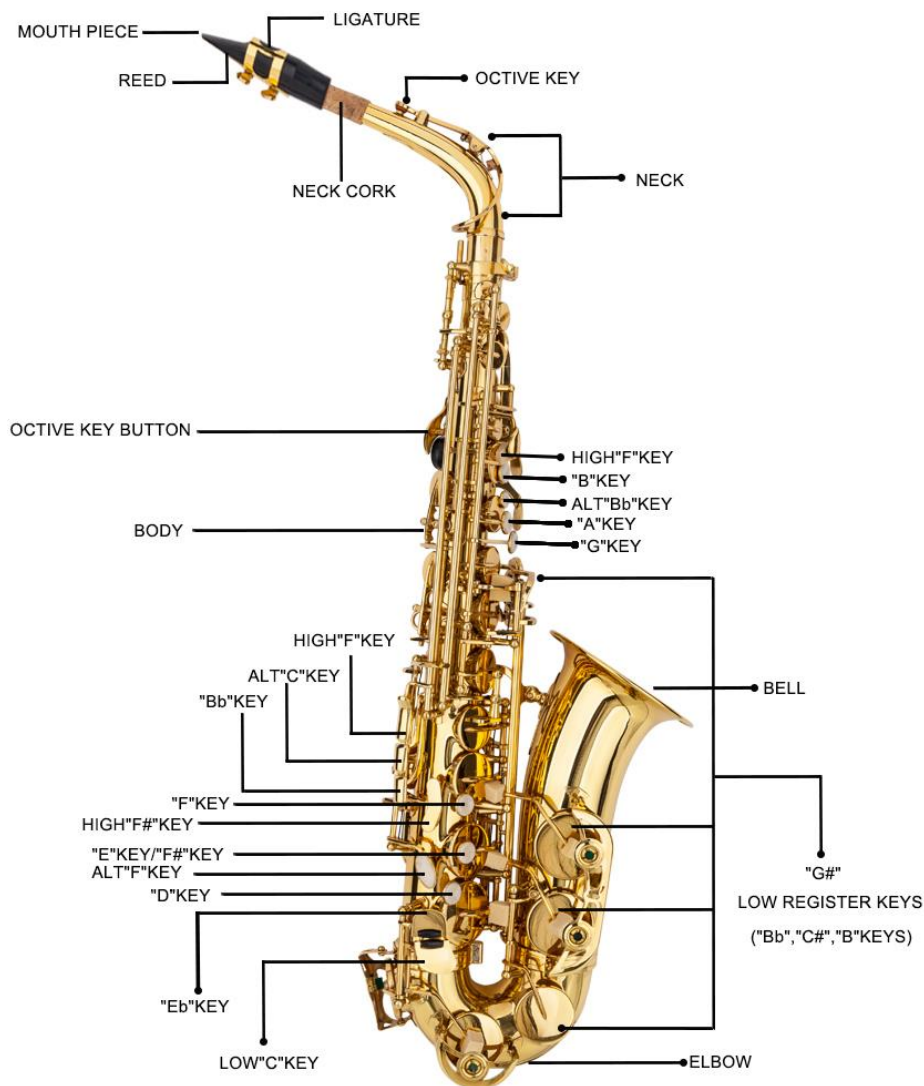


# Saxophone Owner's Manual and Maintain

## Alto Saxophone



**Note:** Take extra care to prevent exposure to sudden changes in temperature and humidity. Avoid direct, extended exposure to:

- Sunlight
- Rain
- Heaters
- Air Conditioners
- Remove all moisture after you have finished playing.

Saxophones are precision made instruments and are tested at our factory. Prior to shipping each instrument is inspected and adjusted by skilled technicians at our distribution center. However, because saxophones are fragile instruments they can get out of adjustment in the shipping process: Keys can get bent, screws can come loose, or springs can become mis-aligned. If this occurs you may need to get your new instrument adjusted by a local technician.

## Getting Started

You must assemble, clean, and tune your new saxophone prior to playing. Saxophones are delicate instruments and can be damaged easily. Handle with care. If you have a saxophone instructor we recommend you see him or her to assist you with assembling, cleaning and tuning your instrument for the first time.

If cannot wait, follow the steps below:

### **Neck**

- Take the neck out of the case being sure to hold it with the palm of your hand over the octave key.
- Apply a small amount of cork grease to the cork-end of the neck and attach the mouthpiece to the neck using a slow twisting motion to push the mouthpiece about 3/4 of the way down.
- Remove the saxophone body from the case by lifting from the bell. Remember do NOT grab the instrument over the keys or rods!
- Saxophones are shipped with small pieces of shipping foam lodged between some keys to protect your instrument during shipping. Remove these being careful not to inadvertently remove any piece of cork or knock a spring out of place.
- While holding the saxophone from the bell, loosen the neck screw and attach the neck by inserting it into the neck receiver using a slow twisting motion then re-tighten the neck screw. If there is too much friction you can apply a small amount of cork grease on the neck joint.
- Next attach the reed to the mouthpiece and adjust the reed.

### **Attaching the Reed**

- Moisten the thin end of the reed in your mouth or in cup of water.
- Remove the ligature from the mouthpiece then position the reed on the mouthpiece so that the tip of the mouthpiece is seen just over the end of the reed.
- While holding the reed in place slide the ligature over the reed and mouthpiece, adjust to fit, and tighten the ligature screws.

### **Tuning your Saxophone**

- Pitch is affected by temperature, so warm your saxophone up before playing by blowing air through it.
- Be sure that the mouthpiece covers 3/4 of the neck cork. This is ideal placement for tuning.
- Use the correct pitch for tuning. Eb Alto saxophone tuning pitch is G.
- Pulling out or pushing in the mouthpiece in small increments can adjust the intonation from sharp to flat.
- The length you pull out, or push in, depends on individual preference and method of playing.

### **Maintenance**

It is important to disassemble and thoroughly clean the instrument after playing, and especially prior to placing it in its case for storage between playing sessions. We recommend that you follow the routine below to ensure that the instrument is kept in peak condition by using the products contained in the Saxophone Care Kit.

In addition to the steps described below we recommend that you take your instrument to a skilled technician at least once a year to be serviced.

## **Removing your reed**

Remove the reed from the mouthpiece by loosening the ligature and sliding it off. Gently dry the reed with a clean cloth and place it in a reed holder.

## **Cleaning the interior**

- After playing always insert your cleaning swab into your instrument to remove moisture.
- After each use rub the outside of the mouthpiece with a soft cloth then scrub the inside of your mouthpiece with a mouthpiece brush. You can use lukewarm water and mild soap. Rinse thoroughly and dry with a soft cloth.
- Use a neck snake once a week to remove particles and moisture from the neck of your saxophone. Run the brush end through the neck to remove particles. Use the cotton swab end to remove any residue and/or moisture.

## **Cleaning the Pads**

- Dry the pads by inserting cleaning pad paper between it and the tone hole. Lightly press the key down and carefully pull the paper away

## **Cleaning the exterior**

- After each use, rub on outside of your instrument to remove particles and fingerprints. Rub briskly to return finish to its fine luster.
- Use a key brush once a week to remove dust or lint that accumulates around post and springs and under key rods.
- Use a pipe cleaner on hard to reach areas.
- Apply small amounts of cork grease on neck cork to maintain the quality of the cork and to make mouthpiece assembly easy. Remember to always remove your mouthpiece when not in use.

## **Other helpful hints**

- Avoid fluids that contain sugar prior to playing. If drinking or eating prior to playing rinse out your mouth.
- Remove your saxophone from its case by lifting it from the lead pipe and bell
- Always remove the mouthpiece from your saxophone when not in use
- Always store your saxophone in its case when not in use to prevent damage
- Your instrument is a valuable item and should be treated with respect. By following the guidelines above your instrument should provide you and your listeners with years of enjoyment
- If you remain uncertain after reading these guidelines on how to assemble and clean saxophone, seek advice at your local music store or from a music teacher.
- Damage caused by incorrect assembly and/or inappropriate handling will not be covered by the warranty.