Caring for Your Saxophone

The following care is recommended to extend the life and maintain the quality of your horn. Never subject the instruments to extremes of temperature (i.e., do NOT leave in a hot car or in the sun). Remove all moisture after you have finished playing.

**Equipment required**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Soft cloth swab and neck cleaner</td>
<td>Cork grease</td>
<td>10 reeds with reed holder</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mouthpiece brush or cotton buds</td>
<td>Soft cloth</td>
<td>Cleaning papers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Small soft paintbrush</td>
<td>Neck Strap</td>
<td>Small screwdriver that fits the screws</td>
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**Assembling Your Saxophone**

Assemble, tune, clean and lubricate your instrument for the first time under the guidance of your teacher.

**Assembly**

Insert neck pipe into body with a gentle twisting motion. When fully inserted, tighten the screw on the neck receiver securing it in place. Do not use cork grease on neck tenon.

**Placing the Reed on the Mouthpiece**

Gently hold the reed in your mouth for a few minutes before putting it on the mouthpiece. Place the reed on the mouthpiece and secure it with the ligature. In the normal playing position, you can just see the tip of the mouthpiece above the reed.

**Attaching the Mouthpiece to the Neck**

Applying cork grease to the neck cork just prior to assembly promotes an easy, proper fit, and extends cork life. Connect the mouthpiece with a slow twisting motion, taking care not to apply pressure to the octave key. Bending the octave key is the most common reason for a saxophone to not respond correctly.

**Adjusting the Thumb Hook**

The thumb hook is in standard position when newly purchased. Loosen the stopper screw with a coin and adjust it to best fit your grip.

**Tuning Your Saxophone**

Pitch is affected by temperature, so warm up the instrument before playing by blowing air through it. To tune, adjust the mouthpiece on the neck cork. The length you pull out, or push in, depends on individual preference and method of playing.

**Caring for the Interior of Your Saxophone**

**Removing the Reed**

Remove the reed from the mouthpiece by loosening the ligature and sliding it off. Gently dry the reed with a clean cloth and place it in a reed holder.

**Removing Moisture from the Mouthpiece**

Remove all moisture and dirt from the inside of the mouthpiece by drawing a cleaning swab through it. Take care not to scratch the mouthpiece. A woodwind mouthpiece brush may be used with warm soapy water when the mouthpiece becomes noticeably dirty.
Removing Moisture from the Neck
Remove all moisture from the interior of the neck by drawing a cleaning swab through it. Be sure to drain all water keys of the baritone saxophone.

Cleaning the Body and Pads
Draw the saxophone cleaning swab through the body from the bell and out through the neck joint, removing all moisture.
When drying a pad, insert cleaning paper between it and the tone hole, lightly pressing down and carefully pulling the paper away.

Caring for the Exterior of Your Saxophone

Cleaning the Outer Surface of the Body
For daily care, wipe the entire length of the body with a polishing cloth, being careful not to apply pressure to the keys. Wipe down the keys, taking care not to scratch them or damage the pads.

Cleaning the Key Posts
Twist gauze into a thin strip and slide between key posts to clean the pillars and the side surface of keys. A soft small paintbrush or tone hole cleaner may be used to clean the space under and between the keys.

Cleaning the Tone Holes
Use a paintbrush or a tone hole cleaner to remove dirt from under the keys, including the octave and water key.

Storing the Instrument
The case should always be used for storing the instrument after playing and for transporting. Be sure to remove the reed and store it properly. Do not put anything in the case that could place pressure on the instrument.

Please ensure that the Instrument case is labelled with your full name, current roll class and contact telephone number.

- The replacement of all disposable items needed in the maintenance of the instrument is the responsibility of the hirer. These include reeds, cork grease, cleaning swabs, etc.
- Before any major repairs are done, Ms. Dietz must check the damage and authorize repairs to the instrument. All repairs should be carried out only by a qualified repair technician.
- Before returning to HGHS on completion of hiring for full refund of the deposit, it must be inspected for damage by a qualified repair technician, who will provide an inspection certificate. The instrument must then be brought to Ms. Dietz in person for inspection, along with any certificates of inspection.

To keep your instrument in optimum playing condition, have it cleaned and inspected by a qualified repair technician annually.

Source: [www.yamaha.com](http://www.yamaha.com)