

Accessories

The list of accessories available for musicians is nearly endless. Providing these products is a large industry. This document is a list of a few of those accessories with which I have had some experience. I begin with the necessary accessories (lubricants, metronomes, tuners), and progress to others which are perhaps nice to own, but which have little or nothing to do with what comes out of the end of the horn.



Valve & Slide Lubricants



Shown are the three lubricants I use for all my instruments. For most of my instruments (particularly all the Bach Stradivarius trumpets), I prefer to use **All Cass** valve oil (see right). However, since my Getzen Cornet, Kanstul Flugelhorn and Stomvi Piccolo Trumpet are sort of finicky and prone to valve sticking, I sought out a different option. I find the **Hetman** lubricants (see left) work very well for these instruments. For the tuning slides, I use **Selmer Tuning Slide and Cork Grease** (left). It is very viscous, so I apply the grease and then I cut it with All Cass to get the slide moving as I like it.

Tuners & Metronomes



Every musician should own both a metronome and a tuner (and every musician should use them regularly!). Pictured here are a couple of inexpensive devices that will do everything you need and more – but there are literally dozens of tuners and metronomes on the market. When you practice alone, it is especially difficult to tell whether your pitch or your time is accurate. I am not an advocate of being “beholden” to devices such as these, but they are very useful tools for the musician. Make owning them a priority.



Trumpet Stands



Trumpet stands are not a necessary item for the trumpet player. In fact, for most musicians, they are probably entirely unnecessary. However, if you are playing music that includes a lot of rests, or music that requires more than



one instrument, they can be very helpful. I own both stands shown, and I like the stability and durability that both possess. Pictured at left is the K&M folding trumpet stand, which folds up and stores inside the bell of the trumpet. To the right is the Hercules three-trumpet (or flugelhorn) stand. The one knock on the Hercules is that there's no good way to store it when not in use.

Mute Stands



This is not a necessary addition, but can be very useful – especially when the musician is dealing with multiple mutes and multiple mute changes. This is most often the case when playing in pit orchestras and the like. You can buy individual mute holders which clip on to the music stand. I have not had much luck with these –



it is sometimes difficult to get them to clip to certain brands of music stands. The two shown above are good options – they are quite robust and they hold multiple mutes. At left is the MuteRack Universal Mute Holder and at right is the K & M 159 Mute Holder.

Other Accessories



For the trumpet player who has everything, I give you the **Yamaha Silent Brass System**. I've seen this used several times and tried it myself a couple of times. It really works. It is pricey, but if you get complaints from the neighbors – or family members – or you like to practice late at night, this might be a worthwhile investment. This device is pictured on the left.

I own a pair of **Bose QuietComfort 2 Headphones**, and I can say they rank with the greatest gadgets I have ever seen. They really work: they block ambient noise out, allowing you to focus on the music you're listening to – or just to sit in peace. The idea is that they "listen" to the sounds around you and generate equal and opposite soundwaves which cancel out those ambient sounds. It is amazing technology. I wear them on busses and airplanes and exit after the trip feeling much more relaxed. On top of all that, the sound quality of the headphones is amazing; this is the best set of headphones I've ever owned – bar none. It's a pricey gadget, but if you are looking for headphones, you won't be disappointed in these. Pictured at right are the QuietComfort 3 Headphones, which are smaller and fit on the ears, rather than around them.

