

Tips from the Workbench Ozwinds Brisbane

Tip #3 – Bending trumpet 2nd valve

This tip relates to a common problem experienced with the 2nd valve slide on trumpets. For some people, keeping this problem in mind can save multiple trips to the repair tech.

Here is the tip: *Don't put down a trumpet with the 2nd valve slide pointing downward. Always leave it pointing upward.*

When is this a problem?

This is always a problem, from beginner players, even up to professionals.

Why does this happen?

The 2nd valve slide juts out from the instrument and when the instrument is left on a table or other surface the wrong way, it can place pressure on the slide and bend it. The 2nd slide is connected directly with the 2nd valve casing, so any bend in the 2nd slide will also bend the 2nd valve.

This will make the 2nd valve either very sluggish, or not work at all.

What you can do

Make sure this point is taught at the beginning along with any maintenance tips, and keep an eye on how students handle the instruments to make sure no damage will ensue.

How to fix it

I would normally advise not to try to fix this, since any damage done by reversing the situation can also end up with more damage and a much more difficult repair.

To test if the 2nd slide is the cause of any 2nd valve difficulties, push down the 2nd slide (it will stay in that position if it is stuck). Gently pull the 2nd slide away from the instrument. If the slide seems to become more free, then a bent 2nd slide is likely the cause of the problem.

Remember that over-doing this test could make the situation worse!

Final thought

Check the style of case that you keep your trumpet in. Some small cases that have flexible sides can push on the trumpet, and bend the 2nd valve slide in the process. Just keep this in mind.

Future Tips

If there is anything that you would like to know, and are looking for an answer, please let me know. I might be able to include it in some tips for teachers.

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