



WHANGAPARAOA COLLEGE

SAXOPHONE CARE & MAINTENANCE



Saxophone Assembly

1. Hold onto the bell and neck when assembling the saxophone. Be careful not to bend any of the keys.
2. When attaching or adjusting the mouthpiece, hold onto the neck. This will help you avoid bending the neck.

Saxophone Tips

- Never leave the neck strap attached to your sax when you put it in the case.
- The use of a tenon plug is essential for the safety of the octave mechanism.
- Accidental bending of the octave key is the most common damage to saxophones, and will cause your horn to not respond correctly.

GENERAL WOODWIND CARE TIPS

- No gum or soft drinks before playing. Sugar mixed with saliva builds up on the pads and causes them to stick, making it difficult to play the instrument.
- Use cork grease as little as possible, but make sure you use it when needed. To apply it properly, you must rub the grease into the cork. Does not use lip balm or Vaseline
- So moisture does not absorb into the pads, use an absorbent drop swab to clean out the moisture from each section before you place it in the case.
- Wipe down the exterior of the instrument with a non-treated cloth to remove fingerprints and residue.
- Do not store the reed on the mouthpiece; store in a reed holder. Reeds can cement themselves to your mouthpiece and collect many germs. As soon as the reed cracks, chips, or softens, it is time to replace it.
- Clean your clarinet or saxophone mouthpiece in warm, soapy water, making sure the reed and ligature have been removed.
- Do not leave a woodwind instrument in a hot car, or in your trunk. Extreme temperatures can damage your instrument.
- Do not set anything on top of your woodwind instrument, whether inside or outside of its case; this includes sheet music! Damage occurs easily when items are set on the instrument and the case is closed. The keys are often bent this way.
- Make sure the case is closed securely. Check all hinges, latches, and handles to ensure they are securely fastened.
- Never use pliers or hammers on your instrument. Improper use of household tools is a common cause of unnecessary damage to instruments.