



## Preparing Instruments for Long Term Storage

*by Ken Skitch*

Whenever you place an instrument into storage, it is always best to clean and prepare it beforehand to prevent problems when you call it back to active duty. The best course of action is to have it professionally cleaned and prepared for storage. We understand that this does not always fit into the budget so we are providing these simple steps you can follow to help reduce those annoying stuck slides, valves, rotors and keys.

### **Piston Instruments:**

- Remove the valves and slides
- Lightly shake out all excess moisture from the bore and the slide tubes
- Dry out the valve casings and wipe off the pistons
- Reassemble the instrument, making sure to grease the tuning slides and leaving the pistons dry
- Clean the mouthpiece
- A drop or two of oil in the fall should be all you need to get started up again

### **Rotor Instruments:**

- Remove all slides and roll the instrument to direct all the moisture out the bell of the instrument
- Shake to ensure all excess is removed
- Oil all rotor bearings with spindle oil (see oiling chart)
- Oil the bodies of the rotors with rotor oil (see oiling chart)
- Grease all slides and reassemble instrument.
- Clean the mouthpiece
- Oil rotors again in the fall turning rotor stop arms by hand if necessary to break them free. Do not use the levers to work a stuck rotor. It will either bend the lever or break the string or linkage arm
- **Woodwind instruments:**
- Swab out the instrument completely
- Oil the keys and make sure they are all moving
- Clean the mouthpiece

### **THREE HEID MUSIC LOCATIONS**

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