

SAXOPHONE ASSEMBLY:

ONCE YOU'VE PROCURED THE NECESSARY EQUIPMENT, YOU'LL BE ANXIOUS TO ASSEMBLE YOUR INSTRUMENT AND MAKE SOME SOUNDS. OPEN THE CASE AND TAKE A BRIEF INVENTORY OF THE CONTENTS. YOU SHOULD HAVE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

LARGE CURVED BODY OF THE SAXOPHONE

SHORT CURVED NECK WITH A CORK ON THE SMALLER END

BLACK HARD RUBBER MOUTHPIECE (LOOKS AND FEELS LIKE HARD PLASTIC)

LIGATURE-THIS IS THE METAL OR LEATHER BAND THAT STRAPS THE REED TO THE MOUTHPIECE

NECKSTRAP-USED FOR SUPPORTING THE SAXOPHONE AROUND YOUR NECK WHILE YOU PLAY

REED

CORK GREASE

1. YOU CAN SOAK THE REED IN A CUP OF WATER FOR A FEW MINUTES, OR JUST PUT IT IN YOUR MOUTH. EITHER WAY, MAKE CERTAIN TO THOROUGHLY DAMPEN THE ENTIRE REED.
2. PLACE THE NECKSTRAP AROUND YOUR NECK.
3. LIGHTLY GREASE THE CORK ON THE NECK OF THE SAXOPHONE. YOU'LL ONLY NEED TO DO THIS OCCASIONALLY TO PROTECT THE CORK FROM EXCESS STRESS WHEN ASSEMBLING THE INSTRUMENT.
4. TWIST THE MOUTHPIECE APPROXIMATELY HALF-WAY ON TO THE NECK CORK, LEAVING THE OPEN SIDE OF THE MOUTHPIECE FACING IN THE DOWNWARD DIRECTION.



5. LOOSEN THE SCREW OR SCREWS ON THE LIGATURE AND SLIDE IT ONTO THE MOUTHPIECE. MAKE CERTAIN THE SCREWS ARE LOOSE ENOUGH THAT YOU CAN GET THE LIGATURE ONTO THE MAIN BODY OF THE MOUTHPIECE, AND STILL HAVE ROOM TO SLIDE THE REED UNDER IT.

METAL LIGATURE



LEATHER LIGATURE



6. SLIDE THE REED UNDER THE LIGATURE TAKING CARE NOT TO DAMAGE THE DELICATE REED TIP. YOU MAY HAVE TO SLIDE THE LIGATURE FORWARD TO GET THE REED UNDER IT. SLIDE THE LIGATURE INTO PLACE (BEYOND THE CUT OF THE REED, ONTO THE SLICK SURFACE). BEFORE TIGHTENING THE SCREWS, EXAMINE THE REED TO MAKE SURE IT IS EVEN SIDE-TO-SIDE, AND EVEN WITH THE TIP OF THE MOUTHPIECE. SNUGLY TIGHTEN THE SCREWS.





EXAMINE THE POSITIONING OF THE REED AND LIGATURE IN THE PHOTOS TO THE LEFT AND RIGHT. SETTING THE REED UP CORRECTLY IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS YOU DO IN PREPARATION TO PLAY THE SAXOPHONE.



7. LOCATE THE SCREW AT THE TOP OF THE MAIN BODY OF THE SAXOPHONE THAT LOOSENS THE SLEEVE WHERE THE NECK IS TO BE INSERTED. LOOSEN THIS SCREW. MANY SAXOPHONES HAVE TWO SCREWS IN THIS LOCATION. ONE OF THE SCREWS, WHICH YOU WON'T NEED TO LOOSEN, IS FOR HOLDING A MINIATURE MUSIC STAND (LYRE) USED IN MARCHING BANDS.





8. TWIST THE NECK INTO PLACE, TAKING CARE NOT TO PLACE EXCESSIVE STRESS ON THE OCTAVE KEY (THE KEY BUILT ON TO THE NECK), AND MAKING CERTAIN THAT IT LINES UP ABOVE THE LEVER ON THE BACK OF THE MAIN BODY. TIGHTEN THE SLEEVE SCREW SO THAT THE NECK STAYS IN PLACE.



9. EXAMINE THE ASSEMBLED SAXOPHONE, MAKING CERTAIN EVERY THING LOOKS LIKE A SAXOPHONE SHOULD. BE CERTAIN THE MOUTHPIECE IS PLACED WITH THE REED FACING DOWNWARD.

10. ATTACH THE HOOK OF THE NECKSTRAP TO THE RING ON THE BACK OF THE BODY OF THE SAXOPHONE, AND ADJUST THE NECKSTRAP UP OR DOWN SO THAT WHEN THE WEIGHT OF THE INSTRUMENT IS SUPPORTED BY THE NECKSTRAP, THE MOUTHPIECE IS AT MOUTH LEVEL. YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE TO LOOK UP OR DOWN, OR HOLD THE INSTRUMENT UP WITH YOUR HANDS, IN ORDER FOR THE MOUTHPIECE TO FIND YOUR MOUTH. THE HANDS SHOULD ONLY BE USED FOR BALANCING AND FINGERING THE INSTRUMENT.

