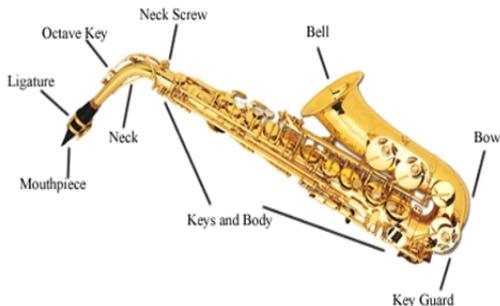


WINDWORKS

WOODWIND & BRASS REPAIRS, RENTALS, & RETAIL

Saxophone Care



You've got your saxophone! It's shiny and wonderful! Be careful with it, please. Remember that it is a machine with a lot of moving parts, and each one *could* break without proper care. Here's how to take care of it, so it lasts for a long time.

As you assemble your saxophone, put your reed in your mouth to wet it thoroughly. Now put on your neck strap so you will be ready to hold the instrument safely. Pick up the body of the horn by the bell instead of the keys, so that you avoid bending the delicate rods that hold the keys. IMMEDIATELY hook it to your neck strap so that it is not in danger of falling. Put the neck into the receiver on the top of the body and align it to the octave lever. Tighten the neck screw. When your reed is ready, fasten it to the mouthpiece with the ligature, flat side of the reed to the flat side of the mouthpiece. Line up the top of the reed with the top of the mouthpiece. Use a tiny amount of cork grease, only when necessary, to help your mouthpiece go on the neck. Too much cork grease attracts dirt and can get on the pads and cause them to break down and have to be replaced. If your mouthpiece does not go on the neck easily, or the mouthpiece is too loose on the neck, bring your instrument to the

repair shop for refitting.

After you are done playing for the day, wipe down the exterior of your instrument with a soft cloth or treated polishing cloth. Avoid using Brasso, Silvo, or other cleaners on your horn, since they can break down the lacquer and cause your saxophone to discolor. A good polish cloth recommended by your music store will accomplish what you're looking for. Use a pad-saver or a swab to wipe down the inside of the instrument every time you play so your pads stay dry and don't get moldy. Take your reed off the mouthpiece and put it in a reed card or a reed holder to keep the fragile tip safe. ALWAYS use the end plug to avoid damage to the octave lever.

Once a month clean your mouthpiece thoroughly. Soak it in a glass of cool water for half an hour, and then brush it out with your mouthpiece brush.

Your sax case is designed to hold the sax and small accessories. If it doesn't fit in the pocket of your case, it should be kept somewhere else. Laying music books or folders or sheet music can put too much force on the keys and rods, so those are better kept in an outside pocket or a backpack.

Always keep your horn in the case when you are not playing, so that you prevent your sax from being sat on or falling off a stand or chair.

Enjoy your new saxophone! Call us at 360-733-5840 if you have any questions about how to take care of it. We are always happy to talk.