

# BEGINNER COURSE

## Lesson 1

[Watch all of the Lesson Videos on YouTube](#)

### Mouthpiece and Reed Setup

- Most important part of assembly
- Take your time.
- Setup with plenty of light



Don't ever handle the tip of the reed. Always hold reeds at the thicker end to avoid damage

### Step 1 - Wet the reed on both ends.



Wet the reed in your mouth for 15-20 seconds

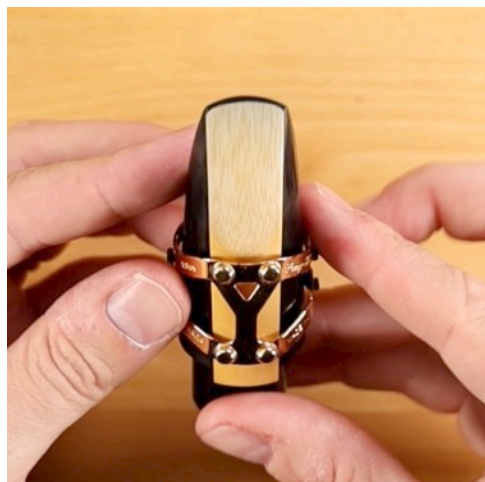


Or, put your reed in a glass of water to wet it

## Step 2 - Place Reed on Mouthpiece

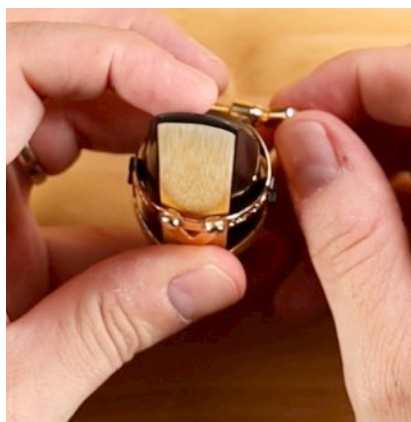


Use the moisture on the reed to wet the table of the mouthpiece. This helps make an airtight seal.



Line up the reed carefully until it is perfectly centered on the mouthpiece.

## Step 3 - Tighten Screw(s)



Once the ligature is perfectly centered on the reed, tighten up the screw enough to hold everything in place.

## Step 4 - Suction Test



Optional: perform suction test to see if you've got a good seal.



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## Lesson 2

### Embouchure and Getting Your First Sound



Start with just the mouthpiece and neck



Top teeth in contact with top of mouthpiece



Bring corners of your mouth in. Your bottom lip will be between the reed and your bottom teeth



Bottom lip should be bunched up and fleshy creating a firm yet relaxed cushion for the reed to vibrate on.



Good saxophone embouchure



The point at which the reed comes in contact with the mouthpiece is about how much of the mouthpiece should go into your mouth.





## How to Put Together and Hold the Saxophone



1 Start by putting your neckstrap on



2 Grip the horn with your left hand



3 Insert neck tenon into body of sax with a gentle twist. Make sure tenon screw is loosened first.



Align octave key mechanism with middle of neck



Grip sax with right hand



Adjust neck strap to bring the mouthpiece up to your top teeth while maintaining an upright posture.

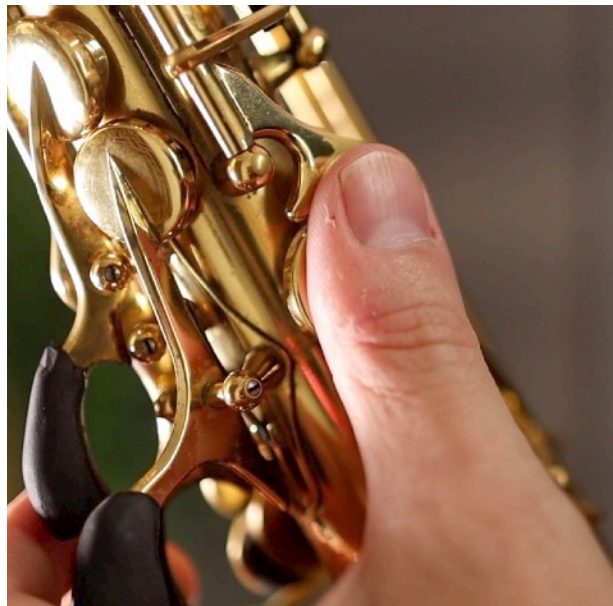


Don't tilt your neck down to the mouthpiece





The right hand thumb does **not** bear the weight of the saxophone.



Left hand thumb placed on the thumb rest where it can pivot to action the octave key.



Right hand finger placement



Left hand finger placement







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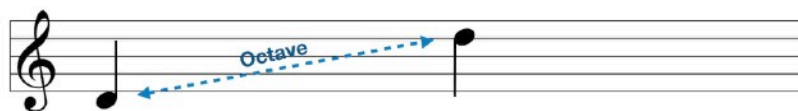
# BEGINNER COURSE

## Lesson 4

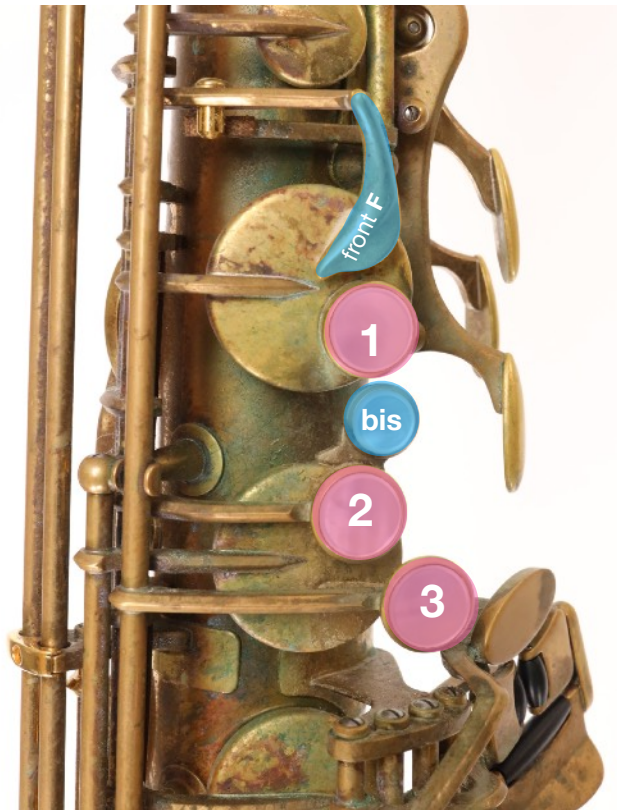
### Saxophone Fingering



Musical notes follow a 7 letter alphabet



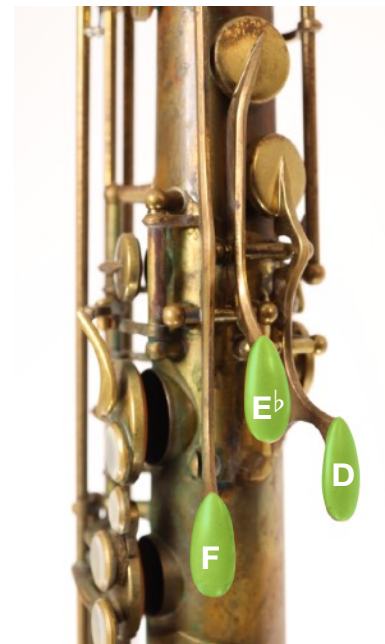
An Octave is the distance (interval between 2 notes sharing the same name).



Left Hand Keys



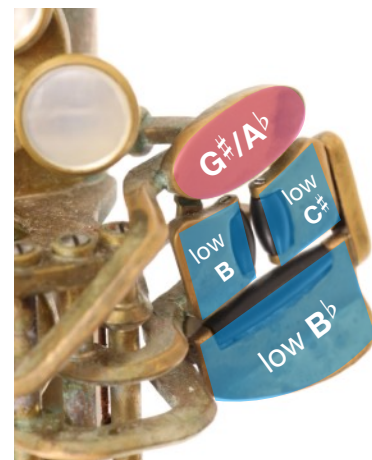
Octave Key



Left Hand Palm Keys



Right Hand Keys



Left Hand Pinky Keys