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WOODEN INSTRUMENT BODY CARE

Meticulous care of the bore of a woodwind instrument is of vital importance. It is sad, but true, that students with but few exceptions will care for their instruments as their teacher demands or neglects.

Experts fail to agree as to whether or not moisture from the breath is a primary cause for the cracking of wood instruments. There is, however, almost total agreement that any buildup of the deposit from saliva is detrimental to good tone production and intonation. Theoretically then, every instrument using the breath for tone production should be swabbed or rinsed and dried every time it is used. This is impossible on brass instruments, but it is possible and practical for most of the woodwinds. The material from which the instrument is made whether it be wood, metal, plastic, or rubber, is irrelevant. The important thing is that the bore should be swabbed dry and clean every time following its use.

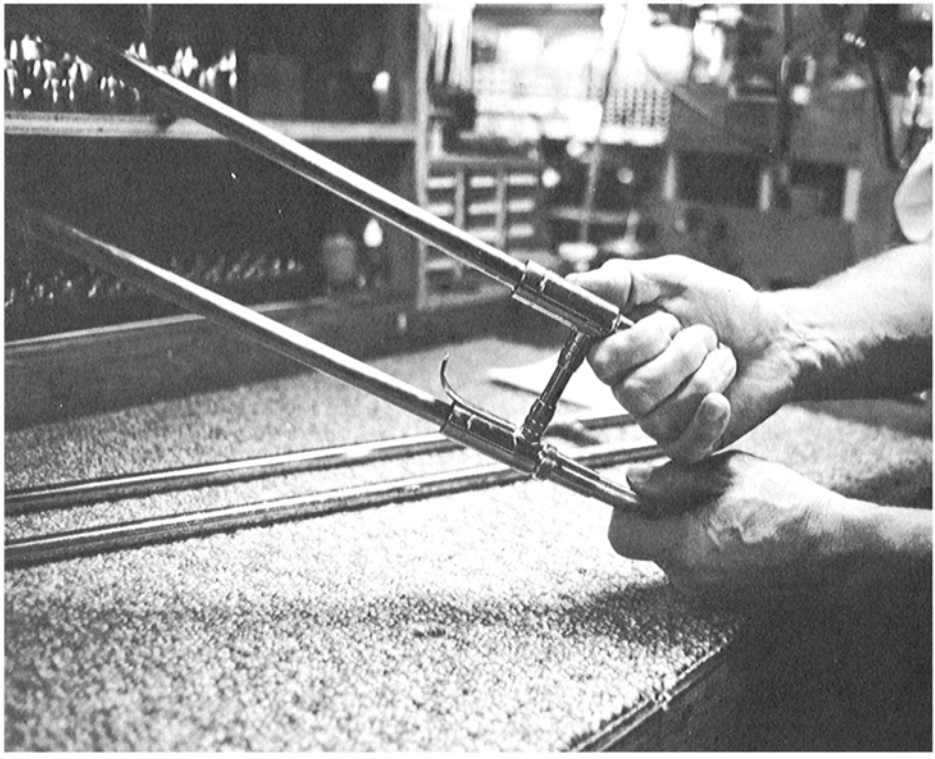

Photo 108. Removing Twist From Inner Slide

Keep the tuning slide clean and lubricated with STP and use a regular bottle brush to clean the bell bore. To service the trigger valve, refer to Chapter 13, "Rotary Valve Brass."

I am strongly opposed to sending a trombone away to be buffed and relacquered because I have seen shops remove all the raised slide dents with emory and buffing so the slide looks and feels brand new, but so much brass is removed in the process that the first little "tunk" does major damage to the refinished slide. Remember the brass in these slides is only from about .006 to .011 thick to begin with.