

## **Saxophone Cleaning & Care Guide**

### **MOUTHPIECE**

*You Will Need* – a small bowl, warm water, washing-up liquid, a clean, soft cloth and a small toothbrush/mouthpiece brush.

1. Put some warm water and a few drops of washing-up liquid in the bowl. Mix thoroughly.
2. Dip the brush in the water. Clean the inside of the mouthpiece with the brush, dipping the brush back in the soapy water as needed.
3. Clean the outside of the mouthpiece in the same way. You can also use a clean cloth dipped in the soapy water to clean the outside.
4. Rinse the inside, then the outside of the mouthpiece with cold running water from a tap.
5. Dry the mouthpiece with a clean, soft cloth.

### **NECK AND BODY**

*You Will Need* – warm water, a towel, a soft cloth, a small toothbrush, cotton buds, and paper towels.

1. Run warm water from a tap through the neck. Try not to get too much water on the cork. Dry the outside of the neck with a towel.
2. Using a paper towel, rub the bottom end of the neck in a circular motion to remove tarnish and build-up. Move to a clean part of the paper towel and repeat. Continue the procedure until the paper towel comes away clean.
3. Using a clean paper towel, wipe the inside of the top of the body. Again, keep moving to a clean part of the paper towel, and continue cleaning until the paper towel comes away clean.
4. If you have a pull-through cloth, use this on the inside of the body several times.
5. Use a brush or cotton buds to clean dust from the areas around and under the keys and rods. Take care not to move any springs.
6. Using a clean, soft cloth, gently rub the inside of the bell as far down as your hand will reach. Do this to remove any smudges or water spots.
7. Using the soft, clean cloth, wipe the outside of the body and bell to remove all fingerprints and smudges. Wipe the keys with this cloth also. Do not put anything (oil, Vaseline, etc.) on the outside of the saxophone!

### **SAXOPHONE CASE**

- Remove any unnecessary items and find them another home.
- Thoroughly vacuum the inside of the case before you return the instrument to it. Keeping the case dust free will help keep the dust out of your instrument
- Be sure to store all items (reeds, pull-through, cork grease, pencil, mouthpiece, neck) in the spaces provided so that they do not get under the keys or inside the saxophone. Put nothing between the top of the case and the saxophone.
- Always keep your saxophone in its case when you are not playing it. Never put anything in your case that it was not designed to hold. The pressure from papers or music in your case can bend the rods and keys. Be sure to latch your case carefully.

### **IMPORTANT NOTES**

- When assembling your saxophone, if needed, apply a small amount of cork grease to the mouthpiece cork.
- A sticky pad is usually due to moisture or dirt. To clean the pads, place a piece of absorbent paper (such as lens paper for cleaning camera lenses) under the pad, close the key, and pull the paper through. To avoid sticky pads, don't eat or chew gum before playing.
- After each practice, use a pull-through cloth to clear the moisture from the inside of your saxophone. Swab each section individually as you put your instrument away. Carefully wipe off the outside of the saxophone and the keys to remove oils and perspiration caused by your hands.
- Your reed should be removed after playing your saxophone. Dry the reed on a cloth and return it to its case.

- Regularly check all screws and pivots to see if they are coming loose. If they are, take your saxophone to a repair shop or your teacher to have them adjusted. You should not try and adjust them yourself because they can be over tightened or cause the instrument to become out of adjustment.
- A small brush or pipe cleaner can be used to clean the dust and dirt from between the keys where a cloth won't reach.
- About twice a year the saxophone keys should be oiled. A small amount of high grade key oil should be applied to the friction points in the mechanism. To avoid damage to the pads, immediately remove excess oil with a cloth. Apply the oil with the tip of a toothpick.
- Be careful to never leave your instrument in extreme heat or cold.