

Figure 6.4. Saxophone Fingering Chart

Saxophone Key Chart

NOTE: Fingering chart does NOT include all alternate and trill fingerings. The chart attempts to identify the best fingering choices for use in lyrical & technical passages and only when alternate fingerings must be used to correct resonance and/or pitch.

First Octave

 * A-key available on some Baritones A	 A# B \flat	 B	 C	 C# D \flat	 D
 Lip down/warm air.	 Lip down/warm air.	 If S, lip down/warm air.	 If S, lip down/warm air.	 If S, lip down/warm air.	 If F

*Note: The airstream can be "warmed" by voicing the syllable "haw"; maintain air speed.

 D# E \flat	 E	 F	 F# G \flat	 G
 If F	 If F	 If F	 If F	 If F

* Adjustments are provided for stable notes in order to provide options when just tuning

If F	If F	If F	If F	If F

Second Octave Baritones are often sharp in the entire upper register.

If F	If F	If S	If S	If S

* Note: Also tune to lower octave on these pitches whenever possible.

	If S	If S	If S	If S, lip down

Third Octave

B	C	C# Db	D	D# Eb
If S, lip down, or half-close F-key	If S	If S	If S	If S or If S

Lower Altissimo

E	F	F# Gb
If S	If S (If F, lip up)	If S

General Note: The saxophone will play *sharper* in pitch as one plays *softer*.
 The saxophone will play *flatter* in pitch as one plays *louder*.
 To pitch, one can *close* selected tone holes and keys to a regular fingering.
 To pitch, one can *open* selected tone holes and keys to a regular fingering.

CAUTION

Every instrument, even identical models, can have varying pitch tendencies. Learn the pitch of your instrument and advance your skills to *voice / place / lip* every note in tune. Alternate fingerings are simply one option.

If consistently sharp in pitch:

1. Is embouchure too tight?
2. Is reed strength too hard; biting?
3. Is mouthpiece pushed in too far?

If consistently flat in pitch:

1. Is embouchure too loose?
2. Is reed strength too soft?
3. Is mouthpiece pulled out too far?

	Concert B \flat	Concert A		
Stable Tuning Notes with Band:			Best Tuning Notes for Saxophone Alone:	
Concert B \flat , F, A				