

SAXOPHONE

The saxophone is a single reed instrument. Depending on the player it can sound mellow or strong. It does everything from pop to big band to jazz, but also has its place in the band. Conically shaped, the saxophone is the only woodwind instrument made of brass. It is considered a member of the woodwind family because it has a single reed like the clarinet. This is the newest of the woodwind instruments. It looks like it belongs in the brass family because of its golden color. It got its name from its inventor, Mr. Adolphe Sax.



Saxophone Links

<http://www.saxontheweb.net/>

<http://www.saxophone.org/>

<http://saxshed.com/>

How the sound is made

Sound on a woodwind instrument comes from a vibrating column of air inside the instrument. The player makes this column of air vibrate in one of three ways: as air is blown across the top of an instrument (like the flute), across a single reed (like the clarinet), or across two reeds (like the oboe). A single reed is clamped to a mouthpiece at the top of the instrument and vibrates against the mouthpiece when air is blown between the reed and the mouthpiece. Two reeds tied together are commonly known as a double reed. This double reed fits into a tube at the top of the instrument and vibrates when air is forced between the two reeds.

How the pitch is changed

Woodwind pitch depends on the volume of air that is vibrating. A larger volume vibrates more slowly, for lower pitch; a smaller volume vibrates more quickly, for a higher pitch. For most woodwinds, the player changes pitch by opening and closing holes along the instrument's length. Closing more holes makes the instrument longer, making the notes lower.