard **ROTARY** valve oil purchased from a music company, **do not** substitute other types of lubricants such as sewing machine oil, WD-40, etc. This is corrosive to the instrument. YOUR VALVES CANNOT BE REMOVED LIKE A TRUMPET OR BARITONE PLAYER- **DON'T TRY!** NOT EVEN A BAND DIRECTOR WILL EVER TAKE THEM OUT, REPAIR PROFESSIONALS ONLY!

Procedure:

- (A) On the BACK of the valve, unscrew a VALVE CAP and place a SINGLE DROP of Rotary valve oil on the tip of the rotor.
- (B) Replace the cap SLOWLY and CAREFULLY. They tend to strip easily if they are not screwed back from a LEVEL position. Don't FORCE IT!
- (C) Holding down the valve first, remove a tuning slide that leads to a valve.
- (D) Squirt liberal amounts of oil DOWN the tuning slide. Be careful, the oil can be messy and can stain clothes.
- (E) Repeat the above procedure with the other valves.

(2) **Greasing the TUNING SLIDE:** Every week you should grease your slides. If you do not, they will FREEZE and be VERY hard to remove. There are two types of Slide Grease available at a music store: The "chap stick" type and the Selmer Square bottle "pink goo". The goo works better, but is messy! Do NOT use Vaseline, or any other non-approved lubricant.

(A) Holding the valves down when you pull out a slide will make it easier to remove. Remove the slide and wipe off the old grease with an old rag. The slide may have weird colors due to the oxidization of the brass. This is not any big deal unless you have crusty, rust type material, if so, then

you should take it to a repair shop. If you clean and grease the slide each week, then this should never happen!

(B) Spread the grease over all sides of the slide and slowly put it back in. Once you get the slide back in you may need to wipe off the excess grease with the rag. Note: If the excess grease you wipe off is discolored (black or green), then you may need to start over again because the slide is still dirty with old grease/corrosion.

(C) **DO NOT** "Buff the slide" with ANY commercial agent such as a Brillo Pad, Comet, sand paper, belt sander, etc. as this will RUIN the slide and it will never fit in snugly and often "fall out". Many a parent has ruined a slide trying to be a bit too helpful in cleaning the oxidization off of the slide!!

**DUE TO THE VALVES BEING LOCKED INTO THE HORN,
NEVER GIVE YOUR INSTRUMENT A "BATH" LIKE IS
RECOMMENDED FOR VALVE INSTRUMENTS**