

Baritone Care Sheet

Keeping your baritone in excellent condition is essential for ensuring that it performs at its best. Regular maintenance not only prolongs the life of your instrument but also prevents issues that could impede your playing. Below are detailed guidelines for baritone care, which will help you maintain your baritone's optimal condition.

Valve Maintenance

Valves need to be oiled regularly to maintain good condition. Please be guided by your teacher's advice on how often to do this. Without regular oiling, valves can become stuck, making playing the baritone difficult or even impossible. Freely moving valves are crucial for the instrument to play well.

To oil the valves:

- Remove each valve from its casing carefully, one at a time to avoid mixing them up.
- Apply a few drops of valve oil to the valve body, avoiding the valve holes.
- Insert the valve back into its casing, ensuring it is properly aligned. Most valves have a guide that needs to click into place.
- Check that the valve moves smoothly before moving on to the next one.

Water/Spit Valve Emptying

Empty the water/spit valve after finishing playing. Preferably empty this on a cloth or washer rather than on the carpet. It's a good idea to keep an old cloth or washer in your case for use during lessons and band rehearsals, as the water/spit valve will need to be emptied regularly while playing.

To empty the water/spit valve:

- Hold the baritone in a position where the water/spit valve is at the lowest point.
- Depress the valve lever and gently blow air through the baritone to expel the moisture.
- Repeat this process until no more moisture comes out.

Tuning Slides

Ensure the tuning slides are moved and oiled regularly to ensure they don't become jammed. Tuning slides need to be kept lubricated so that they move smoothly and adjust the instrument's pitch accurately.

To oil the tuning slides:

- Remove the slide from the baritone.
- Clean off any old grease or dirt from the slide and the slides' receiver with a soft cloth.
- Apply a small amount of slide grease or oil to the slide.
- Insert the slide back into the baritone and move it back and forth to distribute the grease or oil evenly.

Mouthpiece Care

When setting up the baritone, be careful not to push the mouthpiece in too tight as it may become stuck and unable to be removed. If this happens, do NOT attempt to remove it with pliers or other such tools as this will damage the instrument. Please ask your teacher for assistance or return it to Central Coast Instrument Hire for it to be removed with the proper tools.

To properly care for the mouthpiece:

- Insert the mouthpiece gently into the receiver; a light twist should seat it properly.
- Avoid using force when inserting the mouthpiece.
- If the mouthpiece gets stuck, seek professional help to remove it.
- Clean the mouthpiece regularly with warm soapy water and a mouthpiece brush.

Cleaning the Baritone

A gentle polishing cloth can be used to clean the outside of the baritone to keep it looking nice and free of fingerprints and marks before returning the baritone to its case. Ensure the baritone is returned to its case after each use. Don't leave it lying around; otherwise, it could become damaged by accident.

To clean the baritone:

- Use a soft, lint-free polishing cloth to remove fingerprints and smudges from the baritone's exterior.
- For more thorough cleaning, use a baritone cleaning kit which typically includes brushes for the lead pipe, tuning slides, and valve casings.
- Disassemble the baritone carefully, cleaning each part separately.
- Rinse all parts with warm water and dry thoroughly before reassembling the baritone.

Storage

Proper storage of the baritone is crucial in maintaining its condition. Always store the baritone in its case when not in use to protect it from dust, dirt, and accidental damage.

When storing the baritone:

- Ensure that all parts of the baritone are dry before putting it in the case.
- Place the baritone securely in the case, making sure it is not loose.
- Store the case in a cool, dry place, away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures.

General Tips

- Avoid eating or drinking sugary beverages before playing the baritone as this can cause buildup in the instrument.
- Wash your hands before handling the baritone to keep it clean.
- Regularly check for signs of wear and tear and address issues promptly.

By following these care guidelines, you can ensure that your baritone remains in excellent playing condition, providing you with years of reliable service and enjoyment.