

ALTO SAX TIPS

courtesy of



ASSEMBLING THE INSTRUMENT

- ▶ Grip the saxophone neck between your thumb and forefinger and insert it into the body of the saxophone using a gentle twisting motion.
- ▶ Push the mouthpiece onto the neck, twisting to help it go on. (If the mouthpiece is hard to attach, apply some cork grease to the neck cork first.)
- ▶ Attach a reed to the mouthpiece, tightening the ligature to secure it.

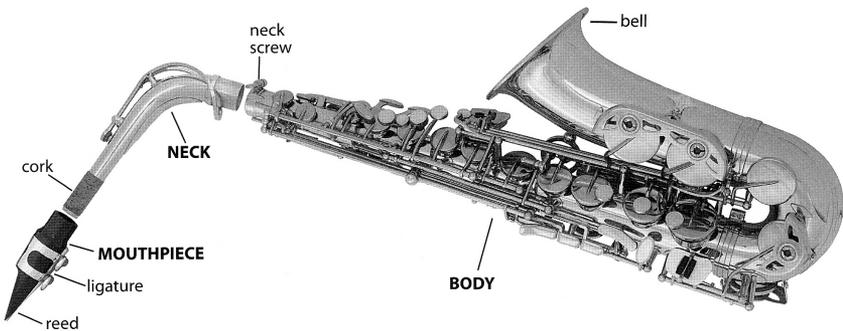


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CARE & MAINTENANCE

- ▶ Avoid eating or drinking (anything other than water) immediately before or while playing the instrument, or brush your teeth first.
- ▶ Use a swab to remove moisture from inside the instrument when you are done playing.
- ▶ Remove the reed after playing and put it in a reed holder.
- ▶ Clean the mouthpiece regularly in warm water using a mouthpiece brush and liquid soap.
- ▶ Store the instrument in its case when not in use.
- ▶ Send the instrument to the Ellis Music repair shop at least once a year for routine maintenance.

REED NOTES

- ▶ For beginners, a relatively soft reed (#2 or #2.5) will be easiest for producing a sound. As you gain experience, a stiffer reed may be necessary for improved tone and producing high notes.
- ▶ Saxophone reed strengths vary from #1 ("soft") to #5 ("hard"). There are many different brands available.



HELPFUL ITEMS TO HAVE

- Reeds
- Reed holder
- Swab
- Cork grease
- Neck strap
- Woodwind mouthpiece brush
- Alto saxophone stand

Questions?
Contact Ellis Music
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www.ellismusic.com