Cleaning Your Brass Instrument

Materials Needed:
- Old Towel
- 2 Clean Towels
- Dish soap or Laundry Detergent
- Rag
- Trumpet or Trombone Snake
- Valve Brush (for Trumpets)
- Mouthpiece Brush
- Valve or Slide Oil
- Slide Grease

How to get your instrument clean...
1) Place the old towel in the bottom of your tub (this will help prevent scratches on your instrument and on
   the bottom of your tub). Fill the tub with WARM water and add some dish soap or laundry detergent.
   Fill the tub enough to cover the bell.
2) Set a clean towel on a flat surface for your clean instrument parts.
3) Take your valves out and SET THEM ASIDE (on or in your case for now). Don’t put them in the water!!!!!!
4) Take all your slides and everything else apart on your instrument and put it all in the water. Put your
   mouthpiece in there too.
5) Let your instrument soak for about 5 minutes. While it is soaking, clean your valves one at a time by
   dipping ONLY THE FAT PART OF THE VALVE in the water, swishing it around lightly. Use the rag to
   wipe off the valve, and the trumpet snake to clean out the holes. Rinse them off with warm water
   (remember, only the fat part of the valve can get wet) and set on the clean towel to dry.
6) Clean your mouthpiece with the mouthpiece brush. Rinse and set on the clean towel to dry.
7) Clean all of your slides. Use the rag to clean off the outside, and the snake to clean out the inside. Rinse
   with warm water, set on the clean towel to dry.
8) Clean your valve caps. Rinse and set aside to dry.
9) Clean your instrument by putting the trumpet or trombone snake in all of the tubing. Be careful not to
   scratch the inside of the valve casing. Use your rag to clean the entire outside of your instrument.
   Carefully rinse the instrument with warm water and then set aside to dry.
10) After you let your instrument dry for 10 or more minutes, you can put it back, together. If it is still a
    bit wet, you can use a second towel to dry the pieces off as you put it back together. Put the valve caps
    back on. Grease and put your slides back in. Use the rag to wipe off extra grease. Then oil your valves
    and put them back in. You might need to oil them twice, as there will be no oil in there now.
11) Try playing your instrument to make sure everything is put back together properly.
12) Practice!!

--If you clean your instrument every month, it will last a lot longer and look better. If you don't keep it
    clean, junk starts to build up on the inside, which causes the metal to corrode, the valves and slides to stick,
    and it just makes your instrument harder to play. Keep it clean and happy practicing!!!