

# SAXOPHONE

## **PREPARATION FOR ASSEMBLY**



Figure 1

The parts of your saxophone are:

1. Mouthpiece assembly
2. Neck
3. Body (body, bow and bell)
4. Neck Strap
5. End Plug

Care must be taken when assembling these parts to avoid damage. The mouthpiece is held firmly on the neck by the neck cork. The neck cork must be given a light coating of cork grease before the mouthpiece is put on the neck. Cork grease should be applied as often as necessary to allow the mouthpiece to twist onto the neck smoothly and easily.

The reed must also be prepared before playing. This is done by placing the thin end of the reed on your tongue and moistening it in your mouth. This will allow the reed to vibrate properly. Be careful not to bite or put pressure on the reed while it is in your mouth as it will break very easily!

## **ASSEMBLING THE SAXOPHONE**

1. Place the strap around your neck.

## **DISASSEMBLY / CLEANING**

When you are finished playing the saxophone, it should be taken apart

2. Hold the neck in one hand and gently push on the mouthpiece in a twisting motion (Figure 2).



3. Place the reed against the mouthpiece with the flat side down and the tip (thin end) lining up with the tip of the mouthpiece. Secure it with the ligature. The standard position is where you can just see the tip of the mouth-piece above the tip of the reed (Figure 3).



4. Grasp the bell of the saxophone body and remove it from the case (NEVER grab the keys or rods). Remove the end plug and loosen the neck receiver screw.

5. Grasp the neck in your other hand and carefully place it into the neck receiver with a twisting motion. (Be careful not to squeeze the octave key on the neck or to jam the octave key loop into the octave key stem on the body. This could result in mechanical problems with the octave key.) The brace on the underside of the neck should line up with the octave key stem on the body. Once it is lined up, tighten the screw on the neck receiver (Figure 4).



6. Finally, attach the neck strap hook

with the same care with which it was assembled.

1. Unhook the neck strap from the saxophone body.
2. Remove the neck from the body.

3. Feed the weighted end of a sax swab into the bell and turn the saxophone over so that the weight drops out the other end. Pull the swab through the instrument bore a couple of times.



4. Put the end plug back into the neck receiver and put the body back into the case.

5. Remove the reed, wipe off the excess moisture and place it in a reed case/holder.

6. Remove the mouthpiece from the neck and store it in the case with the ligature and cap on it.

7. Use the sax neck cleaner to clean out the neck.

Periodically, you may also want to do the following:

- Use the soft cloth to polish the exterior of the saxophone, in particular the fingerprints left on the keys.

onto the strap ring on the saxophone body. Adjust the strap so that the mouthpiece comfortably reaches your mouth.

- Use a mouthpiece brush and warm soapy water to wash out the buildup inside the mouthpiece (Figure 6).



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### **IMPORTANT TIPS**

- NEVER put the saxophone in water! Doing so would result in costly repair.
- The mouthpiece and reed are a crucial part of tone production on the saxophone. A chipped or cracked reed or mouthpiece will hinder your ability to play properly.
- Avoid squeezing the keys and rods.
- Even though the saxophone is attached to a neck strap when playing, it is not a good idea to let the instrument hang freely. Keeping one hand on the saxophone at all times will prevent it from being bumped or dropped accidentally.