



A Practical Approach to Beginner Saxophone From Three Perspectives

CLINICIANS:

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Texas Bandmasters Association 2015 Convention/Clinic

**JULY 23-26, 2015
HENRY B. GONZALEZ CONVENTION CENTER
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS**

A Practical Approach to Beginner Saxophone from Three Perspectives

Friday, July 24, 2015 CC Room 214CD - Henry B Gonzales Convention Center

Damian Gonzales
Grisham Middle School
Round Rock ISD

Carter Matschek
Canyon Ridge Middle School
Leander ISD

Manuel San Luis
Cedar Park Middle School
Leander ISD

Size of Class

Percentage of total beginner class size

Placing Students

What to look for and how to determine if the instrument is a good fit.

Materials

How to set your expectations.

Embouchure

Basic Set Up - How much lower lip; How much mouthpiece; What are the corners of the mouth doing?

Initial Tone Production

How to Start

Tonguing

Placement and Consistency

Full Saxophone

Posture and Hand Position

Daily Drills

Expectations and Goals

Daily Reading

Applying Learned Skills

Scales

Major and Chromatic

Vibrato

Method and Speed

Saxophone

Recommended brands and model numbers in order of preference:

Yamaha YAS 200AD

Selmer AS500



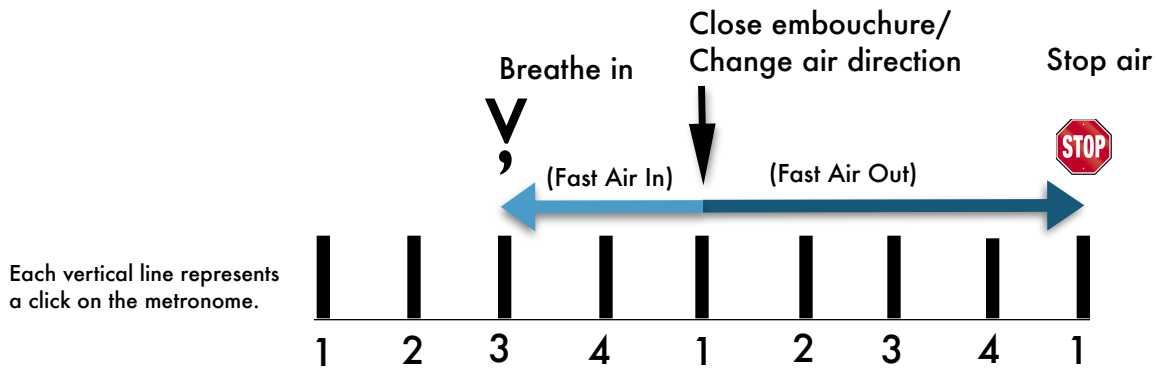
Each beginning band student will need to obtain the following supplies by the second day of school.

1. **Essential Elements Book One for Saxophone.**
(Text book for the class)
2. **Folding music stand**
(For at home practice)
3. **Mouthpiece**
(Selmer Paris C with Selmer Ligature)*
4. **Alto Saxophone Reeds**
(Four Vandoren 3, blue box)
5. **Reed Guard**
(Storage for reeds)
6. **Mouthpiece cleaner**
7. **Korg TM-50**
(Tuner and metronome combo)
8. **Silk cleaning cloth**
(To swab out moisture from saxophone)
9. **1 inch 3 ring black binder**
(5 dividers, 10 clear sleeves, pencil bag with pencils)

Music Vendors:

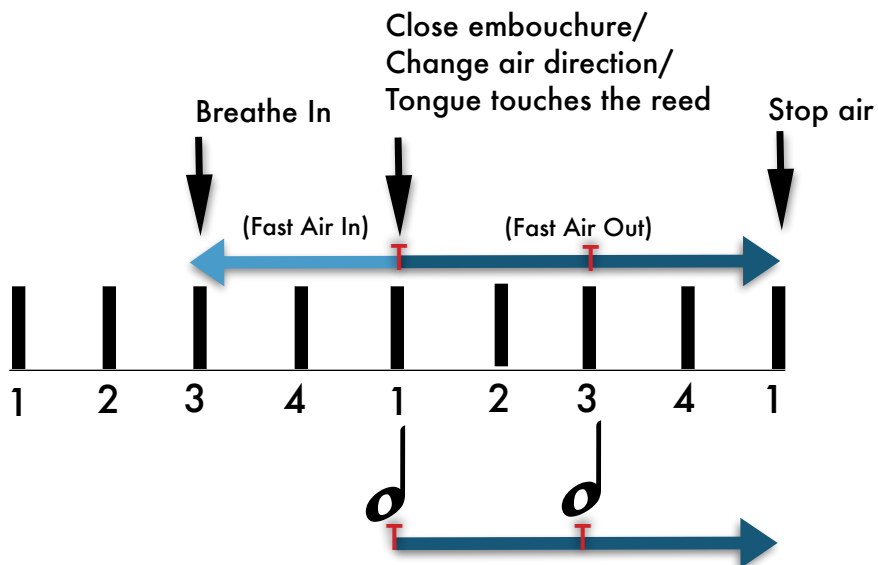
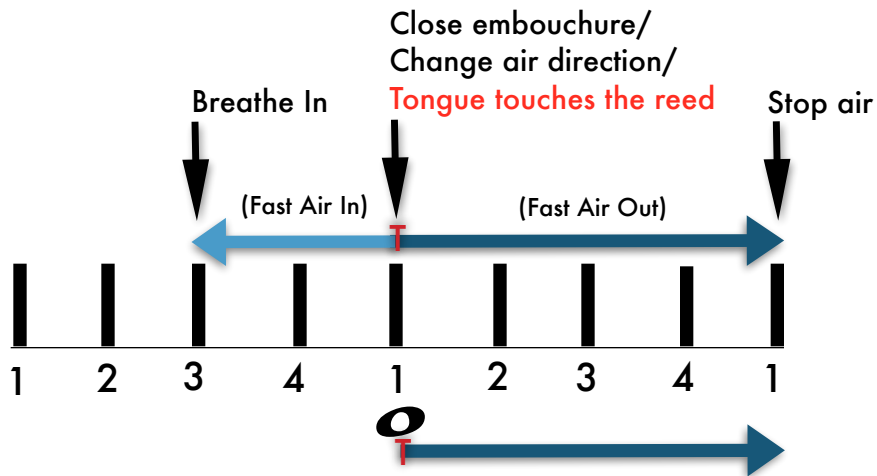
| Music and Arts | Sam Bass Music | Strait Music | Hillje Music | Danny Ray's |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| 2541 S. I-35, Suite 750 | 802 Brandi Lane | 13945 N. Highway 183 | 1601 South I-35, Suite 370 | 12 Chisholm Trail Rd |
| Round Rock, TX 78664 | Round Rock, TX 78681 | Austin, TX 78717 | Round Rock, TX 78684 | Round Rock, TX 78681 |
| Phone: 512-255-0558 | Phone: 512-246.9845 | Phone: 512-918-3743 | Phone: 512-310-1331 | Phone: 512-671-8663 |
| musicarts.com | sambassmusic.com | straitmusic.com | hilljemusiccenter.com | dannyraysmusic.com |

Initial Tone Production On Mouthpiece and Neck



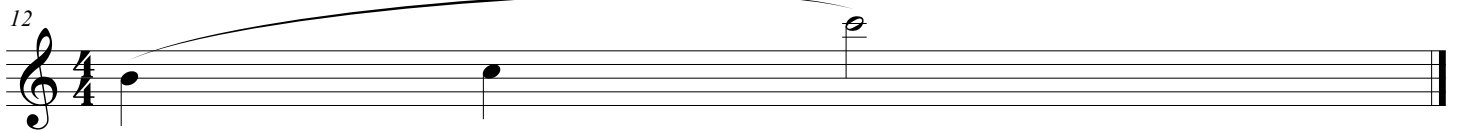
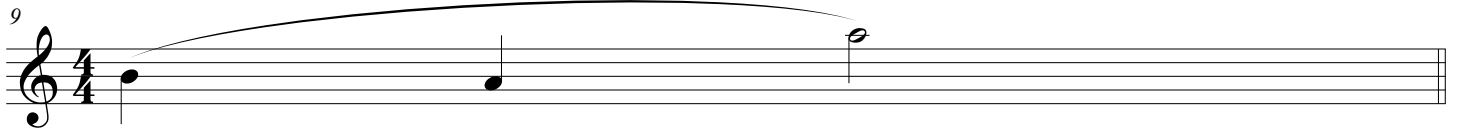
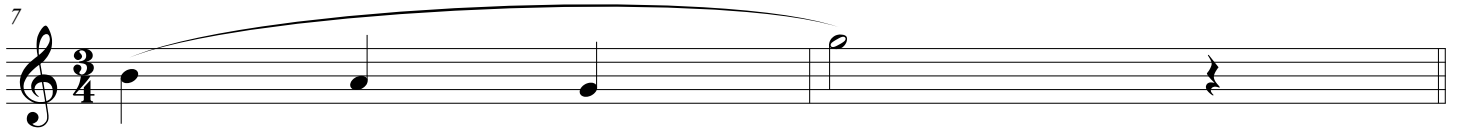
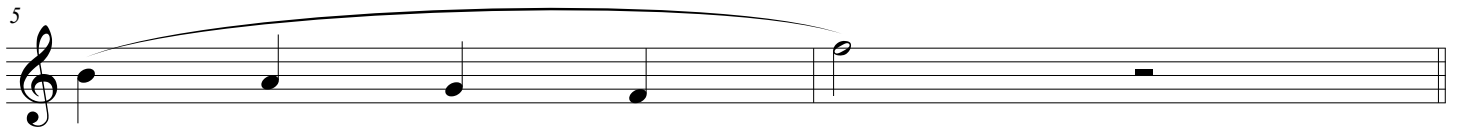
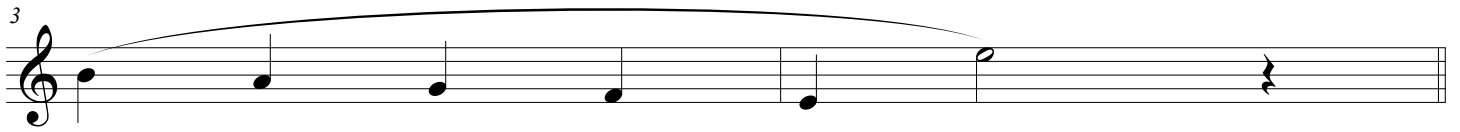
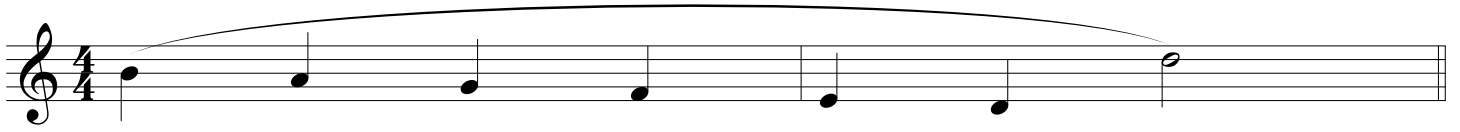
- Breathe in - Bottom lip and top teeth stay set. Breath through the corners of the mouth.
- Close embouchure/Change air direction - Close corners of mouth and blow through the mouthpiece. Make sure no air is escaping through the corners. Air needs to be fast and constant. Tone should be a steady concert Ab.
- Stop air - Without moving face or tongue, take a slight breath in on count one.

- Tongue touches the reed - The top tip of the tongue touches the bottom tip of the reed.



Saxophone Daily Drills

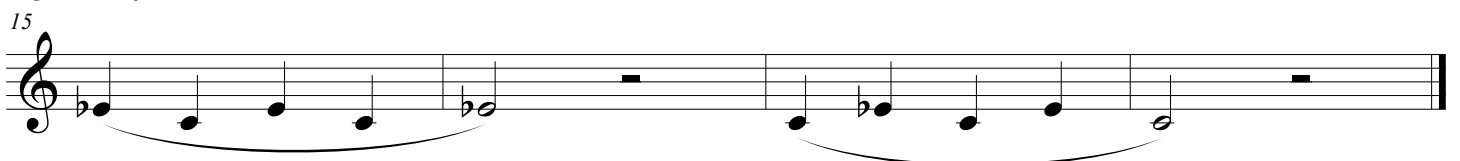
Descending Quarters/ Octave Slur



Descending Down to Low C



Right Pinky Exercise



Left Pinky Exercises - C to C#

19

Musical staff showing notes: C, C#, C, C#, C, followed by a whole rest.

Left Pinky Exercises - C to B

21

Musical staff showing notes: C, B, B, B, C, followed by a whole rest.

Left Pinky Exercises - C# to C to B

23

Musical staff showing notes: C#, C, B, B, C#, followed by a whole rest.

Left Pinky Exercises - C to Bb

25

Musical staff showing notes: C, Bb, B, B, C, followed by a whole rest.

Left Pinky Exercises - Chromatic

27

Musical staff showing notes: C, C#, C, C#, C, Bb, B, B, C#, followed by a whole rest.

Palm Key Exercise

29

Musical staff showing notes: C#, C, C#, C, C, Bb, C, C#, followed by a whole rest.

Fork F# Exercise

32

Musical staff showing notes: C, C#, C, C#, C, Bb, C, followed by a quarter rest. Notes C# and Bb are marked with "fk".

Side Bb Exercise

35

Musical staff showing notes: C, C, C#, C, Bb, C, Bb, followed by a quarter rest. Notes C# and Bb are marked with "s".

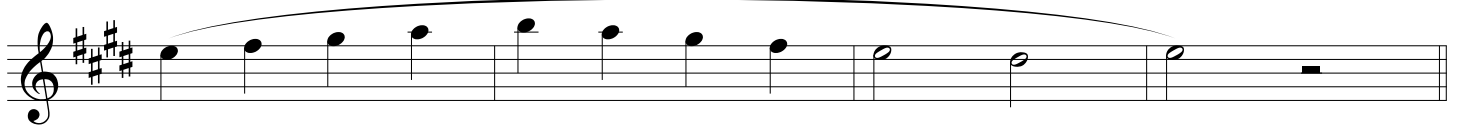
Grisham Band Mini-Scales

Before playing each line, circle its key signature and mark the appropriate accidental before each affected note.

Written B Major - Concert D Major



Written E Major - Concert G Major



Written A Major - Concert C Major



Written D Major - Concert F Major



Written G Major - Concert Bb Major



Written C Major - Concert Eb Major



Written F Major - Concert Ab Major



Written Bb Major - Concert Db Major



Saxophone

Chromatic Exercise in Triplets

4 note pattern (enharmonics)

Two staves of music in 4/4 time. The first staff contains four measures of a triplet of eighth notes, each followed by a quarter rest. The notes are: G4 (sharp), A4, B4; G4, F4 (flat), E4; G4 (sharp), F4 (sharp), E4; G4 (flat), F4 (flat), E4. The second staff continues with four measures of a triplet of eighth notes, each followed by a quarter rest. The notes are: G4 (sharp), A4, B4; G4, F4 (flat), E4; G4 (sharp), F4 (sharp), E4; G4 (flat), F4 (flat), E4.

4 note pattern (scale)

Two staves of music in 4/4 time. The first staff contains four measures of a triplet of eighth notes, each followed by a quarter rest. The notes are: G4 (sharp), A4, B4; G4, F4 (flat), E4; G4 (sharp), F4 (sharp), E4; G4 (flat), F4 (flat), E4. The second staff continues with four measures of a triplet of eighth notes, each followed by a quarter rest. The notes are: G4 (flat), F4 (flat), E4; G4 (flat), F4 (flat), E4; G4 (flat), F4 (flat), E4; G4 (flat), F4 (flat), E4.

7 note pattern (enharmonics)

One staff of music in 4/4 time. The first measure contains a triplet of eighth notes: G4 (sharp), A4, B4. The second measure contains a triplet of eighth notes: G4, F4 (flat), E4. The third measure contains a triplet of eighth notes: G4 (sharp), F4 (sharp), E4. The fourth measure contains a triplet of eighth notes: G4 (flat), F4 (flat), E4. Each triplet is followed by a quarter rest.

7 note pattern (scale)

One staff of music in 4/4 time. The first measure contains a triplet of eighth notes: G4 (sharp), A4, B4. The second measure contains a triplet of eighth notes: G4, F4 (flat), E4. The third measure contains a triplet of eighth notes: G4 (flat), F4 (flat), E4. The fourth measure contains a triplet of eighth notes: G4 (flat), F4 (flat), E4. Each triplet is followed by a quarter rest.

Chromatic Scale

One staff of music in 4/4 time. The first measure contains a triplet of eighth notes: G4 (sharp), A4, B4. The second measure contains a triplet of eighth notes: G4, F4 (flat), E4. The third measure contains a triplet of eighth notes: G4 (flat), F4 (flat), E4. The fourth measure contains a triplet of eighth notes: G4 (flat), F4 (flat), E4. Each triplet is followed by a quarter rest.

Klose Technique Exercises

Saxophone



1. 

2. 

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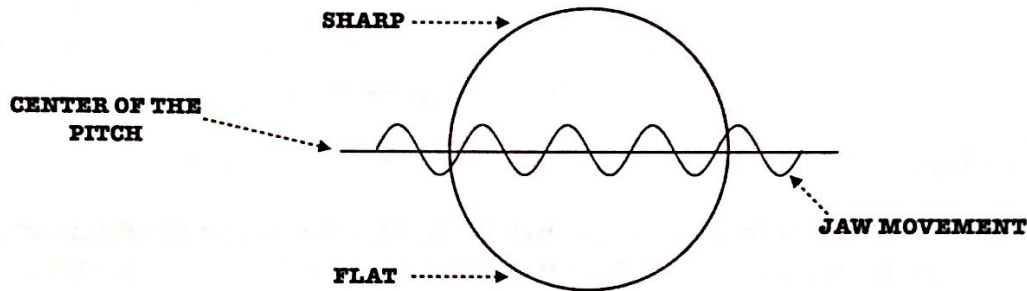
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22.

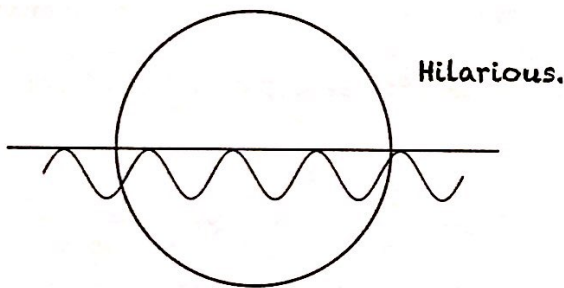
VIBRATO

Vibrato is a natural part of the saxophone sound. We model our vibrato after the vibrato of great string players and singers. Vibrato for saxophone is fairly simple: move your lower jaw up and down as if you are saying "wah-wah-wah." It should feel just like you're gently squeezing and releasing the reed with your lower jaw.

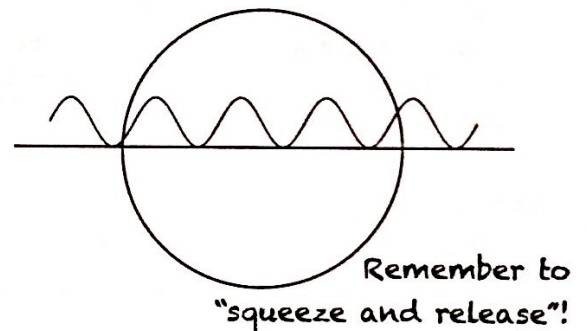
A beautiful vibrato sounds like it is going slightly up and down across the center of the pitch. Kind of like this:



But if you actually do that with your jaw against the reed, it kind of sounds like it's below the pitch like this:



So what you actually should do to make the vibrato sound correct is move your jaw up above the center of the pitch, like this:



To practice this:

- 1) Set your metronome at 60 and try to make slow, even waves with your jaw.
- 2) Start with 2 even waves per beat, then work up to 3, 4, and 5 even waves per beat.
- 3) Do this same exercise with the met at 50 and 76.

When actually playing music, **vibrato always remains at a constant speed!** It does not matter if the music's tempo is fast or slow. To really get your own vibrato speed down, you must listen to the great saxophone players in our resource list so your brain has a reference vibrato sound.

Marcel Mule (Paris Conservatory, father of the French school of playing) used a "magic number" of 300 vibrations per minute to attain the perfect vibrato speed. So if you divide 300 by the tempo, you'll find the number of vibrations you should play per beat to get the perfect-sounding vibrato!

$$\frac{300}{60} = 5 \text{ VIB/BEAT!}$$

$$\frac{300}{75} = 4 \text{ VIB/BEAT!}$$

$$\frac{300}{100} = 3 \text{ VIB/BEAT!}$$

$$\frac{300}{150} = 2 \text{ VIB/BEAT!}$$

Name: _____

Due May 12, 2015

Grisham Saxophone Practice Sheet

Practicing is most crucial to a band students's success. The amount of practice required will vary from person to person as some need more than others in order to learn assignments and to improve on their instruments. Quality of practice is more important than quantity; therefore, it is important that students practice correctly and have a systematic approach to their daily practice. Select a time of day that will be free of interruptions and try to practice at this same time every day. Set a goal for each practice session and stick to it. Don't spend valuable time playing through what you have already mastered; instead concentrate on the difficult parts. **Slow, steady practice with a metronome** will pay off much more quickly than trying to play things as fast as you can. This will only result in errors.

Below is a practice guideline for the week. Write down the number of minutes you spend on each category and total your number of minutes for each day.

| Assignment | T | W | Th | F | S | Su | M |
|---------------------------|---|---|----|---|---|----|---|
| Saxophone Daily Drills | | | | | | | |
| Grisham Band Fundamentals | | | | | | | |
| Klose Technique Exercises | | | | | | | |
| Region Scales | | | | | | | |
| Clark Studies | | | | | | | |
| Band Book 2 Pg. 15 & 16 | | | | | | | |
| Concert Music | | | | | | | |
| Solo | | | | | | | |
| Audition Music | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |

Total minutes this week: _____ (A minimum of 150 minutes should be your goal this week.)

What did you improve on the most this week: _____

What is the evidence of this: _____

What are you still struggling with: _____

What do you think could help you with this: _____

Parent Signature: _____