



CARE INSTRUCTIONS



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CONGRATULATIONS,

You have chosen a brass instrument from Gebr. Alexander,
precision-made with the highest quality materials.

To insure that your valuable instrument gives you many
years of satisfaction, this brochure offers some important
tips about care that are simple but effective.

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1. TUNING

The instrument can be tuned higher or lower by pushing in or conversely pulling out the tuning slides.

The length of the valve slides of our instruments are, when pushed in completely, somewhat shorter than usually required. This enables optimal intonation even in the face of extreme differences in temperature. As accessories, we offer slide fixer to hold the positions of the slides just where they are wanted.

- **Single Instruments:**

Initially the instrument should be tuned with the main tuning slide. Then the individual valve slides can be adjusted to match.

- **Double or Triple Instruments:**

First tune the main tuning slide of the higher key (the B-flat side of a F/B-flat horn), and then the lower key with its own main tuning slide. Finally, the individual valve slides can be adjusted to match.

2. OILING THE BEARINGS & MECHANICS

All moving parts must occasionally be oiled to avoid wear on materials from constant friction.

For the exterior mechanics of rotary valves we recommend Hetman Oil No. 13.5 for the following points:

- Bearings under the valve cap and between valve stem and linkage,
- Uniball, miniball, and other push rod linkage,
- A drop on additional moving parts, like the valve springs or spring axel, can also be applied.

3. OILING THE VALVES (INTERNAL)

Alexander valves are superbly airtight, and will function precisely, reliably, and durably with correct usage.

Rotary Valves

If your instrument is used daily or almost daily, it is not usually necessary to oil the inside of the valves. The moisture inside the valves normally suffices to keep the sliding surfaces lubricated.

The inside of the valves should be oiled in two exceptional cases:

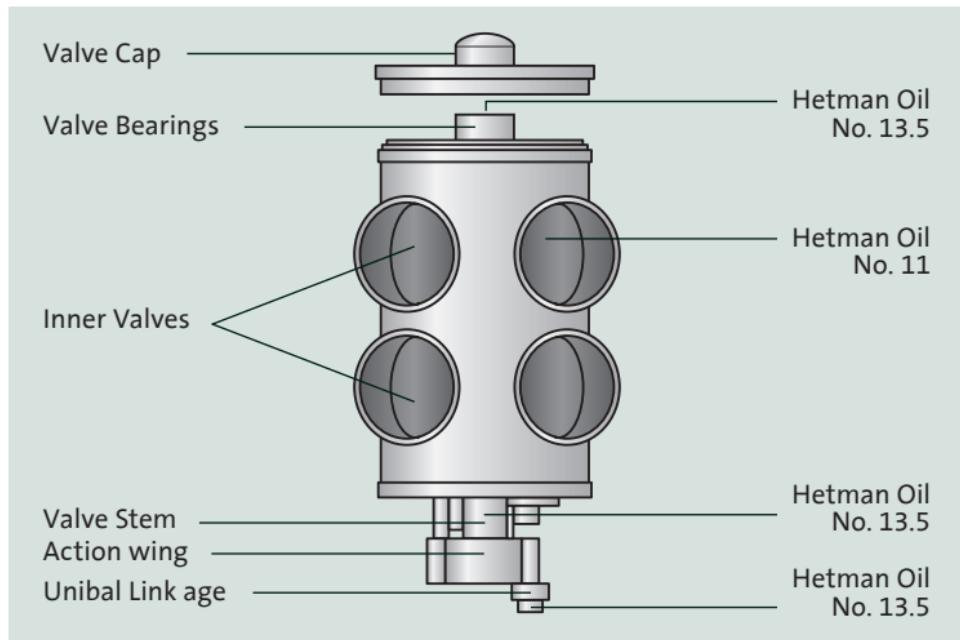
- **If the valves don't move after a longer hiatus from playing:** Once you have carefully dripped oil into the valve, try rotating it directly with the push rod until the valve moves freely. Only then should the valve lever be engaged, because applying pressure to it earlier could result in bending it out of alignment.

Problematic cases should be referred directly to your instrument maker or repairman!

- **If the valves are sticky and move very slowly:** In this case the thick grease from the valve slide has ended up in the rotary action. This must now be diluted with valve oil so the valve can again move quickly and freely.

In both of the cases above we recommend Hetman Oil No. 11. This should be applied through the open valve slide to the inside of the valve section. Hold the instrument with valve slide openings upwards so the oil goes directly to the valve action without touching the inner walls of the slide. Carefully add a few drops into the valve and move this around the mechanism until the oil is well distributed. Excess oil can be drained from the instrument along with condensation.

In principle, all work on the interior valves should be left to a qualified professional. Under no circumstance should you disassemble the valve cluster. The valves could easily be damaged by slightly crooked replacement in their casings.



Piston (Périnet) Valves

For oiling piston valves we recommend Hetman Oil No. 2.

To do this, unscrew the upper valve cover and pull the piston out completely. Pay attention to the markings on the piston, which indicate the direction of the piston in the casing. Drip some oil on the surface and then move the piston in the valve back and forth until the oil is distributed evenly. If it runs smoothly, the valve cover can be replaced after the markings on the piston have been given a last check.

4. GREASING THE SLIDES

To avoid jamming or sticking while pulling out and/or tuning the slides, it is to be advised that these be regularly greased. Here we recommend Hetman Grease No. 7.

1. Pull out all tuning slides and remove the old slide grease with a lint free cloth or rag.
2. Apply a small amount of grease on the surface of the inner slides.
3. Push the slide back in.
4. In order to spread the grease evenly, rotate individual inner slides back and forth before reinserting the complete slide.

5. CLEANING (INTERNAL)

Depending on frequency of playing and the personal characteristics of the musician, we recommend regular professional internal cleaning every one to two years.

In the meantime, it is advisable to keep impurities in the instrument to a minimum with this simple cleaning method:

Most residue accumulates in the mouthpiece and the mouthpipe/leadpipe. Before cleaning remove all the slides from the instrument. These and the mouthpipe itself can be most easily cleaned with a swab/cleaning snake or jet-cleaner made specially for wind instruments (both available from us as accessories). Be particularly careful that the residue in the mouthpipe is not flushed or pushed into the valves.

If you have questions before or during the cleaning of your instrument, our staff of trained specialists is ready and waiting to offer assistance.

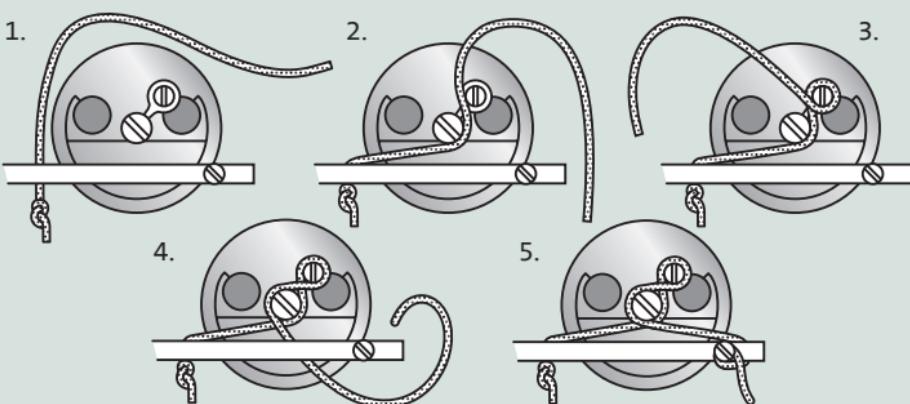
6. CARE OF SURFACES

Additional lacquer, silver or gold plating protects the surface and preserves the shine of your instrument.

For surface moisture and fingerprints we recommend wiping with the Alexander or another clean, soft polishing cloth after each playing. For lacquered instruments we advise a lacquer care product. For silver or gold plated and unlacquered instruments we can recommend special cleaning and polishing cloths suitable to your instrument and particular need.

7. REPAIRING STRING ACTION

Some rotary valves function with string action. This is advisable to check regularly for wear and possible replacement if necessary. Just follow the steps in the following sketch:



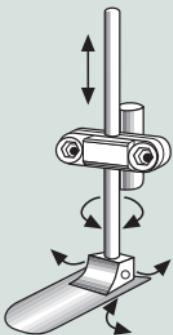
8. ADJUSTABLE FINGER HOOKS AND FLIPPERS

For musicians with very small or very large hands, an adjustable finger hook (pinkie hook) or a flipper (duck's foot) can be outfitted to nearly every model of instrument.

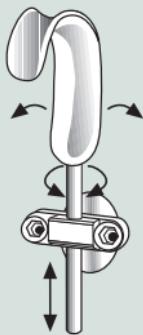
To adjust the finger hook or flipper, first the two screws on the locking plate must be loosened, after which the support can be moved to the desired position.

Before the screws are tightened, the ball pivot must be correctly aligned inside the bracket. The line of the continuously cut groove in the ball pivot must face one of the two screws (see figure). Afterwards, the screws can be tightened evenly.

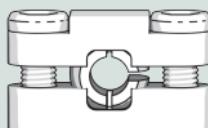
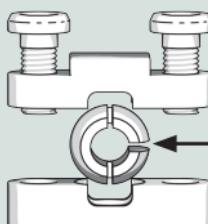
Flipper



Fingerhook



Ball pivot alignment



9. STORAGE OF THE INSTRUMENT

After playing, remove the condensation from the instrument, especially from the tuning slides and the mouthpipe.

If you store the instrument in a case or gig bag, leave this open for a while so the instrument can air out. This helps with preservation of the instrument and the lacquer as well.

10. ACCESSORIES

All of the above and many other products for cleaning and care can of course be found at our music store or in our online shop: shop.musik-alexander.de

We stand at the ready with the confidence of our long-term experience. Just ask your questions and we will gladly furnish answers.

We wish you every success with your Gebr. Alexander instrument!

Your Gebr. Alexander Team