

Assembly, Position, and Embouchure Basics

Assembly and Care Tips:

A. Body

- Clean with a silk swab after each use

B. Neck

- The neck should never be handled with pressure on the octave mechanism.
- If the neck strongly resists being gently twisted onto the body of the saxophone,
 - A. For a quick fix: use a small amount of cork grease to lubricate the neck
 - B. Clean the neck using a product called Brasso. Brasso is a brass polisher/cleaner and is available at hardware stores (Home Depot, Lowe's, etc.). Take a soft cloth with a small amount of Brasso polish on it and wipe. The grime will easily come off the neck.

C. Mouthpiece and Reeds

- The reed should sit nearly flush with the tip of the mouthpiece
- Make sure the reed sits evenly on the mouthpiece (each side of the rail is seen evenly and the tip does not appear to be crooked)
- The ligature should be placed on or just below the line where the reed cane is cut. A ligature that is too low will create an airy, spitty sound, while a ligature that is too high will sound "choked."

D. Basic Care and Maintenance

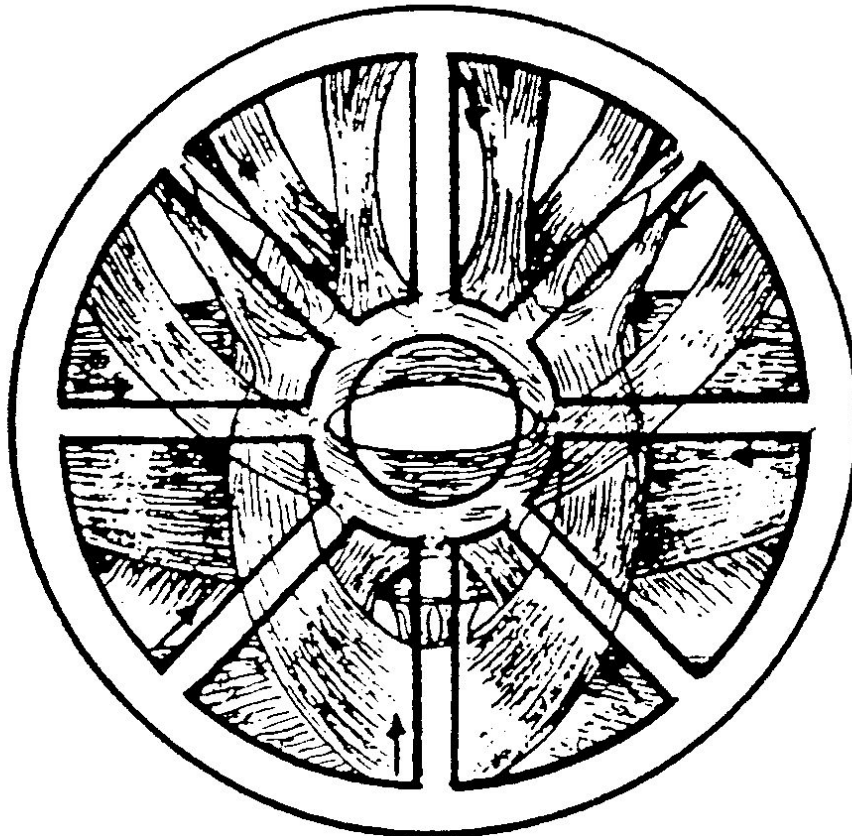
- Always swab the body and neck of the saxophone after playing
- Keep reeds in a reed guard with a humidifier
- Store ligature separate from mouthpiece

Embouchure Steps:

The ideal embouchure is like a drawstring bag, with equal "tension" on all sides (top, bottom, left, and right).

1. Weight of the head rests on the mouthpiece**
2. lower lip gently curves over bottom teeth
3. lower lip cushions reed (raise jaw to meet mouthpiece)
4. draw mouth corners toward the mouthpiece

**This is extremely important! In order for sound to occur, the reed must vibrate. Never bite with the bottom lip/teeth. When first starting, practice setting up the embouchure by dropping the jaw



THE EMOUCHURE "WHEEL"

FLAT CHIN, CORNERS IN!