

Instrument Cleaning Lesson 1

Woodwind/Brass Mouthpieces

Drums

Flute

Supplies needed:

Good dish detergent

Flute cleaning rod

A couple of clean, soft rags (flour sack cloth is great!)

Fill a large bowl or the sink with lukewarm soapy water. Carefully place your headjoint in the soapy water and let it soak for about five minutes. Insert the corner of a cloth into the cleaning rod and clean out the inside of the headjoint. Make sure you carefully wrap the cloth so that it completely covers the cleaning rod. This will prevent scratches on the inside of your instrument. Wash the outside with the same cloth. Rinse and dry the headjoint inside and out.

Clarinets and Saxophones

Supplies needed:

Good dish detergent

Mouthpiece brush

A clean, soft rag (flour sack cloth is great!)

Alcohol

Reed case (NOT the container the reeds come in)

Fill a small bowl with lukewarm soapy water. Carefully place your mouthpiece in the soapy water and let soak for about five minutes. Scrub the inside and outside of the mouthpiece with the mouthpiece brush. Be careful not to harm the cork on clarinet mouthpieces. Rinse and dry the mouthpiece inside and out. Reapply cork grease to the cork for clarinet mouthpieces.

Fill a small juice glass with 1/2 alcohol and 1/2 water. Put your reeds in for about 30 seconds to sanitize them. Place reeds immediately in your reed case to dry flat.

Oboe

Supplies needed:

Alcohol

Reed case (NOT the container the reeds come in)

Fill a small juice glass with 1/2 alcohol and 1/2 water. Put your reeds in for about 30 seconds to sanitize them. Place reeds immediately in your reed case to dry suspended. Do not place your reeds on a surface to dry.

Bassoon

Supplies needed:

Bocal brush

Good dish detergent

A clean, soft rag (flour sack cloth is great!)

Alcohol

Reed case (NOT the container the reeds come in)

Fill a large bowl or sink with lukewarm soapy water. Carefully place your bocal in the soapy water and let soak for about five minutes. Scrub the inside and outside of the bocal with the bocal brush. Be careful not to harm the cork or bend the bocal. Rinse and dry the bocal inside and out. Reapply cork grease to the cork.

Fill a small juice glass with 1/2 alcohol and 1/2 water. Put your reeds in for about 30 seconds to sanitize them. Place reeds immediately in your reed case to dry suspended. Do not place your reeds on a surface to dry.

All brass instruments

Supplies needed:

Vinegar

Small cooking pot

Mouthpiece brush

Good dish detergent

Brasso

A couple of clean, soft rags (flour sack cloth is great!)

Fill a small pot with 1/2 water and 1/2 vinegar. Place the mouthpiece in the mixture first, then place the pot on the stove (use parent supervision until your parents give you permission to do this alone). Boil the mouthpiece for about five minutes to sanitize it and to loosen any built up grime. Turn off the heat and allow to cool (you can run cool water into the pot with parent supervision). Once cool, remove the mouthpiece from the pot and scrub with your mouthpiece brush in detergent and water. Rinse well and dry.

If your mouthpiece has a ring or excessive buildup on it, apply Brasso with a soft cloth and rub vigorously until the ring is gone. Rinse a second time with soap and water.

Percussion

Supplies needed:

Old toothbrush or other soft brush

A couple of clean, soft rags (flour sack cloth is great!)

Using soft brushes, remove all visible dust and dirt from the exterior of the drum. Especially work to loosen dust and dirt around the rim. You will probably have to blow off the loose dirt and dust. Wipe the entire instrument (including the head) with a damp, soft cloth.