

Saxophone Resources

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Pedagogy

- Take the neckstrap and put it on your neck
- Apply cork grease to the cork on the neck, and slide the mouthpiece 2/3 to 3/4 of the way on
- Line up the tip of the reed with the tip of the mouthpiece
- Tighten the ligature finger tight against the reed
 - If you have a ligature with 2 screws try putting it on upside down for it to work better
- Adjust the neckstrap so the mouthpiece comes to your mouth while sitting or standing up straight

Reed/Mouthpiece Tips

- **Rotate reeds:** DON'T play on the same reed until it breaks. This will help make a good sound for longer
- **Mouthpiece:** Vandoren AL3 (for Alto); Vandoren T20 (Tenor) **OR** Selmer C* (for both)
 - Buying a new mouthpiece is an extra expense, but it is cheaper **and more effective** than a pro sax
- **Reeds:** Vandoren 2.5; 3.0; 3.5 **OR** D'Addario 2.5; 3.0; 3.5
- Remove the reed and place it in the case; don't leave it on the mouthpiece. (*D'Addario reed guard*)

Embouchure and Tone Production

- Roll a small part of the lower lip over the bottom teeth
- Place top teeth on top of mouthpiece *** a **mouthpiece patch** might help ***
- Take about 2/3 of mouth piece in, and place teeth above where reed and the mouthpiece separate
- Wrap lips around mouthpiece with an "Ooo" or "Meu" shape
 - The jaw helps support the pitch. If it is too low, the high register will be flat, and if its too tight, no sound will come out, or great difficulty with the lower notes. **Find the "sweet spot"**.
- Form an **"AH"** vowel with the tongue low in the mouth
- Use a **FAST** and **COOL** air stream that projects beyond your instrument

Mouthpiece Exercise

- Try to find these notes with only the mouthpiece
 - **Alto** – A; **Tenor** – G; **Bari** – E; **Sop** – C

Articulation

- Articulation is 80% air and 20% tongue
- Allow the tongue to rise up from the flat position to hit the reed at an angle
- The least amount of tongue possible should hit the reed
- Air must be pressurized behind the tongue and ready to push out when the tongue is released. Think about spitting out seeds.
- **Tah or Dah** works for normal notes. **LAH** works for legato notes

YouTube Channels/Videos

- US Army Field Band Saxophone Standard
- Edward Goodman (Solos for Young Saxophonists)
- Taimur Sullivan (fundamentals)
- Robert Young (fundamentals)
- Find music you like to play!

Upgrades

Yamaha beginner YAS-23; intermediate is not too far from YAS62II

Selmer Series II or Series III

Jazz mouthpieces: D'Addario Jazz select; Vandoren V16; Meyer

Ligatures: Vandoren Optimum or MO; Bay; BG. Avoid Rovner fabric ligatures b/c they stretch over time