

## Maintaining the Rotary Valves and Slides on your French Horn

In order to keep your French horn working well, it is very important that you regularly apply oil to the rotary valves and grease to the slides.

This guide will show you how to do this correctly.



### Oiling Rotary Valves

Rotary valves can become stuck if they are not oiled regularly and can be costly to repair if they seize up completely.

You will find that your rotary valves move more slowly over time as the oil dries up. If your instrument is left to sit for a week or more, you may find that they become completely stuck. It is important to regularly oil your rotary valves in order to prevent this happening and to avoid any damage that may be caused to the rotary valves by forcing them down without any oil.

French horn valves need to be oiled in two places:

#### Oiling the top of the rotary valves

This process should be carried out at least once a week.

1. Remove the outer caps on each of your rotary valves by unscrewing them. You will have 3 or 4 on your instrument depending on the horn you are playing on.



2. Place a small drop of oil onto the rotor.



3. Replace each of the rotary valve caps.

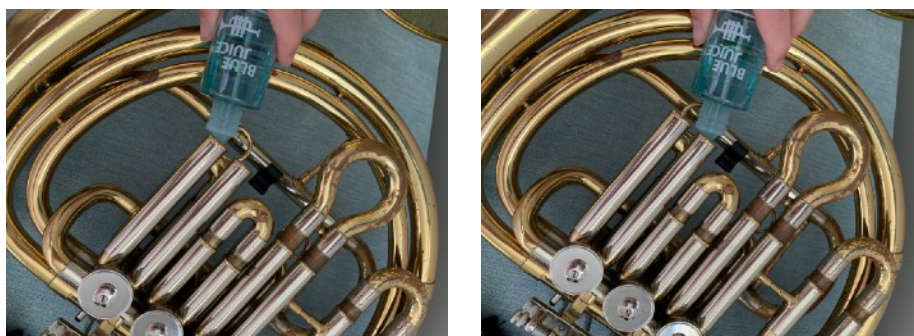
### Oiling the inside of the rotary valves

This process should happen once a month.

1. Remove each of the rotary valve slides one at a time. It is important that you always press the corresponding rotary valve down when doing this to avoid damaging your instrument.



2. Put a small drop of valve oil into the rotary valve and replace the slide. Hold your horn with the rotary valves pointing down and give your valve a wiggle to work in the oil.



3. Repeat the above steps for all of your rotary valves.



### Greasing Slides

The slides enable tuning of the instrument and should all be removable. Many beginner players won't touch the slides to start with, but it is important that you maintain them for future use. Without maintenance they will become stuck! They should slide freely, and they are easy to maintain - simply reapply slide grease every month or so.



Slide each slide out and apply a light layer of slide grease with your finger (**remember to press down on the rotary valves when removing the valve slides**). Push the slide back in and wipe away any excess grease.

