EQUIPMENT: **TOP TEN LIST**

1. quality instrument with hard case
   *caveat: on a budget, if there are no major dents, if the valves function relatively quietly, all slides move, and there are no loose braces, 90% of the problem is the student

2. medium cup mouthpiece
   *caveat: if the shank is not dented and the rim is not damaged, 75% of the problem is either mouthpiece placement or embouchure shape

3. valve oil (I make my own, it’s cheaper)

4. tuning slide cream (I use pure lanolin, it’s cheaper)

5. cleaning snake and lint-free cloth

6. mouthpiece brush (make sure it’s small enough for the horn m.p. shank)

7. straight mute (tunable for high school/more advanced students)

8. tuner/metronome (free apps!!)

9. replacement string (I use Cortland Greenspot, 50lb test fishing line, it’s cheaper)

10. private lessons with a horn teacher!! (This is where money should be spent)

HORNS

1. Beginning Horns
   - single horns – Yamaha “standard”, Holton “student horns”
     *you can either choose single F or single B-flat (there are advantages to both in my opinion)
   - double horns - Holton “Farkas”, Yamaha Beginning

2. Intermediate horns (high school/not-so-serious players)
   - all should play double horns – Holton, Yamaha Intermediate/Professional/Custom 671, 667, 668, Conn “CONNstellation”, Conn “Symphony” series, Hoyer G10, Pope/Balu “Briz”

3. Advanced horns (serious high school/rising music majors)
   - encourage these students to attend regional horn workshops (can be found at [www.hornsociety.org](http://www.hornsociety.org) and look up your state’s Area Representative) so that they may test the multitude of horns for sale. Seek advice of a horn teacher.
MOUTHPIECES
1. Average/Medium Cups
   - Holton MC or MDC, anything moderate
   - Custom- Shilke, Giardinelli, Stork, Laskey, Moosewood

MUTES
1. Straight Mutes
   - Tunable vs Non-Tunable
     - Tunable are usually taller and have a lever inside that can be pulled out (pitch goes up, opposite from the slides) or pushed in (pitch goes down, opposite from the slides)
     - Non-Tunable are usually less expensive, can be short or tall and have a fixed intonation
     - Pitch can be minimally adjusted by height/thickness of cork used to keep mute from falling out
   - Cheap Student models vs Custom better quality models
     - Student- Humes and Berg, Farkas Omni Mute
     - Intermediate/Custom/better quality models- Dennis Wick, Balu, TrumCor

2. Brass Mutes: brass mute (aka stop mute) = right hand/stopped horn
   - Use a brass mute for longer passages that require steady pitch and consistent tone (also fingered 1/2 step lower on F horn)
   - Use stopped horn/right hand for single note/few notes, or where there isn’t time to insert a brass/stop mute (keep in mind that anything below the treble staff is squirrely at best)
   - Dennis Wick, Alexander, Humes and Berg (cheaper)

SUPPLIES
1. Valve oil
   - Blue Juice, Alexander, Holton, Paxman, Super Slick, Hetman, Al Cass, Bach
   - Pack’s Recipe: 3-in-1 Oil mixed with odorless lamp oil (email me and ask about this!)

2. Slide grease
   - Shilke, Alexander, Hetman, Fat Cat, Bach, Bell’s
   - Pack’s Recipe: pure 100% lanolin (use very sparingly – email me and ask about this!)

3. String

4. Cleaning supplies
   - Snake (make sure it’s horn size or it will get stuck in leadpipe)
   - Mouthpiece brush (make sure it’s horn size or it will not fit)
   - Mouthpiece spray (Pack’s Recipe: rubbing alcohol)
   - Polishing cloth (Pack’s cloth: chamois)
5. Repair
   - Set of small screw drivers
   - Small scissors or clippers for string

ONLINE EQUIPMENT RESOURCES

Horns, mutes,
   - hornsaplenty.com
   - hornsociety.org
   - hornplanet.com
   - poperepair.com
   - osmun.com
   - atkinsonhorns.com
   - thompsonedition.com
   - balumusik.com

Primarily supplies and accessories
   - dillonmusic.com
   - hornspot.com
   - woodwindbrasswind.com

Tuner/metronomes
   - musiciansfriend.com