



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 rotary valve instruments we recommend Meinschmidt Oil JM 13 for the following:

- **Valve bearings** under the valve cap and between the rotor stop and main bearing (see diagram on page 7). These are the most important lubrication points since the valve bearings are the closest fitting parts of the valve and the only points where there is constant metal on metal contact.
- Minibal, Unibal or any other valve **key linkages**
- A drop or two on valve springs, spring axels or other **moving parts** can also be applied if desired.

The valve bearings on most of our rotary valve instruments can be oiled through a system of lubrication channels as shown in the diagram. This allows for an even and longer lasting distribution of oil on the bearings.



3. OILING THE VALVES (INTERNALLY)

Gebr. 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.

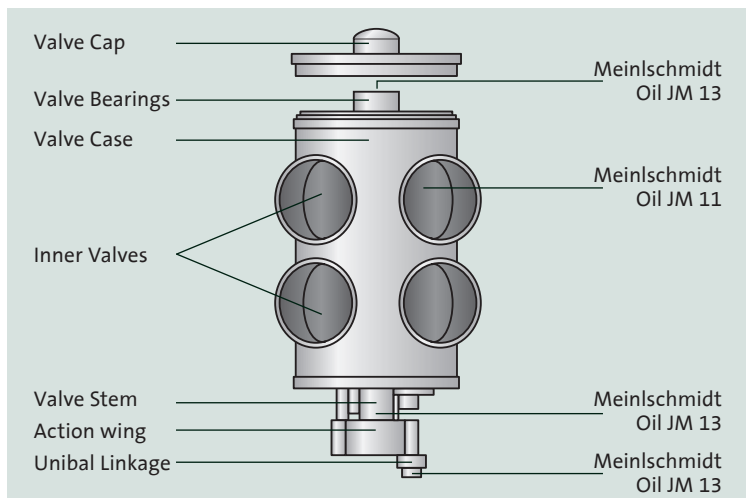
The inside of the valves require oiling in two exceptional cases as described below!

In both cases we recommend Meinschmidt Oil JM 11. The valve slides are removed and with the outer slide tubes held vertically, several drops of oil are dropped down the slide tubes straight into the valves without the oil touching the greased inside of the outer slide tubes. The valves are then worked so that the oil is well distributed on the rotor inside the valve case and any excess oil is emptied out.

- **Case 1: The valves don't move after a longer hiatus from playing:** After applying the oil turn the valves directly with the rotor stop and work the valves until they move freely. Only then should the valves be operated with the valve levers as they could bend if excessive force is applied. If you can't get the valves to move as described here it may be necessary to get the help of a trusted repair technician.

- **Case 2: If the valves are sticky and move very slowly 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.

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



Piston (Périnet) Valves

For oiling piston valves we recommend Meinschmidt 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 Meinschmidt Grease No. 8.

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. Finally, remove any excess grease with a lint free cloth or rag.

5. CLEANING (INTERNALLY)

Depending on the frequency of playing and the personal characteristics of the musician, we recommend regular professional internal cleaning every one to two years. In some cases this cleaning may be needed more frequently. In this way the buildup of oxidation, etc. in the valves and other parts of the instrument can be kept under control.

In the meantime, it is advisable to keep any dirty buildup inside the instrument to a minimum with this simple 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.

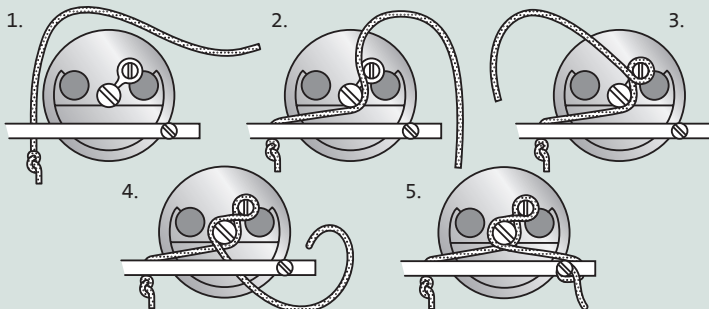
6. CARE OF SURFACES

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 Gebr. Alexander or another clean, soft polishing cloth after each playing. The JM Instrument Cleaner produces a good result on all instrument surfaces. Apply with the spray bottle and polish with a soft cloth.

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:



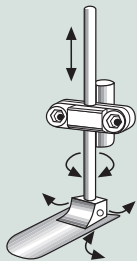
8. ADJUSTABLE FINGER HOOK AND FLIPPER

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.

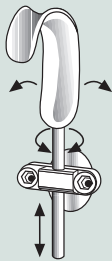
To adjust the finger hook or flipper, first the two screws on the locking plate must be loosened, after which the support can be moved to the desired position.

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.

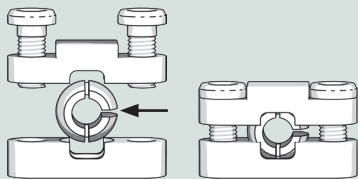
Flipper



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 you can order in our online-shop:
gebr-alexander.de/en/collections/careproducts



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