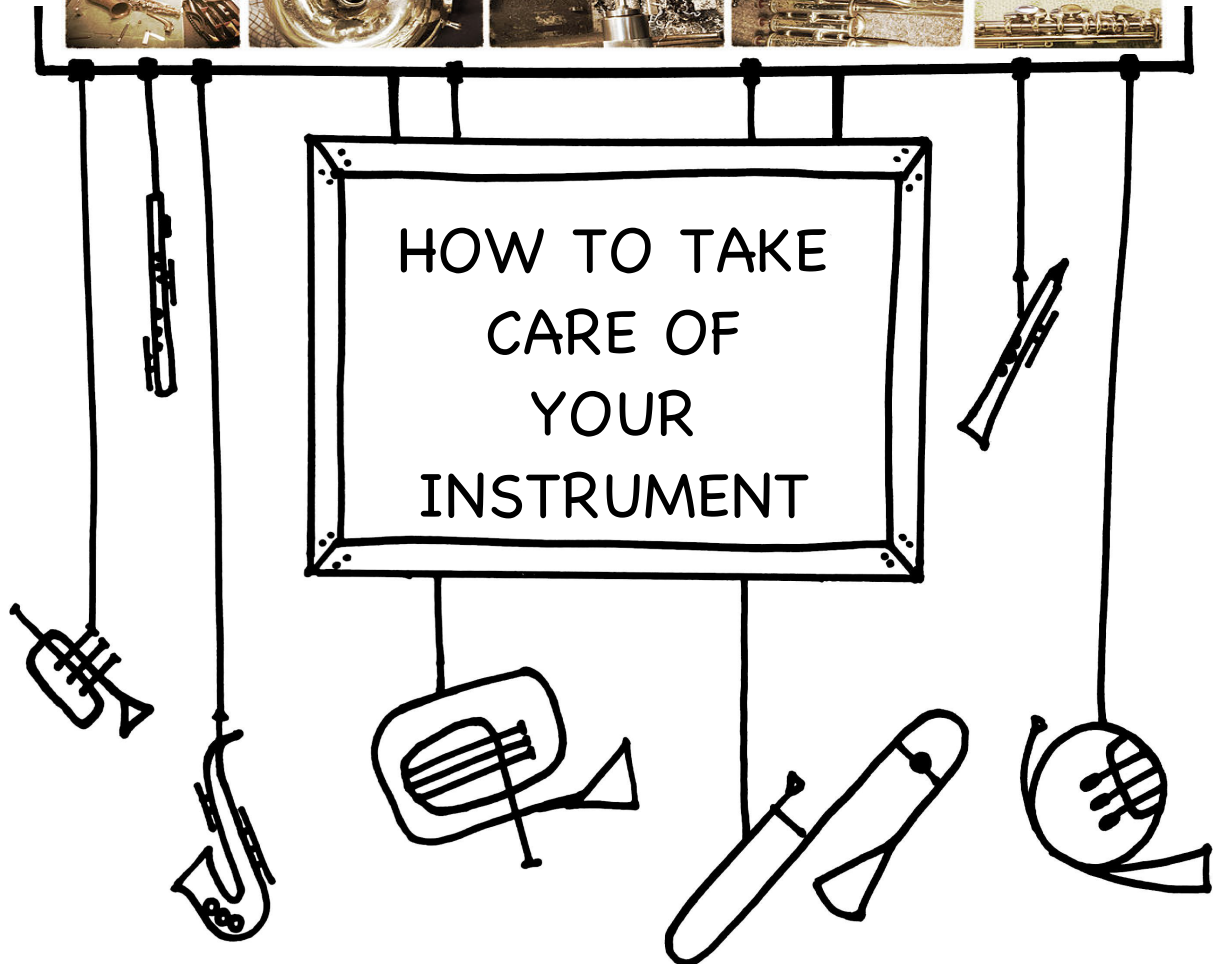


Ben Dickson

INSTRUMENT REPAIRS



Ben Dickson Instrument Repairs
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How to take care of your instrument

FLUTE

Before Playing

- When handling the joints, do not grab them by the keys
- Remove any powdery substances from the tenons of the flute with a soft cloth
- Put the joints of the flute together with a slow back and forth twisting motion

After Playing

- Use the cleaning rod to clean out the inside of the flute
- Wipe the outside of the flute to remove any sweat and oils with a polishing cloth
- Put the flute back in its case

DO NOT

- Take the flute out of the case by the keys
- Push or pull the joints in or out of the flute
- Place anything in the case that can press on the flute. This can bend the keys.
- Place the flute down with the keys facing down. Always have the keys facing upwards.

MONTHLY CARE

Check all the screws and pivots each school holiday to see if any of them are coming loose. If they are, check with your tutor or conductor to see if they need tightening.

Cleaning Equipment

- Polishing cloth
- Rod
- Spit rag

We recommend that flutes should be professionally service and cleaned every 12 to 18 months.

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How to take care of your instrument

TRUMPET/BARITONE/EUPHONIUM/TUBA

Before Playing

- Make sure the valves are well oiled. Have your tutor show you how to do this first. To oil the valves:
 1. Unscrew the valve cap and pull the valve out halfway
 2. Apply a drop of valve oil to the wide part of the valve
 3. Gently push the valve back into position making sure that the valve guide is lined up correctly. Gently turn the valve until it clicks and stops turning
- Gently place the mouthpiece in the instrument

After Playing

- Empty out the instrument by opening the water key and blowing
- Wipe off any excess moisture on your mouthpiece with a cloth
- Pack away the instrument in its case

DO NOT

- Unscrew the pins on the valves
- Push the mouthpiece into the instrument
- Store your music folder in the case
- Forcibly remove a mouthpiece, valve or slide. Have an instrument repairer remove the stuck part of the instrument

Monthly Care

- Put mouthpiece in warm water and clean it with a mouthpiece brush
- The instrument should be bathed every 2 to 3 months. Instructions (have your tutor show you this first):
 1. Take out all slides and valves carefully and place them on a towel in the bath so they do not touch the basin
 2. Submerge the instrument in a warm bath. Add a very small amount of washing detergent. Use a snake brush to gently push through all the tubing.
 3. Rinse with clean water and shake out any water inside the tubing. Wipe off any excess water on outer body then add slide grease to tuning and valve slides.

Cleaning Equipment

Mouthpiece brush, cleaning snake, polish cloth, valve oil and slide grease

Your instrument should be professionally serviced once every 12 to 18 months

How to take care of your instrument

SAXOPHONE

Before Playing

- Pick up the saxophone from the bell
- Put cork grease on the cork to let the mouthpiece slide onto the neck smoothly
- Tighten the ligature so that the reed stays on without moving around

After Playing

- Pull the smaller swab through the mouthpiece and neck and pull the larger swab from the top of the body and out the bell of the saxophone
- Wipe the outside of the instrument to get rid of any sweat or oils
- Put the saxophone back in its case after use

DO NOT

- Pick up the instrument from the keys
- Eat sugary food before playing the saxophone
- Tighten your ligature too tightly
- Store your music folder in the case

Monthly Care

- Check that all of the screws are not sticking out. If you find any screws sticking out, ask your tutor to help you screw them back in
- Wash the mouthpiece with lukewarm water and clean it with a mouthpiece brush
- Fix any sticky pads by placing a piece of paper under a pad, close it and pull out the paper

Cleaning Equipment:

- Smaller cleaning swab
- Larger cleaning swab
- Mouthpiece brush
- Screwdriver

Your saxophone should be professionally serviced once every 12 months

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How to take care of your instrument

CLARINET/BASS CLARINET

Before Playing

- When handling the joints of the clarinet, do not handle them by the keys. Pick them up from the ends where there are no keys
- Add a small amount of cork grease to the tenon corks so the joints can be put together smoothly
- Put the joints of the clarinet together with a slow, back and forth twisting motion

After Playing

- Pull the cleaning swab through all the joints of the clarinet. The swab should be pulled through the clarinet when it is completely put together and then through each joint SEPERATELY, running it back and forward several times.
- Use a finger wrapped with cloth to clean the inside of each joint. This will clean the corners where the joints come together
- Carefully wipe the outside of the instrument with a cloth
- Put the clarinet back in its case

DO NOT

- Remove the clarinet by the keys
- Tighten the ligature around the mouthpiece so that the screw breaks
- Push or pull the joints of the clarinet
- Store your music folder in the case

Monthly Care

- Check to see if any screws or pivots have come loose and check with your tutor if they need to be tightened
- Wash the mouthpiece with lukewarm water and clean it with a mouthpiece brush

Cleaning Equipment

- Cleaning Swab
- Cloth

Your clarinet should be professionally serviced once every 12 months

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INSTRUMENT REPAIRS

How to take care of your instrument

TROMBONE

Before Playing:

- Rinse your mouth with water
- Make sure the slide lock is over the little latch so that the slide doesn't move
- Apply a small amount of slide oil to the boot area of the slide, which is closest to the top
- Place the mouthpiece in the lead pipe and twist gently to the right once

After Playing

- Open the water key at the end of the slide to get rid of any moisture
- Wipe the outside of the trombone with a cloth
- Store the trombone back in its case

DO NOT

- "Cup" the mouthpiece or hit the mouthpiece whilst it is in the top of the slide
- Place your music folder in the case
- Bump or damage the slide
- Forcibly remove a mouthpiece, valve or slide. Have an instrument repairer remove the stuck part of the instrument

Monthly Care

- Have your tutor show you how to clean your trombone
- Once every school holidays, clean your trombone by gently taking apart the instrument and placing them in a warm, not hot bath for ten minutes with liquid detergent
- Gently brush out all the tubes with the snake brush
- Rinse the instrument with clean water, wipe off any moisture and set the instrument aside to dry

Cleaning Equipment

- Polishing cloth
- Slide grease and oil
- Mouthpiece brush
- Snake brush

Your trombone should be professionally serviced and cleaned every 12-18 months

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How to take care of your instrument

FRENCH HORN

Before Playing

- Remove the horn from the case carefully with two hands
- Gently place your mouthpiece in the instrument and twist it once so it stays secure

After Playing

- Take off the mouthpiece and turn your horn around and upside down and let any moisture drip out of the lead pipe (the pipe you put the mouthpiece in)
- Wipe the outside of the instrument with a cloth to get rid of any sweat
- Always put the horn back in its case after use

DO NOT

- Forcibly remove a mouthpiece, valve or slide. Have an instrument repairer remove the stuck part of the instrument
- Put your music folder inside your case
- Handle rotors or bathe your instrument unless you have been shown by your teacher first

Weekly Care

- Oil the rotary valves by unscrewing the rotary valves and placing a few drops of rotary valve oil in. Unscrew the valve cap and put a light amount of oil along the length of the valve surface. Then, gently push the valve in and out completely while fully twisting it 360°.
- Wash the mouthpiece with warm water and use a mouthpiece brush

Monthly Care

- Bathe your instrument in a lukewarm, not hot bath. Do this by taking slides out and using a snake brush. This should not be done until you have been shown by a teacher and do so with a parent
- If you are not confident get your French Horn professionally serviced and cleaned every 6-12 months, as the rotors are delicate and shouldn't be taken apart.

Cleaning Equipment

- Rotary valve oil
- Slide grease
- Mouthpiece brush, Snake brush, Polishing cloth

How to take care of your instrument

PERCUSSION

Whilst Playing

- Use the sticks and mallets sensibly so you don't cause damage to the drums skins

After Playing

- Keep all sticks stored in a stick bag and label them so you don't lose them
- Make sure you pack away school mallets and equipment carefully and neatly to ensure that others are able to use them in the future
- If any screws are loose ask your conductor or teacher to help

DO NOT

- Do not drag any drum equipment. Always get a friend to carry them and place them down carefully and if something is too heavy, get a conductor or parent to help

Monthly Care

- Make sure there are no splinters in your drumsticks
- Keep the mallets neat by putting them away carefully in a stick bag and not playing with material parts



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How to take care of your instrument

BASS

Before Playing

- Have a firm grip on the neck of the bass when removing it from the case and use your other hand to support the weight
- Only place the correct leads in your instrument
- When connecting the lead to the amplifier:
 1. Make sure the amplifier is turned off and the volume is on zero before you put the leads in
 2. Make sure the lead is safe by checking for any frays
 3. If you have a safe lead, plug it into your guitar then into the amplifier and increase the volume gradually on the amplifier. You can also change the volume on your bass

After Playing

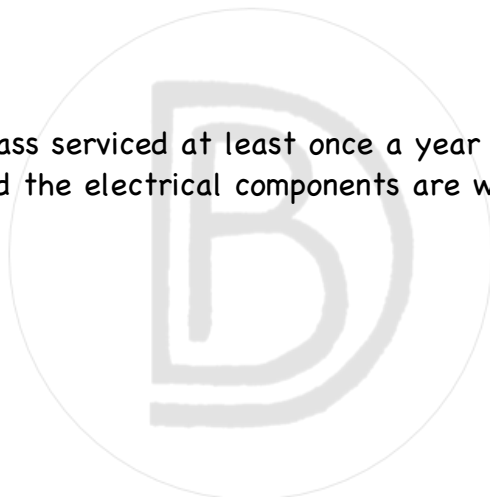
- Turn down the volume on the amplifier to zero and then take the lead out
- Turn off the amplifier then switch the electrical switch to off

DO NOT

- Hold the bass by the tuning pegs or the strings
- Play with a frayed lead
- Plug leads in or take leads out of the amplifier whilst the amplifier is on

Monthly Care

You should have your bass serviced at least once a year to check if the strings need to be replaced and the electrical components are working safely.



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INSTRUMENT REPAIRS

How to take care of your instrument

OBOE

Before Playing

- Pick up the joints of the oboe from the ends where there are no keys
- Grease the tenons with some cork grease
- Put the joints of the oboe together with a gentle back and forth twisting motion
- Wet your reed in a small cup of water for 5 minutes

After Playing

- Squeeze out any moisture left in the reed or you can blow through the cork on the reed to get rid of any excess moisture
- Pull the cleaning swab through the entire instrument from top to bottom 3 times and then pull the swab through each joint
- Wipe the outside of the oboe with a clean cloth
- Pack it away back in its case and put a cloth over the top

DO NOT

- Push or pull the joints of your oboe
- Pick up the joints of the oboe from the keys
- Rest the bell against the edge of your seat
- Pull the swab through the instrument if it's not going to come out the other end
- Pull the reed out of the oboe by the wooden tip

Monthly Care

- Fix any sticky pads by placing a sheet of paper under the sticky pad, pressing down on the key and then pulling the paper out from underneath the pad
- Check for any screws or pivots that have come out of place
- Scrub the plating with a silver polishing cloth over the plating and keys.

You should have your oboe professionally serviced once every 12 months.

Equipment

- Cleaning Swab
- Cleaning cloth
- Silver cloth
- Cork grease

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How to take care of your instrument

BASSOON

Before Playing:

- Add some cork grease to the tenons so that the joints of the bassoon are put together smoothly
- Put the crook into the top of the tenor joint using a slow twisting motion by holding the crook from the base.
- Clip or attach the seat strap to the bottom of the bassoon

After Playing

- Tilt the bottom joint so that any condensation comes out of the smaller hole
- Pull the smaller cleaning cloth through the tenor joint and the larger cleaning cloth through the bottom of the bassoon.
- Use a cloth to wipe off any sweat from the wood or plating
- Blow through the crook without the reed on to remove any moisture
- Pack away the bassoon into its case

DO NOT

- Push down on the crook from the bend
- Hold the bassoon without holding the bottom joint
- Lay the bassoon horizontally. Always hold the bassoon upright so moisture does not collect in the wood

Monthly Care

- Polish the plating of the bassoon with a silver cloth to get rid of any black smudges.

Your bassoon should be professionally serviced every 12 months.

Equipment

- Small Cleaning swab
- Larger cleaning swab
- Silver cloth
- Cork grease



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