

Tenor Saxophone

Basic Tuning Rules

1. Make sure you have warmed up for at least 5 minutes before tuning.
2. Use your best embouchure and make sure you play with your best tone quality.
3. Play your tuning note at a mezzo forte dynamic level.
4. Do not use any vibrato while tuning.
5. Do not try to fix the tuning note by adjusting with your air or embouchure. Adjust the mouthpiece until it is in tune.

Best Tuning Notes



Approach the G by walking up the scale to help center the pitch.

F# is your best tuning note. Use this when tuning alone or with other woodwind instruments.

How to Tune the Saxophone

The saxophone is tuned by adjusting how far the mouthpiece is pushed onto the neck. If you are sharp, pull it out more; if you are flat, push it in more.

* The embouchure and tongue position can make a big difference in the tuning of the saxophone. Check the pitch produced on the mouthpiece by itself to see if your embouchure is too tight or too loose.

- Alto Saxophone: Should produce a concert A on the mouthpiece alone.
- Tenor Saxophone: Should produce a concert G on the mouthpiece alone.
- Bari Saxophone: Should produce a concert D on the mouthpiece alone.

How to Adjust for Other Notes

Unfortunately, after tuning your instrument, there will still be some notes that will need to be adjusted to be in tune. Use these guidelines to help you if you come across an out of tune note:

1. If you are sharp - relax the embouchure.
2. If you are flat - firm up the embouchure.
3. If you are playing loud - crescendos have a tendency to play flat.
4. If you are playing soft - decrescendos have a tendency to play sharp.
5. Reeds that are new or too hard tend to play sharp.
6. Reeds that are old or too soft tend to play flat.

Tenor Saxophone Pitch Tendencies

Abbreviations

VF - Very Flat F - Flat S - Sharp VS - Very Sharp

VS VS S S S S S

F F F F F F F

F F F F F F F

F VF VF VS VS VS VS

F F F F F F F

S S S S S S VS

VS VS S S S S S



While these pitch tendencies are common for most saxophones, each individual instrument can vary. It is important to spend time with a tuner on your own instrument to learn its unique characteristics.

Tenor Saxophone Warmups

Abbreviations

VF - Very Flat F - Flat S - Sharp VS - Very Sharp

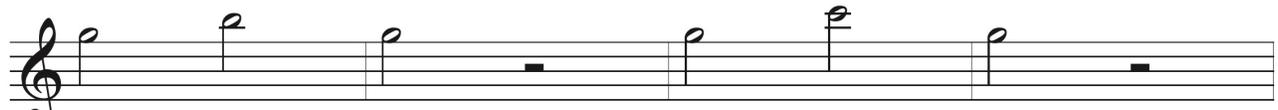
Long Tone 1a



Long Tone 1b



Long Tone 1c



Long Tone 1d



Tenor Saxophone Warmups

Abbreviations

VF - Very Flat F - Flat S - Sharp VS - Very Sharp

Long Tone 3a

The musical notation for Long Tone 3a consists of five staves of music, each containing a sequence of notes with various accidentals and dynamic markings. The notes are as follows:

- Staff 1: G4 (b), A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5. Dynamic: S.
- Staff 2: G4, A4, B4, C5 (b), D5, E5, F5, G5. Dynamics: VS, VS.
- Staff 3: G4, A4, B4, C5 (b), D5, E5, F5, G5. Dynamics: S, VS, S.
- Staff 4: G4, A4, B4, C5 (#), D5, E5, F5 (#), G5. Dynamics: VS, S, VF.
- Staff 5: G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5. Dynamics: VS, F.

Tenor Saxophone Major Scales

Abbreviations

VF - Very Flat F - Flat S - Sharp VS - Very Sharp

C Major Scale (Concert Bb)

Musical notation for the C Major Scale (Concert Bb) in 4/4 time. The scale is written on a single staff with a treble clef. The notes are: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The notes are marked with abbreviations: F, VS, VS, S, S, S, S, S, VS, VS, F.

F Major Scale (Concert Eb)

Musical notation for the F Major Scale (Concert Eb) in 4/4 time. The scale is written on a single staff with a treble clef and one flat in the key signature. The notes are: F4, G4, A4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, Bb4, A4, G4, F4. The notes are marked with abbreviations: F, VS, VS, VS, VS, F.

Bb Major Scale (Concert Ab)

Musical notation for the Bb Major Scale (Concert Ab) in 4/4 time. The scale is written on a single staff with a treble clef and two flats in the key signature. The notes are: Bb4, C5, D5, Eb5, F5, G5, Ab5, Bb5, Ab5, G5, F5, Eb5, D5, C5, Bb4. The notes are marked with abbreviations: F, VS, VS, S, VS, S, VS, VS, F.

Eb Major Scale (Concert Db)

Musical notation for the Eb Major Scale (Concert Db) in 4/4 time. The scale is written on a single staff with a treble clef and three flats in the key signature. The notes are: Eb4, F4, G4, Ab4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, Ab4, G4, F4, Eb4, D4, C4, Bb4, Ab4, Eb4. The notes are marked with abbreviations: F, F, VS, VS, VS, F, F.

Ab Major Scale (Concert Gb)

Musical notation for the Ab Major Scale (Concert Gb) in 4/4 time. The scale is written on a single staff with a treble clef and four flats in the key signature. The notes are: Ab4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, Ab4, G4, F4, Eb4, D4, C4, Bb4, Ab4, Gb4, F4, Eb4, Ab4. The notes are marked with abbreviations: F, VF, VS, VS, VF, F.

Db Major Scale (Concert B)

Musical notation for the Db Major Scale (Concert B) in 4/4 time. The scale is written on a single staff with a treble clef and five flats in the key signature. The notes are: Db4, Eb4, F4, Eb4, Db4, C4, Bb4, Ab4, Gb4, F4, Eb4, Db4, C4, Bb4, Ab4, Db4. The notes are marked with abbreviations: VF, VS, VS, S, S, S, VS, VS, VF.

Tenor Saxophone Major Scales

Abbreviations

VF - Very Flat F - Flat S - Sharp VS - Very Sharp

F# Major Scale (Concert E)

Musical notation for the F# Major Scale (Concert E) on a treble clef staff. The scale consists of 14 notes: E, F#, G, A, B, C, D, E, D, C, B, A, G, F#. The notes are marked with abbreviations: F, VF, VS, VS, VF, F.

B Major Scale (Concert A)

Musical notation for the B Major Scale (Concert A) on a treble clef staff. The scale consists of 14 notes: B, C, D, E, F#, G, A, B, A, G, F#, E, D, C. The notes are marked with abbreviations: F, VF, VS, VS, VS, S, VS, VS, VS, VS, VF, F.

E Major Scale (Concert D)

Musical notation for the E Major Scale (Concert D) on a treble clef staff. The scale consists of 14 notes: E, F#, G, A, B, C, D, E, D, C, B, A, G, F#. The notes are marked with abbreviations: F, F, VF, VS, VS, VS, VF, F, F.

A Major Scale (Concert G)

Musical notation for the A Major Scale (Concert G) on a treble clef staff. The scale consists of 14 notes: A, B, C, D, E, F#, G, A, G, F#, E, D, C, B. The notes are marked with abbreviations: F, VF, VS, VS, S, VS, VS, VF, F.

D Major Scale (Concert C)

Musical notation for the D Major Scale (Concert C) on a treble clef staff. The scale consists of 14 notes: D, E, F#, G, A, B, C, D, C, B, A, G, F#, E. The notes are marked with abbreviations: VS, VS, S, S, S, S, S, S, S, VS, VS.

G Major Scale (Concert F)

Musical notation for the G Major Scale (Concert F) on a treble clef staff. The scale consists of 14 notes: G, A, B, C, D, E, F, G, F, E, D, C, B, A. The notes are marked with abbreviations: F, F, VS, VS, VS, VS, F, F.

Interval Tuning

Interval Tuning Explained

When multiple notes are played at a time, each note produces a unique sound wave based off the pitch being played. When the frequencies align, the beats or waves in the sound disappear and it sounds “in tune” to our ears. When more than one pitch is played, the notes above the fundamental pitch must be adjusted to make the frequencies align and create that “in tune” sound. We call this “just intonation.”

Adjustments Needed

The adjustments listed below are the number of cents that must be raised or lowered in order to produce an “in tune” sound when playing an interval above the tonic (first note) of a key. It is important to note that your tuner will say that you are not in tune when playing this way - this is why it is important to listen first before you look at your tuner!

Major Scale

Unison	Major 2nd	Major 3rd	Perfect 4th	Perfect 5th	Major 6th	Major 7th	Perfect 8th
0	+4	-14	-2	+2	-16	-12	0

Minor Scale

Unison	Major 2nd	minor 3rd	Perfect 4th	Perfect 5th	minor 6th	minor 7th	Perfect 8th
0	+4	+16	-2	+2	+14	+18	0

Listen Before You Look

When an interval is adjusted properly the beats or waves in the sound disappear. Because of this, it is important to train yourself to listen for the in tune sound as your primary tuning mechanism. The tuner should be used as a reference point after you have used your ears to adjust the pitch. Always listen before you look!

When Should You Use This?

Just intonation or interval tuning is only necessary when playing chords or long and sustained sounds. When playing fast sections or melodic material, interval adjustments are not required.

Tenor Saxophone Interval Tuning

Make sure to listen to the drone during the rests and try to hear your next pitch before playing it!

- lower pitch by number of cents + raise pitch by number of cents

C Major (Concert Bb)

0 +4 -14 -2 +2

-16 -12 0 0 +2 -14 0

F Major (Concert Eb)

0 +4 -14 -2 +2

-16 -12 0 0 +2 -14 0

G Major (Concert F)

0 +4 -14 -2 +2

-16 -12 0 0 +2 -14 0

Tenor Saxophone Interval Tuning

Make sure to listen to the drone during the rests and try to hear your next pitch before playing it!

- lower pitch by number of cents + raise pitch by number of cents

A minor (Concert G)

0 +4 +16 -2 +2

+14 +18 0 0 +2 +16 0

D minor (Concert C)

0 +4 +16 -2 +2

+14 +18 0 0 +2 +16 0

E minor (Concert D)

0 +4 +16 -2 +2

+14 +18 0 0 +2 +16 0