

# *Saxophone Resource Materials*

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## **I. Reeds**

### Classical /Contemporary Performance or Study

Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Baritone: Vandoren Blue Box 3.0 – 3.5  
Vandoren V21 3.0 – 3.5 *on Soprano and Alto sax*  
Gonzales 3.0, 3.25, 3.5, 3.75, 4.0 *on Soprano and Alto sax*  
Legere “Signature” 3.5, 3.75, 4.0 (run softer than above reeds)

### Jazz Performance or Study

Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Baritone: Vandoren “Java” 2.5 – 3.5  
Vandoren “Jazz ZZ” 2.5 – 3.5

- NOTE:
1. The increase in number refers to an increase in strength (thickness) of the reed.
  2. The strength of the reed depends on the facing and opening of the mouthpiece.
  3. The smaller the distance is between the tip of the reed and the tip of the mouthpiece, the harder reed strength one needs to use (i.e. harder reeds relate to higher numbers).
  4. Many other fine brands exist on the market, and strengths vary. In auditioning newer brands of reeds, choose a few of each strength category to ascertain the particular reed strength that produces a tone without buzz or air but still feels resistant enough for you.

## **II. Classical Mouthpieces (listed in Recommended Order)**

Soprano: Selmer “Concept”  
Rousseau NC 5 New Classic  
Selmer S-80 *D*

Alto: Selmer S-80 *C\*\**  
Vandoren *AL-3, Al-4*  
Selmer S-90 *facing #170 or #180*  
Selmer Soloist (*short barrel*)  
Yamaha Custom Series Mouthpiece (beginners only)  
Yamaha 4C (beginners only)

Tenor: Vandoren Optimum *TL-3, Tl-4*  
Selmer S-80 *C\*\**  
Selmer S-90 *facing #170 or #190*  
Yamaha Custom Series Mouthpiece (beginners only)  
Yamaha 4C (beginners only)

Baritone: Selmer S-80 C\*\* or C\*  
Yamaha 5C

## **II. Jazz Mouthpieces**

Soprano: Bari  
Otto Link 6\* to 7\*, medium chamber (hard rubber or metal)

Alto: Meyer 5, medium chamber (hard rubber)  
Otto Link 5\* to 7\*, medium chamber (hard rubber)  
Vandoren A6- A8, Short or medium chamber

Tenor: Ponzol M1  
Otto Link 5\* to 7\*, medium chamber (either hard rubber or metal)  
Berg Larson 95/1 to 115/1 or 95/2 to 105/2 (either hard rubber or metal)  
Guardala Metal  
Dukoff Metal

Baritone: Meyer 5 to 8, medium chamber  
Berg Larson 100/1 to 115/1 or 100/2 to 115/2 (either hard rubber or metal)  
Otto Link 5\* to 7\* (either hard rubber or metal)

Note: The use of letters such as *C* and *D* or numbers such as 5,6 and 7 indicate the amount of space between the tip-rail and the reed-tip. This space is often called the tip-opening or lay of the mouthpiece. The addition of a star or asterisk (\*) after a letter or the increase in number or progression through the alphabet indicates a wider or larger tip-opening.

Each mouthpiece manufacturer has its own numbering and/or lettering system that determines the facing and tip opening. This will obviously affect the quality of sound (dark-bright), resonance of sound, response and of course the choice of both the strength and brand of the reed. In general, the following table outlines three major brands of classical mouthpieces:

<u>BRAND</u>	<u>CLOSED FACING</u>		<u>REGULAR FACING</u>		<u>OPEN FACING</u>		
1. Rousseau	NC 3		NC 4	NC 5			
2. Selmer	B	C	C*	C**	D	E	F
3. Vandoren	A15	A25	A27	A35	A45		

## **III. Saxophones —**

PROFESSIONAL LINE: Classical – Contemporary playing

- **Soprano**  
Yamaha - YSS-875/soprano (fuller, darker sound)  
Yamaha - YSS-62/soprano (rich vibrant sound)  
Selmer - Series II or III  
Yanagasawa 992
- **Alto**  
Yamaha - YAS-875-EX (Regular Lacquer, Silver or Gold Plate)  
Selmer - Series II and III  
Yanagasawa 990 or 992 (bronze)

- **Tenor**  
Yamaha - YTS-875 (Regular Lacquer, Silver or Gold Plate)  
Yamaha - YTS-62 Mark II  
Selmer - Series II or III  
Yanagasawa 992 (bronze)
- **Baritone**  
Yamaha YBS-62/baritone  
Yanagasawa 990 or 992 (bronze)  
Selmer - Series II

PROFESSIONAL LINE: Jazz and Contemporary playing

- **Soprano**  
Yamaha 82 Z (Regular Lacquer, Silver or Gold Plate)  
Same as above in 3.1.1
- **Alto**  
Yamaha 82 Z (Regular Lacquer, Silver or Gold Plate)  
Selmer - Reference Series 54  
Selmer Balanced Action
- **Tenor**  
Yamaha 82 Z  
Yamaha - YTS-875 EX  
Yamaha - YTS-62  
Selmer - Reference Series 54  
Selmer - Mark VI  
Selmer – Balanced Action
- **Baritone**  
YBS-62/baritone  
Yanagasawa 990 or 992 (bronze)  
Selmer - Series II

SEMI-PROFESSIONAL LINE: Junior High School and High School Students

- **Soprano**  
Yamaha – YSS-475/soprano  
(fuller, darker sound)  
Yamaha - YSS-62  
Yanagasawa 902
- **Alto**  
Yamaha - YAS-875-EX  
Yamaha - YAS-875  
Yamaha - YAS-475  
Yanagasawa 902  
(alto cont.)
- Selmer - Series II  
Keilworth
- **Tenor**  
Yamaha - YTS-875  
Yamaha - YTS-475  
Selmer - Series II or III  
Keilworth
- **Baritone**  
YBS-62/baritone  
Selmer - Series II

**IV. Ligatures**

Soprano, Alto and Tenor

Vandoren Optimum  
Rovner – “Versa” or “Dark” models  
Silverstein

Baritone

Vandoren Optimum  
Rovner - “Versa” or “Dark” models

## **V. Accessories of Importance**

### Reed Tools

- Reed Geek reed tool available at [www.reedgeek.com](http://www.reedgeek.com)
  - or -
- Two thick pieces of flat glass (a: 12”x12”x1”, and b: 4”x4”x1”)
- Several sheets of #500 and #600 grade of wet/dry sandpaper
  
- Reed Rush by Leblanc Company
  
- Dutch Rush (for detailed sanding)

### Tuner and Metronome

Many excellent styles exist on the market. Some of the more popular ones (Dr., Beat, Korg, etc...) have metronome sections that divide the beat up into numerous subdivisions and equal/unequal pulsings per large beat. They are also programmable to create odd beat patterns

Regarding tuners, select one that has a loud tone for pitch matching. You might also purchase a small amplifier to connect both your tuner and metronome to for amplified use. This becomes helpful when rehearsing larger ensembles or very loud sections of music.

Common brands found today include (but are not limited to: Dr. Beat, Boss, Korg, Seiko, and Yamaha.)

My favorite “app” tuner/metronome is Tonal Energy, available for both IOS and Android phones.

It is essential that saxophonists use both the tuner and metronome to their fullest extent in each practice session. It is important to understand how to practice effectively with a device such as a tuner or metronome.

### Saxophone Cleaning Devices

- H.W. Sax Pad-Saver (fuzzy swab originally known as a “Stuff-It.)

### Reed Cases

- D'Addario Multi-Instrument Reed Storage Case with Humidity Control Pack
- Vandoren reed system ( Humidity Control Case)
- Humididor Setup ( Cases found in Cigar Store)

Saxophone Mute: (as shown in The Art of Saxophone Playing by Larry Teal)

### Neck straps:

- Oleg Neck Strap
- Other closed-hook type straps
- Harness Straps for Baritone Saxophones
- IMPORTANT: No Neotech Straps!

Saxophone Stands: (make sure that all pegs fit your doubles securely)

- Beechler Stand

## **VI. Cases and Gig Bags**

- Hard shell cases are strongly recommended because of their durability and the performers misfortune. Select from the following:
- BAM cases
- Walt Johnson cases
- Selmer or Yamaha cases or jazz pack
- SKB Jazz Pack or SKB type cases with heavy-duty twist latches
- Anvil special-order case for larger instruments

## **VII. Minor Repair Items**

- Five piece jewelers screwdriver set
- Key Oiler (key oil in an applicator bottle: mix 1 part 10W40 motor oil: 1 part sewing machine oil)
- a spring hook (make your own from a paper clip)
- polishing cloth

## **VIII. Sheet Music Retailers**

www.vcisinc.com

702-438-2102

### **Van Cott Information Services**

[www.vcisinc.com](http://www.vcisinc.com)

702-438-2102

### **J.W Pepper**

[www.jwpepper.com](http://www.jwpepper.com)

### **Eble Music Company**

Iowa City, IA

[www.eblemusic.com](http://www.eblemusic.com)

319.338.0313

### **Sheet Music Plus**

[www.sheetmusicplus.com](http://www.sheetmusicplus.com)

## **IX. Publications Recommended for Saxophonists**

### **North American Saxophone Alliance**

[www.saxalliance.org](http://www.saxalliance.org)

## **X. Classical Discography**

Recordings are excellent resources for developing ones concept of sound and musical style. This list showcases a broad prospective of fine saxophone artistry.

American Saxophone Quartet	Mauk, Steve
Amherst Saxophone Quartet	McAllister, Timothy
Berlin Saxophone Quartet	Marcel Mule Saxophone Quartet
Bensmann, Detlef	Murphy, Otis
Bornkamp, Arno	New York Saxophone Quartet
Capitol Quartet	Nichol, John
Chicago Saxophone Quartet	Quatour Adolphe Sax
Campbell, Griffin	Premiere Saxophone Quartet
Dirlam, Richard	Prism Saxophone Quartet
Delangle, Claude	Quartet de Saxophones de Paris
Deffayet, Daniel	Prost, Nicolas
Forger, James	Rahbari, Sohre
Fourmeau, Jean-Yves	Rascher, Sigurd
Great Lakes Saxophone Quartet	Reitz, Stefan
Harle, John	Rousseau, Eugene
Hemke, Fred	Sampen, John
Habanera Saxophone Quartet	Savijoki, Pekka
Hollywood Saxophone Quartet	Sinta, Donald
Houlik, James (tenor saxophone)	Smith, Howie
Hunter, Laura	Stockholm Saxophone Quartet
Kelly, John–Edward	Sugawa, Naboya
Kientzy, Daniel	Sullivan, Taimur
Krieger, Ulrich	Texas Saxophone Quartet
LeBlanc Saxophone Quartet	Tse, Kenneth
Londiex, Jean-Marie	Weiss, Marcus
Lulloff, Joseph	Wolford, Dale
Marsalis, Branford	

**XI. REPERTOIRE – ALTO SAXOPHONE WITH WIND BAND**

Badings, Henk	Concerto	Donemus Foundation	IV
Bencriscutto, Frank	Serenade	Shawnee	II
Benson, William	Aeolian Song	MCA	IV
Bilik, Jerry	Concertino	Bilik	VI
Bolcom, William	Concert Suite	Theodore Presser	VI
Brandt, Henri	Concerto	Composer's Facsimile (ACA)	VI
Creston, Paul	Concerto, Opus 26*	G. Schirmer	V
Dahl, Ingolf	Concerto	Durand Editions	VI
Finney, Ross Lee	Concerto (winds only)	C. F. Peters	VI
Grundman, Clare	Concertante	Boosey & Hawkes	
Hartley, Walter	Concerto	Theodore Presser	
Heiden, Bernard	Diversion	Etoile	III
Husa, Karel	Concerto	Associated	VI
Ito, Yasuhide	Concerto Fantastique	Composer	V
Maslanka, David	Concerto	Manuscript Composer Manuscript	VI
McMichael, Catherine	Sapphire	C. Alan	VI
Reed, Alfred	Ballade	Southern Music	III
Schuller, Gunther (arrangement)	Tribute to Rudy Wiedoeft	MCA	IV
Stock, David	Winds of Summer	American Composers Alliance (ACA)	VI
Von Koch, Erland	Concerto Piccolo	Boosey & Hawkes	V
Whitney, Maurice	Introduction and Samba	Bourne	V

**XII. REPERTOIRE – ALTO SAXOPHONE WITH ORCHESTRA**

Benson, Warren	Aeolian Song	MCA	IV
Boutry, Roger	Serenade (1961)	Salabert	V

Boutry, Roger	Divertimento (1964)	Leduc	V
Bozza, Eugene	Concertino*	Leduc	V
Creston, Paul	Concerto, Opus 26*	G. Schirmer	V
Damase, Jean-Michael	Concertstück, Opus 16	Leduc	IV
Debussy, Claude Arr. J. Lulloff	Rhapsodie	Etoile or J. Lulloff	IV
Dubois, Pierre Max	Concerto	Leduc	V
Dubois, Pierre Max	Concertstück	Leduc	IV
Dubois, Pierre Max	Divertissement	Leduc	IV
Glazounov, Alexander	Concerto	Leduc	IV
Gotkovski, Ida	Concerto	Éditions Transatlantique	IV
Hodkinson, Sidney	Another Man's Poison	Composer's address	V
Husa, Karel	Elegie et Rondeau	Leduc	IV
Ibert, Jacques	Concertino da Camera	Leduc	IV
Ito, Yasuhide	Concerto for Saxophone and Orchestra	Lemoine	VI
Koch, Erland von	Concerto	Marbot Editions	IV
Koch, Erland von	Concerto piccolo*	Boosey & Hawkes	IV
Koechlin, Charles	Sonatine, Opus 194a	Max Eschig	III
Lennon, John Anthony	Concerto (1985)	Manuscript	VI
Massis, Amable	Poème (1942)	Billaudot	IV
Maurice, Paule	Tableaux de Provence	Lemoine	III
Milhaud, Darius	Scaramouche	Henry Salabert	IV
Muczynski, Robert	Concerto, Opus 48	Theodore Presser	IV
Rivier, Jean	Concerto for Alto Saxophone and Trumpet	Billaudot	III
Rivier, Jean	Concertino (1949)	Salabert	IV
Robert, Lucie	Double Concerto (1969)	Eriks Musikhandel & Forlag AB	VI
Rueff, Jeanine	Chanson et Passepied	Leduc	II



**XIII. REPERTOIRE –SAXOPHONE QUARTET**

<u>COMPOSER</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>PUBLISHER</u>	<u>GRADE</u>
<u>LEVEL</u>			
Auteurs	Pieces en Quatuor	Billaudot	2
Bach	Contrapunctus III	Southern Music	4
Bach	Fugue on a Theme by Corelli	Western Music	4
Bach	Prelude and Fugue No. 6	Southern Music	4
Bach	Sarabande	Southern Music	4
Bach	Trios Themes Celebres	Presser	4
Bach, JC	Andante, Minuetto and Finale	Southern Music	2
Burns, Robert	Suite for Saxophone Quartet	Novello Music	4
Debussy	Andantino and Vif	Etoile Music	5
Debussy	Shepard Golliwog's Cakewalk	Etoile Music	4
Dubois	Quatour	Leduc	6
Frackenpohl	Chorale and Canon	Tenuto	3
Frackenpohl	Ragtime Suite	Shawnee	4
Gershwin	Love is Here to Stay (Jazz)	Southern	4
Gershwin	Nice Work if You Can Get It	Southern	4
Gershwin	Selections from Porgy and Bess	MMB	5
Gibbons	Fantasia	Southern	3-4
Grieg	March of the Dwarves	Rubank	2
Handel	Arrivee De La Reine De Sabbat	Billaudot	4
Haydn/Walter	Quartet en Fa Minuer	Billaudot	5
Jacob	Second Saxophone Quartet	Emerson Editions	5
JeanJean	Quatour	Salabert	5
Joplin	Antoinette	Henry Lemoine	4
Joplin	Bethena	Henry Lemoine	4
Joplin/Zajac	Heliotrope Bouquet	Etoile	3
Joplin/Zajac	Rag-Time Dance	Etoile	3
Lennon	When I'm 64	Kendor	4
Marshall	The Goldrush Suite	Shawnee	3-5
Mendelssohn	War march of the Priests	Rubank	3
Nestico	A Study in Contrasts	Kendor	3
Niehaus	Four Jazz Vignettes	Hal Leonard	4
Pierne	Chanson d' Autrefois	Leduc	3
Pierne	Chanson De La Grand Maman	Leduc	4
Pierne	Marche Des Petits Soldats de Plomb	Leduc	3
Pierne	Trios Conversations	Billaudot	4
Scarlatti	The Cat's Fugue	Southern	3
Schumann	Album Pour La Jeunesse	Robert Martin	3
Strauss	Allerseelen	Rubank	3
Teal	Ten Saxophone Quartets (AATB)	Schirmer	3-4
various comp.	Pieces en Quatour	Billaudot	3
Zajac	Five Minatures	Etoile	4

### **XIII. JAZZ MATERIALS FOR SAXOPHONE**

#### **Jazz Reeds**

See above in reeds section

#### **Jazz Mouthpieces**

See above in mouthpiece section

#### **Jazz Discography - older jazz masters**

Smithsonian Collection of Classic Jazz  
Duke Ellington Carnegie Hall Concerts  
Duke Ellington "At His Very Best"  
Miles Davis "Porgy & Bess"  
Miles Davis "Sketches of Spain"  
Miles Davis "Kind of Blue"  
Miles Davis "Four & More"  
Miles Davis "Birth of the Cool"  
Thad Jones - Mel Lewis  
"Consummation"

#### **Alto Saxophonists**

The Essential Charlie Parker  
Charlie Parker Plays Cole Porter  
Sonny Stitt  
Art Pepper

Johnny Hodges

Lou Donaldson

Phil Woods Sextet "live at the Showboat"

Cannonball Adderly Sextet in New York

Cannonball Adderly Sextet "Coast to Coast"

\*some other select artists:

Gary Foster

Eric Marienthal;

Paquito DiRivera

Arnie Lawrence

#### **Tenor and Soprano Saxophonists**

Lester Young

Johnny Griffin

Joe Henderson

Coleman Hawkins

Sonny Rollins

John Coltrane "Giant Steps"

John Coltrane "My Favorite Things"

Wayne Shorter "Speak No Evil"

Stan Getz (anything but latin recordings)

Warne Marsh

Lenny Tristano

Michael Brecker

Bob Berg

Branford Marsalis

#### **JAZZ STUDY BOOKS - Beginning:**

Huffnagle, Harry. **Streamlined Etudes Books I & II.** New York, NY: Gate Music Co. A series of swing etudes written in the improvised style. Each etude indicates chord symbols.

Niehaus, Lennie. **Jazz Conception for Saxophone Basic Volume.** Hollywood, CA: Professional Drum Shop, Inc. Book 1 in a 3 volume series of etudes in an improvised style.

Niehaus, Lennie. **Jazz Conception for Saxophone Intermediate Volume.** Hollywood, CA: Professional Drum Shop, Inc. A basic/intermediate level collection of etudes in the improvised style. Etudes are designed to improve jazz interpretation and phrasing. Includes chord symbols.

Paisner, Ben. **30 Studies in Swing.** New York, NY: Gate Music Co. The easiest in the Gate Music series edited by David Gornston. These swing etudes are excellent supplemental material particularly for developing sight reading and jazz skill.

Paisner, Ben. **19 Streamlined Etudes.** New York, NY: Gate Music Co. The most difficult volume in the Gate Music etude series. Includes chord symbols.

**Intermediate:**

Bowers, Bugs. **Bop Duets.** New York, NY: Charles Colin. Excellent duets in the bebop style. Second part is as demanding as the first.

Neihaus, Lennie. **Jazz Conception for Saxophone.** Hollywood, CA: Professional Drum Shop, Inc. Book 3 in the series of jazz etudes. Intermediate/advanced level.

Parker, Charlie. **BeBop for Alto Sax.** New York, NY: Criterion Music Corp. Four Parker originals including solo transcriptions from Dial recordings. Includes simple piano accompaniments.

Parker, Charlie. **Charlie "Bird" Parker.** Edited by W. Dorsey Stuart. New York, NY: Charles Colin Music Corp. Four Parker tunes transcribed from Roost Records recordings. Includes transposition for "C", "Bb", and "Eb" instruments.

**Advanced:**

Coltrane, John. **The Works of John Coltrane.** Vols. 1 - 10. Edited by Andrew White. Washington, D.C.: Andrew's Music. Collection contains; 421 transcriptions taken from over 100 albums.

Henderson, Joe. **Joe Henderson Transcribed Sax Solos.** New York, NY: Times Square Music Publications.

Miedema, Harry. **Jazz styles and Analysis for Alto Sax.** Edited by David Baker. Chicago, IL: Down Beat Music Workshop Publications. A vast collection of solo transcriptions by a host of artists. Brief biography and discography of each player included.

Nelson, Oliver. **Patterns for Improvisation.** New York, NY: Times Square Music Publications. Useful etudes and improvisational patterns. Student must have theory background to realize and apply the patterns to appropriate chord symbols as they are not provided.

Parker, Charlie. **Charlie Parker Omni Book.** New York, NY: Times Square Music Publications. 60 transcribed solos as recorded by Parker.

Parker, Charlie. **The Charlie Parker Collection - Vols. 1 - 4.** Edited by Andrew White. Washington D.C.: Andrew's Music. Over 300 transcribed Parker solos from Savoy, Dial, Verve, and live sessions.

Viola, Joe. **The Technique of the Saxophone Vol. II Chord Studies.** Boston, MA: Berklee Press Publications. Explores melodic/harmonic relationships in all keys. Includes improvisational patterns and sequences. Intermediate/advanced level.

Viola, Joe. **The Technique of the Saxophone Vol. III Rhythm Studies.** Boston, MA: Berklee Press Publications. Includes traditional and contemporary exercises, duets, and etudes drilling the student on all aspects of rhythm. Intermediate/advanced level.

**General:**

Aebersold, Jamey. **A New Approach to Jazz Improvisation Vols. 1 - 21.** New Albany, IN:

Aebersold. An excellent series of play along materials including book and record.

Coker, Jerry. **Improvising Jazz**. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall. An excellent reference and beginning jazz theory text.