

SAXOPHONE

LESSON ONE



GOAL: to become an “expert” on proper breath support and embouchure

Breath Support ~ another name for the air pressure you use when you blow air (not just breathe) through your instrument. Using your stomach muscles to **push** the air through your instrument is the key. It controls your tone and helps strengthen your embouchure.

Embouchure(‘ahm-bu-shure) ~ the position your teeth, lips and other face muscles should be in to get the best sound on a wind instrument.

ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT LESSON:

1. Take a few breaths in and out making sure you keep your shoulders down and stomach relaxed when breathing in. Push the air out using your stomach muscles.
2. Practice blowing a steady stream of air at a small piece of paper. Try to make the paper “fly” straight out for as long as possible. Using the same piece of paper, try to hold it against the wall as long as you can and from as far away as you can with just your air stream. Make sure your air stream is full of energy. Challenge your family members and friends to a contest.
3. With mouthpiece and neck assembled, practice placing the reed on the mouthpiece several times. Make sure the reed and ligature are on straight. The tip of the reed should be even with the tip of the mouthpiece.
4. Always play with the proper embouchure:
 - *place upper teeth firmly on the top of the mouthpiece.
 - *firm lower lip against your teeth not over (like applying chapstick)
 - *surround mouthpiece with lips by mouthing the letter “Q”
 - *keep this position, with chin flat, while blowing through the mouthpiece

PRACTICE THIS SEVERAL TIMES!!

BRING MONEY TOMORROW FOR EXTRA REEDS, REEDGUARD and other supplies if NEEDED.

Remember not to chew gum, eat or drink right before or while practicing.

No great musician is EVER caught without a pencil! Make sure you have at least one in your case!