The Trevor James Saxophone Care Guide

Mouthpiece

Take care in assembling the mouthpiece correctly as poor assembly will make blowing far more difficult. Reeds are very fragile so avoid handling the thin end. Thoroughly moisten the reed by putting the thin end in your mouth for approximately 30 seconds, (do this before EVERY practise session as it helps greatly!) Carefully place the flat side of the reed against the flat part of the mouthpiece. Position the reed so that it is straight and the tip level with the tip of the mouthpiece. Slide the ligature over the mouthpiece (being careful not to slice the reed in the process!) and secure the reed by tightening the screws until they are "finger tight". Always put the mouthpiece cap on when not playing to protect the reed and mouthpiece.

Sax Assembly

Put the neck strap around your neck. Take the main body of the sax from its case holding it firmly by the bell. Hook the neck strap on to the ring positioned about half way down the back of the body. Ensure the neck screw is loosened and insert the crook, which should line up with the neck strap ring. Tighten the screw so that the crook is secure. Apply a little cork grease to the cork (re-do once a week) and push the mouthpiece on to the cork with the opening facing downwards. It is vital that when you have finished playing your instrument that you either clean it correctly or put it away in it's case or place the saxophone on to a saxophone stand. Most of the repair damage we see in our workshops comes from players who have simply laid their saxophone down on a chair whilst they have 'nipped' out for a coffee or for lunch. Saxophones can be easily damaged!

Instrument Care

Your instrument is valuable and well worth your care and attention. Use a soft dry cloth after playing to reduce the effects of dust and acids from the hands. Clear the instrument of excess moisture after playing as this contributes greatly to problems with pads. Saxophones are lacquered so don't clean with anything abrasive. Very carefully dry reeds and mouthpieces with soft tissue. Don't leave the mouthpiece on the sax when not in use as this wears out the cork. Dry the inside of the sax with a pull-through or specially designed mop. Apply cork grease regularly. Keep the instrument away from extreme temperatures and handle it gently.

Insurance

Your saxophone is a valuable commodity so please check that you have your instrument adequately covered by insurance. If in doubt contact your insurance broker regarding your household insurance cover.