

Trombone Slide Care and Maintenance

Necessary Supplies:

- Your trombone slide! Inner and outer slide.
- 1 trombone cleaning rod: <http://www.hickeys.com/products/027/sku27859.htm>
- Sheet of cheesecloth or muslin, about 8" wide and slightly longer than your cleaning rod
- Soft cloth or extra muslin
- Trombotine, or a different slide cream
- Distilled water

Optional Supplies:

- Snake for cleaning inside of inner slide
- Mild dish soap or brass cream (<http://www.jawright.com/>)
- Silicone based product such as non-aerosol Pledge (or any surface cleaning with ammonia) or the slide treatments by SuperSlick or Slide-O-Mix

Procedure:

1. Cut a piece of cloth about 8 inches wide. Cloth scissors will work best.
2. Feed the cloth through the small hole in the cleaning rod. Wrap the cloth over the top of the rod and twist the cloth down the entirety of the rod.
3. Separate inner and outer slide, leave the inner slide in a safe place.
4. Hold the outer slide in one hand, and insert covered cleaning rod into one of the tubes. Hold the slide by this tube, and pump out the slide about 40 times, or enough so that the tube is warm in your hand.
5. Remove the rod and observe the cloth. If it comes out dirty, rotate the cloth so that it is clean and repeat.
6. Repeat for both tubes of the outer slide.
7. For a more intense cleaning, add some soap or brass cream to the cloth before pumping out the slides. Before moving to the next step, do the process once more with fresh cloth moistened with distilled water. This will get out the excess cream or soap left inside.
8. Place the outer slide in a safe location and retrieve the inner slide. Now is a good time to snake out the inner slide to remove grime.
9. Take a soft cloth, or leftover muslin, and pour some rubbing alcohol on it.
10. Wipe down both tubes of the inner slide so that they are clean.
11. Place a small amount of Trombotine on each slide, and work around entire slide and stocking with your thumb and first finger. If you can still see the cream on the slide, you have put too much on the slide. Remove excess with a cloth.
12. Spray with distilled water. You can also add a small drop of cleaning solution or silicone based product here. This will help the slide stay very slick. Do not add too much or use an industrial silicone product. Reassemble slide and enjoy!