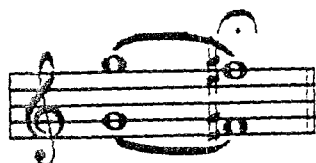


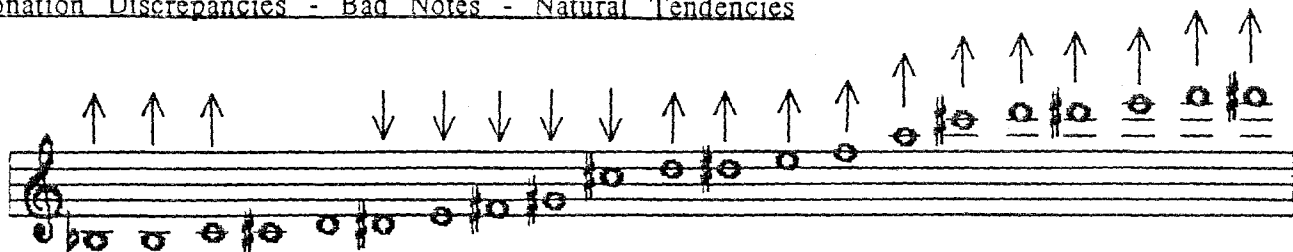
## EB ALTO SAXOPHONE

### Tune The Instrument



Tune with both octaves.

### Intonation Discrepancies - Bad Notes - Natural Tendencies



### Causes and Remedies for Bad Notes

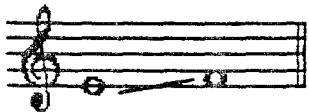
- Reeds - Hard reeds may cause overall sharpness.  
- Soft reeds may cause overall flatness.  
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- Embouchure - Too little mouthpiece in mouth may emphasize flatness of high register.  
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- Dynamics - Crescendos may blow flat. To correct: Drop the lower jaw slightly, slightly increase lip pressure around the mouthpiece.  
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- Alternate Fingerings - Alternate fingerings are definitely an excellent way to alter the "bad notes" on many saxophones.

## SAXOPHONE

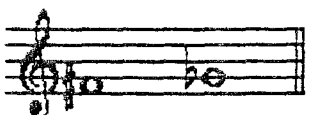
### Possible Adjustments for Selected Pitch Tendencies



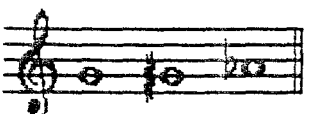
Flat - Finger with the left hand low C# key open to raise the pitch.



Flat - Open the right hand Eb key to raise the pitch.



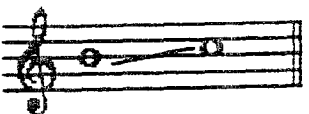
Flat - Finger with the 3rd finger of the right hand instead of the usual 2nd finger (If necessary add the right hand Eb key)



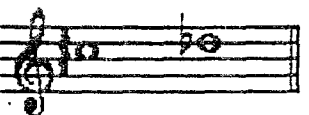
Flat - Open the chromatic F# key in the right hand to raise these notes. (To avoid playing an F# don't use this fingering simultaneously with the finger of the right hand.)



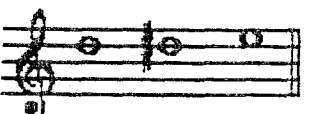
Flat - Adjust fingering by opening the left hand G# key to raise this pitch.



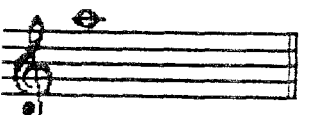
Flat - Adjust fingering by opening the bottom right hand side key to raise this pitch.



Flat - Raise this pitch by (1) fingering the note with Octave key and 3rd finger of the left hand (2) using the regular fingering plus the middle side key of the right hand (3) fingering the low C# fingering plus the octave key.

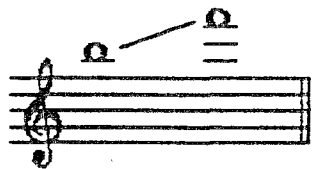


Sharp - Lower this pitch by adding the low B key to the normal fingering.

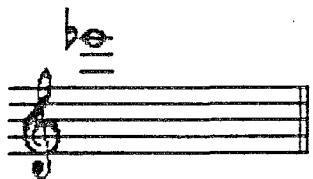


Sharp - Keys fingered by the right hand may be added to the fingering to lower the pitch.

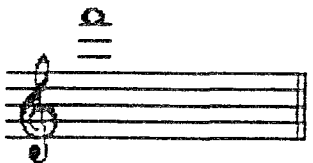
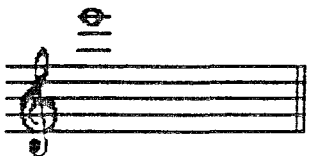
SAXOPHONE...(Continued)  
Possible Adjustments for Selected Pitch Tendencies



Usually sharp Play with and open throat and flat tongue to humor the pitches down in pitch.

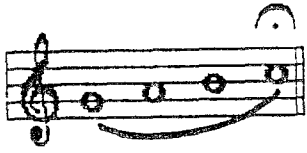


For Eb, E and F remove the palm key.

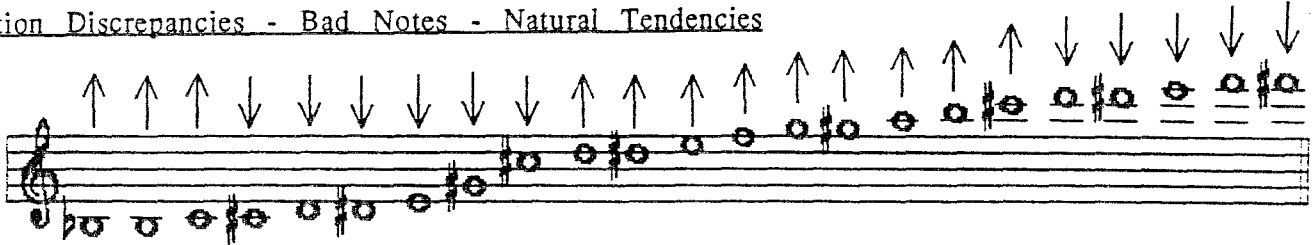


## Bb TENOR SAXOPHONE

### Tune The Instrument



### Intonation Discrepancies - Bad Notes - Natural Tendencies

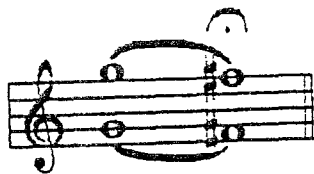


### Causes and Remedies for Bad Notes

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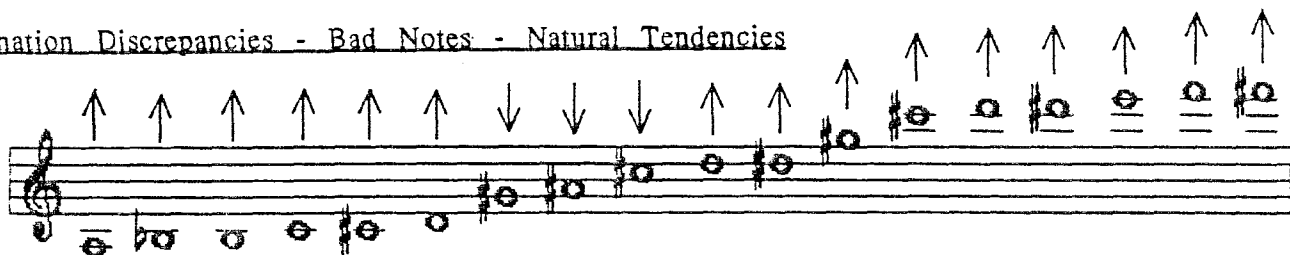
# E♭ BARITONE SAXOPHONE

## Tune The Instrument



Tune with both octaves.

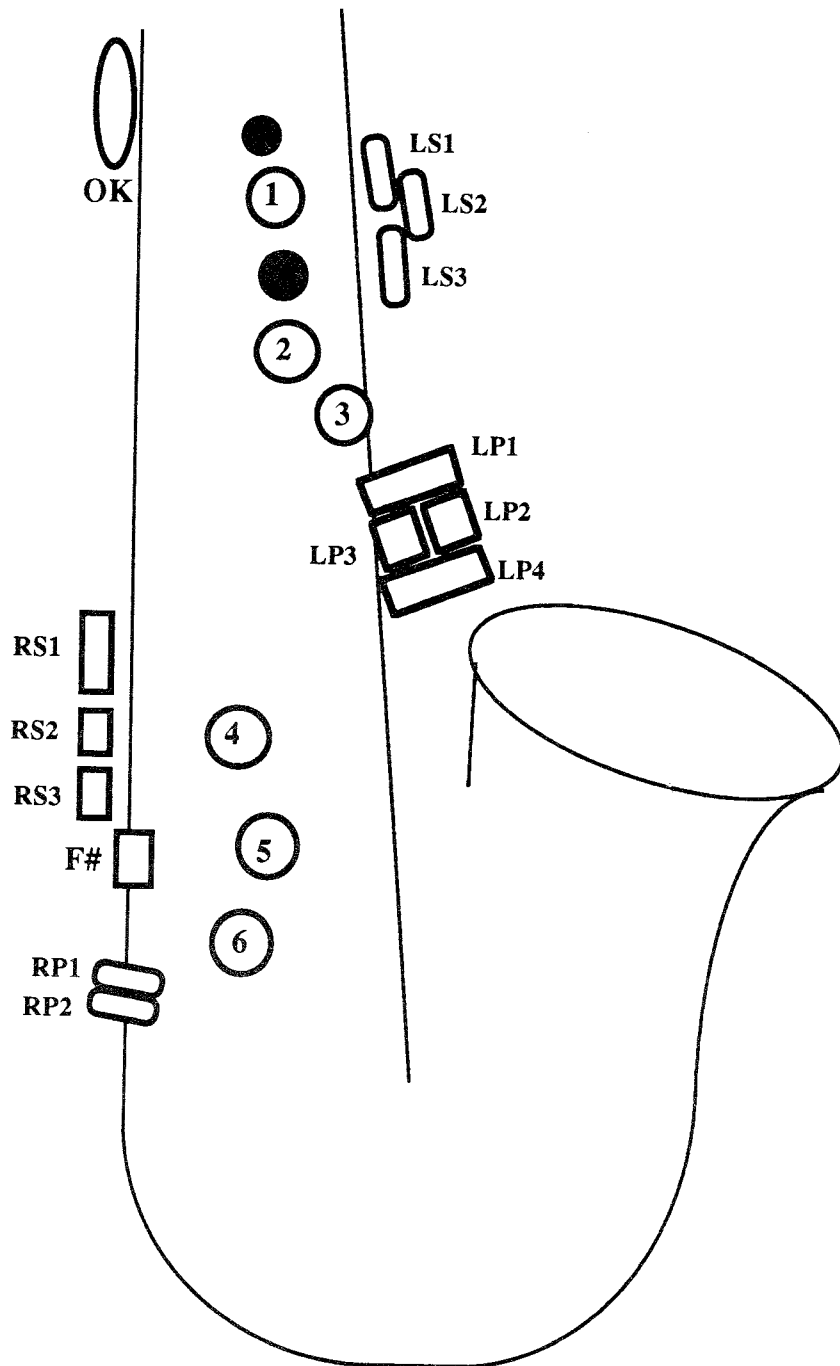
## Intonation Discrepancies - Bad Notes - Natural Tendencies



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- Alternate Fingerings - Alternate fingerings are definitely an excellent way to alter the "bad notes" on many saxophones.

# Saxophone



# Pitch Tendencies & Adjustments

## Alto Saxophone

F = Flat  
S = Sharp  
V = Very

*Note: Finger Adjustments will  
tend to cause timbre changes*

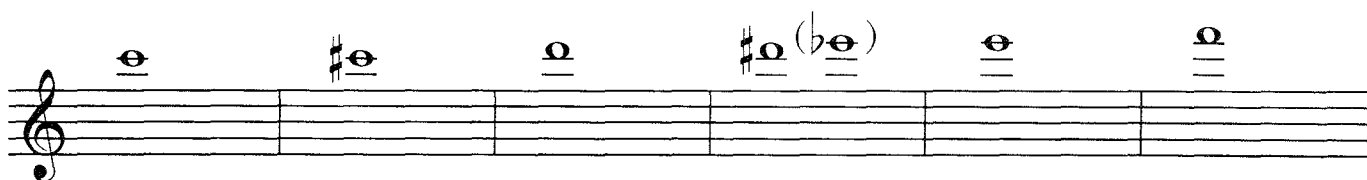
(Notes not addressed are  
generally acceptable)



Pitch Tendency	F	F	VF	F	F	VF
Adjustment	None	Add LP2	Add LP2	Add LP3 or LP4	Add F# key	Add RS2 or OK and 3



Pitch Tendency	S	S	VS	S	S	S
Adjustment	Add LP3	Add LP3	Add LP4	Add RP2	Add RP2	Add 6



Pitch Tendency	S	VVS	VS	VS	VVS	VS
Adjustment	Add 4, 5, 6	Use 4 & 6	Add 4, 5, 6	Close LS2	Close LS2 or Use RP1	Close LS1

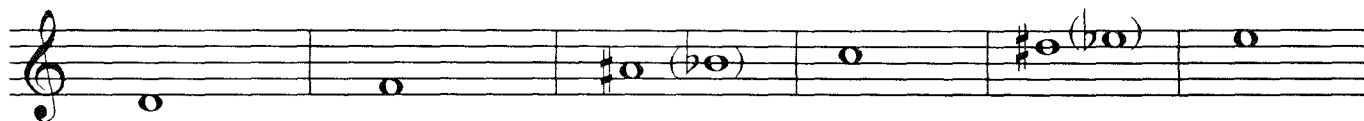
# Pitch Tendencies & Adjustments

## Tenor Saxophone

F = Flat  
S = Sharp  
V = Very

*Note: Finger Adjustments will  
tend to cause timbre changes*

(Notes not addressed are  
generally acceptable)



Pitch Tendency	F	F	F	S	S	VS
Adjustment	None	Add RP1	Use LP1	Use 4, 5, 6	Use 4, 5, 6	Use LP4



Pitch Tendency	S	VS	S	S	S	VVS
Adjustment	Use RP2	Use RP2	Use RP2 and LP4	Use 6	None	Use 4, 5, 6



Pitch Tendency	VVS	VS	VS	VVS	VS
Adjustment	Use 4 & 6	Use 4, 5, 6	Close LS2	Close LS2 or Use RP1	Close LS1



## SAXOPHONE TUNING GUIDE

### Procedures for Tuning the Instrument

1. Warm up thoroughly before tuning.
2. Tune at a mezzo-forte dynamic level and do not use vibrato.
3. Tune to a reliable frequency (electronic tuner, etc.) using the recommended tuning note(s) below.
4. Do not humor the tuning note; play it straight. Adjust the mouthpiece if the pitch is sharp or flat.

### BASIC TUNING NOTE(S)

*Tuning pitches are indicated with half notes; quarter note pitches are used to help "groove" the tuning note by approaching it from below.*



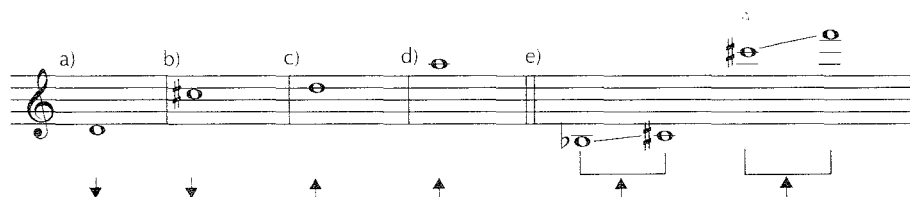
*Tuning Mechanism:* Mouthpiece. Pull out the mouthpiece on the cork of the neck if the pitch is sharp; push it in if the pitch is flat. After the mouthpiece has been properly adjusted, mark the cork with a pen for future reference.

*The concert tuning pitches for alto and baritone saxophones are B flat or A; the concert tuning pitches for soprano and tenor saxophone are F or E.*

### Techniques for Adjusting Pitches While Playing

1. Embouchure Adjustment-Lipping
2. Alternate Fingerings
3. Combinations of the Above

### INHERENT INTONATION FLAWS\*



- a) If the low D is flat, add the low C sharp key.
- b) If this C sharp is flat, add the bottom side keys B flat and C.
- c) If this D is sharp, add the low B key.
- d) If this A is sharp, add the F sharp key.
- e) Saxophones tend to be sharp in the low and extreme high register. Lip these notes in tune by relaxing the embouchure and pulling back the lower jaw.

*\*Arrows pointing up indicate that the notes tend to be sharp; arrows pointing down indicate that the notes tend to be flat.*

# SAXOPHONE INTONATION CHART

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument Make and Model \_\_\_\_\_

Mouthpiece and Reed Used \_\_\_\_\_

Carefully follow the procedures outlined in the Tuning Guide for your instrument before beginning to chart your intonation with a friend. Your teacher should provide an Intonation Charting Guidesheet with instructions on how to use an electronic tuner. Mark intonation discrepancies for lower octave scales below the staff.

## Tuning Notes

Saxophone

*mf*      Written G or F#      Check Octaves

## Chromatic Scale

## Major Scales

## Harmonic Minor Scales

## Pitch Tendencies of Dynamics

*mf*    *pp*    *ff*    *pp*    *ff*    *pp*    *ff*