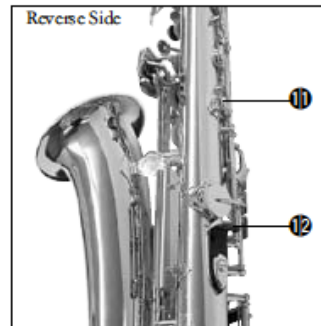


# Instrument Care: Saxophone

## Parts of the Saxophone



- |              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1 Ligature   | 7 Upper Bow   |
| 2 Mouthpiece | 8 Bow         |
| 3 Neck       | 9 Key Guard   |
| 4 Neck Screw | 10 Water Key  |
| 5 Octave Key | 11 Strap Ring |
| 6 Bell       | 12 Thumb Hook |

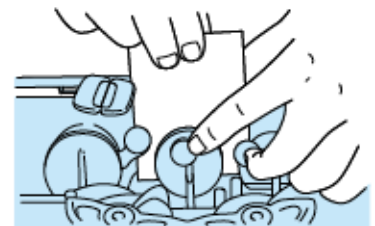
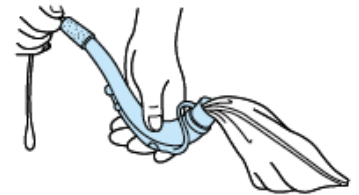
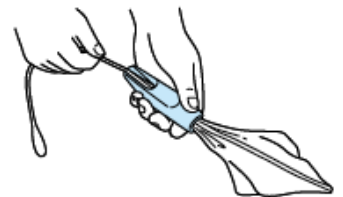
## Equipment:

Saxophone cleaning swab, neck swab, neck brush, cork grease, soft rag, Q-tips, reed protector

## Daily cleaning:

After playing:

- 1) Dry reed between fingers or with a cloth and put it in a protective case. NEVER leave your reed on the mouthpiece, you will quickly grow mold and harbor bacteria that can make you sick.
- 2) After removing the reed, use your neck swab (with smaller weight) to clean the inside of the mouthpiece and the neck.
- 3) Use the saxophone swab (with longer string and larger weight) to clean in inside of the main body. Insert the cloth into the bell, turn it over, and pull it through the instrument.
- 4) Wipe fingerprints on the outside of the body. Check the neck cork for proper grease.
- 5) When the pads are wet, place a cleaning paper between the pad and the tone hole and press the pads lightly to completely remove the moisture.



**Monthly:**

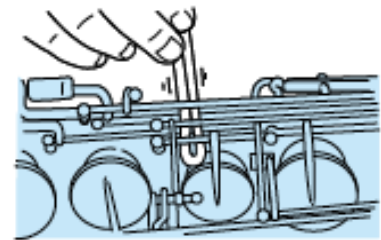
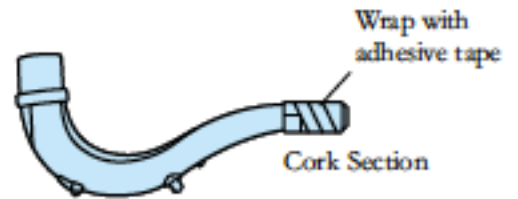
Wash mouthpiece in warm water and dry thoroughly. Lemon juice can be used to remove white scale. Wash your mouthpiece often, especially if you have been sick.

Make a lukewarm soap solution. Wrap the cork section of neck with adhesive tape to protect it from the water. Apply some soap solution to the saxophone neck brush and scrub the inside of the neck. Run some clean water through the neck to rinse. Pull neck swab through to dry completely and remove tape.

Wipe down outside of instrument with a soft, dry cloth.

Use Q-tips for tone holes and hard to reach areas, but be careful not to damage or move the straight metal springs.

Check neck corks for grease. Dry corks become brittle and break and require professional repair immediately.



**Failure to complete daily cleaning will result in a foul smelling instrument that will not play well. Profession repair and cleaning will be required.**

**NEVER PUT THE BODY OF INSTRUMENT IN WATER!**

***School-owned instruments will be professionally cleaned and adjusted regularly. If your own instrument has not been adjusted in a long time, please take it to a music store. Ideally Woodwind instruments are adjusted every 6-12 months. An out-of-adjustment instrument will make it almost impossible to play.***