

SAXOPHONE TUNING GUIDE

Procedures for Tuning the Instrument

1. Warm up thoroughly before tuning.
2. Tune at a mezzo-forte dynamic level and do not use vibrato.
3. Tune to a reliable frequency (electronic tuner, etc.) using the recommended tuning note(s) below.
4. Do not humor the tuning note; play it straight. Adjust the mouthpiece if the pitch is sharp or flat.

BASIC TUNING NOTE(S)

Tuning pitches are indicated with half notes; quarter note pitches are used to help "groove" the tuning note by approaching it from below.



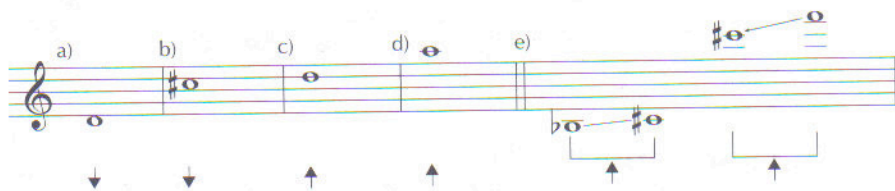
Tuning Mechanism: Mouthpiece. Pull out the mouthpiece on the cork of the neck if the pitch is sharp; push it in if the pitch is flat. After the mouthpiece has been properly adjusted, mark the cork with a pen for future reference.

The concert tuning pitches for alto and baritone saxophones are B flat or A; the concert tuning pitches for soprano and tenor saxophone are F or E.

Techniques for Adjusting Pitches While Playing

1. Embouchure Adjustment—Lipping
2. Alternate Fingerings
3. Combinations of the Above

INHERENT INTONATION FLAWS*



- a) If the low D is flat, add the low C sharp key.
- b) If this C sharp is flat, add the bottom side keys B flat and C.
- c) If this D is sharp, add the low B key.
- d) If this A is sharp, add the F sharp key.
- e) Saxophones tend to be sharp in the low and extreme high register. Lip these notes in tune by relaxing the embouchure and pulling back the lower jaw.

**Arrows pointing up indicate that the notes tend to be sharp; arrows pointing down indicate that the notes tend to be flat.*