

Fowler MS Falcon Band

Care and Feeding of the

Trombone

- 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 man, 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."
- Always have your slide lock ON. Be sure that you watch where you are pointing the horn. Remember, you now have a 2 foot slide sticking out of your face!

There are 2-3 procedures that must be maintained on your instrument WEEKLY:

(1) **Lubricating the slide** Every week you should lubricate the slide. You must use specialized slide treatments 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.

Procedure:

(A) Remove the outter (gold) slide from the rest of the slide. Be VERY, VERY careful with the slide! It is metal against metal with only an invisible coating of grease. The slightest BUMP will dent the slide causing a required trip to the instrument repair shop. Treat the slide like it was an expensive, fragile glass tube.

(B) With an old rag, or paper towel, wipe off all the old grease from your slide

(C) Apply grease one of the two following ways:

Using Slide Cream

- (1) Clean off all the old grease with a wet rag
- (2) Put a THIN, coating of grease at the BASE of the slide (7th position).
- (3) Slowly spread the grease UP the slide with your finger.
- (4) If you can SEE the Cream on the slide, then you used TOO MUCH!

Using Slide-O-Mix (PREFERRED!)

- (1) Clean off all the old grease with a wet rag
- (2) Use the SMALL Bottle (one drop on each side of the inner slide by 7th position)
- (3) Move slide around
- (4) Use large Bottle (2-3 drops..gooey!, in 7th position)
- (5) Move slide around
- (6) sprinkle water (spray bottle) on slide & move slide

(D) IF YOU HAVE A TRIGGER TROMBONE: Squirt liberal amounts of VALVE OIL DOWN the tuning slide. Be careful, the oil can be messy and can stain clothes. ONLY use Valve oil purchased from a music company of from the band!

(2) **Greasing the TUNING SLIDE** (The one in “back” of the horn, NOT the above moving slide!): Every week you should grease your tuning slide. If you do not, it 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) 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!!

EVERY 5-6 months, give your instrument a Bath!

(1) Run a LUKE-WARM bath, full enough to cover the instrument. IF THE WATER IS TOO HOT FOR YOUR HAND IT IS TOO HOT FOR YOUR INSTRUMENT! Be careful! If the lacquer melts off, then your instrument will look rusty and will never shine again!

(2) Remove all the slides and carefully place them on a FOLDED SOFT TOWEL. Clean the slides as detailed earlier in this paper.

(3) You can use an liquid dish soap or, better, use an old tooth brush (one that you will never use in your mouth again!) and a GEL type tooth paste (non abrasive, don't use the “gritty” toothpaste like some Colgate products). Scrub the INSIDE of the slides as far as you can without getting the tooth brush stuck inside the horn. You can also use a long , coiled “snake” brush purchased from a music company to get in farther than the tooth brush will allow.

(4) Drain. Be sure that the tooth paste/soap is totally washed out of the horn before putting the slides back in. Clean your mouthpiece the same way as your instrument.