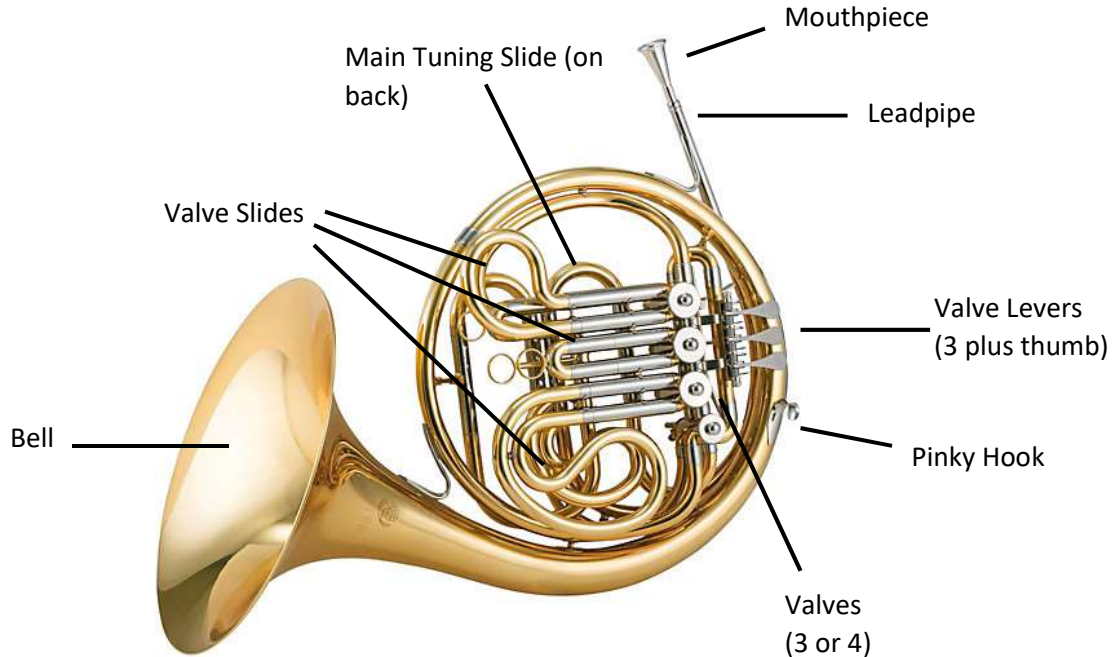


# Horn Information Packet

## Parts of the Horn:



## Assembling your Horn

- 1) Make sure that your case is facing the right way up before opening it. Usually, there will be a logo on the top of the case.
- 2) Once the case is open, lift the horn out, holding the instrument by one of the thick sections of tubing. Remember to NEVER hold the horn by the bell, leadpipe, pinky hook, or any of the slides.
- 3) Insert the mouthpiece into the leadpipe. Give it a gentle push while giving it a quarter turn. If you push too hard or turn too much, this may get the mouthpiece stuck. If it becomes stuck, do not try to pull it out with pliers. Your band director will have a special tool to remove the mouthpiece.
- 4) Pull out the slides to their appropriate spot to play in tune.

## Disassembling your Horn

- 1) Push all slides completely in. This prevents getting slide grease all over your case as well as any small particles in your case from getting into your horn.
- 2) Remove the mouthpiece by gently pulling it while giving it a quarter turn.
- 3) Holding the horn by a thick section of tubing, place the body of the horn in the case. Don't forget to also put your mouthpiece away!
- 4) Close the lid of the case and make sure all latches are closed before picking up the case by the handle.

## Care and Maintenance of the Horn

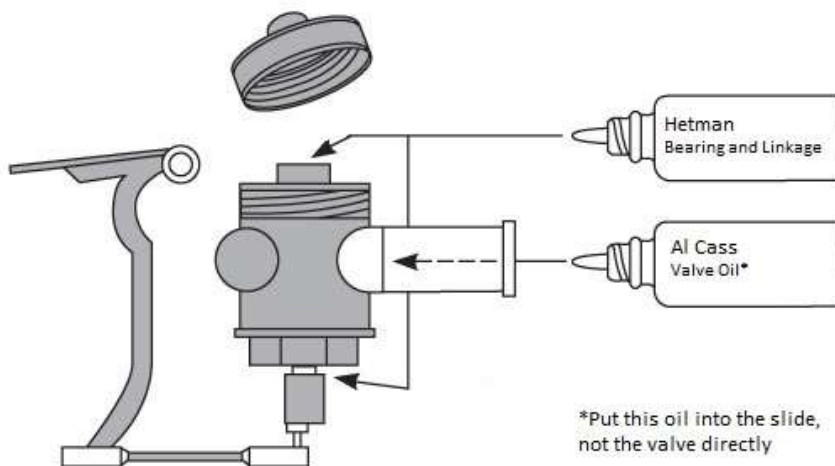
There are four maintenance tasks that you will have to perform on your horn on a regular basis. They are: oiling the insides of the valves, oiling the tops and bottoms of the valves, greasing the slides, and brushing out the mouthpiece and leadpipe. To do these, you will need two types of oil, one type of grease, and two brushes. For equipment recommendations, please see the end of this section.

### Oiling the insides of the valves (Once every few days)

- 1) Remove the first valve slide
- 2) Pour 3-4 drops of oil into the slide. Do not pour the oil directly into the valve itself, as this will drag some slide grease into the valve and make it worse!
- 3) Holding the slide upright so the oil doesn't spill out, put it back into the horn.
- 4) Tip the horn upside down so the oil spills into the valves.
- 5) Blow fast air through the horn while wiggling the valves.

### Oiling the tops and bottoms of the valves (Once per week)

- 1) Tops: Remove the valve caps. You can do this one-by-one, removing, oiling, and replacing, or all at once. Do not set them on the ground!
  - 2) Place a bubble of oil (from the needle bottle) on the part that sticks up of each valve (pictured below)
  - 3) Replace the valve caps.
  - 4) Wiggle the valves.
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- 1) Bottoms: Turn the horn over so you can see the back of the valves.
  - 2) Find the gap between the part that moves when you push the valves and the part that doesn't (pictured below)
  - 3) Using the oil with the needle bottle, put one drop of oil into the gap on each valve.
  - 4) Wiggle the valves



## Greasing the Slides (Once a month, and as needed)

- 1) Pull out the slide.
- 2) Clean off with a paper towel. Do not use tissues!
- 3) Apply a thin line of slide grease to the slide.
- 4) With your finger, spread the grease to all parts of the slide that goes into the horn.
- 5) Repeat with each slide.
- 6) Wash the grease from your hands.

## Cleaning the mouthpiece and leadpipe (Once a month)

- 1) Mouthpiece: Remove the mouthpiece.
  - 2) Run the mouthpiece under warm, but not hot, water.
  - 3) Using your mouthpiece brush, clean the inside of the mouthpiece. If need be, you can use some dish soap to clean. Don't use bleach or harsh chemicals.
  - 4) Clean the mouthpiece brush with water and set it out to dry.
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- 1) Leadpipe: Remove the mouthpiece to access the leadpipe.
  - 2) Using your snake, gently clean the inside of the leadpipe.
  - 3) Clean the snake with water and set it out to dry.

## Cleaning your Horn

Horns, like all brass instruments, need to be thoroughly cleaned at least once a year by a professional instrument repairperson. This usually runs anywhere from \$40 to \$80 at the most, and is included for free in many instrument rental packages. They will either give the instrument an acid bath or an ultrasonic cleaning. These processes remove any tarnish or corrosion from both the interior and exterior of the horn and valves. If there are any playing problems or valve issues with your instrument, there's a good chance that a thorough cleaning will fix the issue.

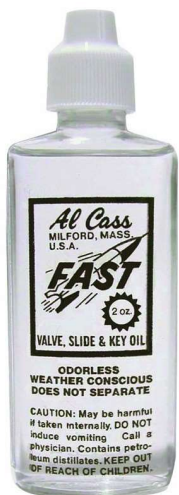
It is possible to do a cleaning yourself using dish soap and warm (but not hot!) water, but this type of cleaning is not as thorough as a professionally done acid bath or ultrasonic cleaning.

## Dents

The metal of a Horn is much thinner than the other brass instruments, and as such is very easily dented if you are not careful. Most small dents are nothing to worry about unless they are on a slide or valve and can be taken out at your yearly visit to the repair shop. Major dents, larger than a credit card, should be taken care of immediately. Do not attempt to fix a dent yourself as you can wind up making a small problem worse!

## Recommended Maintenance Equipment

- 1) Valve Oil (inside valves): **Al Cass Fast Valve Oil**  
Usually around \$6 for a 2 oz. bottle
- 2) Bearing and Linkage Oil (tops and bottoms of valves): **Hetman Light Bearing and Linkage No. 13**  
Usually around \$7 for a 1 oz. bottle with needle applicator
- 3) Slide Grease (slides): **Bach Tuning Slide Grease (pink goo, used to be made by Selmer)**  
Usually around \$7 for a 1.6 oz. bottle
- 4) Mouthpiece Brush: **Any Mouthpiece Brush**  
Usually \$3-5 per brush. Make sure to find one with a plastic bead at the tip so you don't scratch your mouthpiece!
- 5) Snake: **Any Horn Snake**  
Usually \$4-6 per snake. These can either come with bare coiled metal, coated coiled metal, or plastic casing over wire. I prefer coated coil metal. Be sure to check the size of the brush to verify that it will fit in your leadpipe!



1) Al Cass Oil



2) Hetman Oil



3) Bach Grease



4) Mouthpiece Brush (Notice plastic tip)



5) Horn snake