

SAXOPHONE RESOURCES FROM MR. MCCUTCHEON

MOUTHPIECE/REED RECOMMENDATIONS - Mr. McCutcheon

Disclaimer

1. Nothing will make you sound better than practicing.
2. Reeds affect the sound the most, then the mouthpiece, then the instrument, then the ligature
3. Please stray away from metal mouthpieces in school! They allow for a specific Saturday Night Live sound.
4. Woodwind and Brass Wind's site allows you to test mouthpieces and ship them back. I highly recommend playing your mouthpieces for at least a week before deciding.

ANY SAXOPHONE

Mouthpieces (affect the sound the second most amount):

Yamaha 4C (5C for Bari)

Cheap but well-rounded starting mouthpiece for any general playing you might need to do. Usually found in the case when you buy a saxophone.

Reed Case (Need this to keep your reeds from warping):

https://www.amazon.com/DAddario-Woodwinds-RVCASE04-Multi-Instrument-Reeds-Maintains/dp/B001SN7VGO/ref=sr_1_1_sspa?crid=23WF1MOF1EM6&keywords=saxophone+reed+case&qid=1706012438&srefix=saxophone+reed+case%2Caps%2C94&sr=8-1-spons&sp_csd=d2lkZ2V0TmFtZT1zcF9hdGY&psc=1

ALTO SPECIFIC:

Mouthpieces (affect the sound the second most amount):

Classical/Marching Band Mouthpieces

<https://www.wwbw.com/Yamaha-4C-Alto-Saxophone-Mouthpiece-461273-461273000000000.wwbw?rNtt=Yamaha%204c&index=1>

<https://www.wwbw.com/Vandoren-OPTIMUM-Alto-Saxophone-Mouthpiece-463138.wwbw?rNtt=vandoren%20optimum&index=1>

Jazz

https://www.wwbw.com/DAddario-Woodwinds-Select-Jazz-Alto-Saxophone-Mouthpiece-J12620-J12620000002000.wwbw?source=TWWR5J1BB&cntry=us¤cy=usd&source=TWWR4H4BD&gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQiAwbitBhDIARsABFyIJLpPlyGLkOw5oPoUglsyBjkuC1GQBcAx3LgbTsAPk1TE6i3focPlaAhfsEALw_wcB

Reeds (affect the sound the most):

Classical Reeds: Vandoren Blue Box, or Vandoren V12 Reeds

Marching Band Reeds: Legere Synthetic Reeds (I would recommend a .25 strength softer than you normally use)

https://www.amazon.com/Legere-Signature-Alto-Reed-ASG300/dp/B004l928UE/ref=sr_1_1?crid=2ZPLPHUNX1WJ&keywords=legere+synthetic+alto+sax&qid=1706012064&srefix=legere+synthetic+alto+sax%2Caps%2C80&sr=8-1

Jazz Reeds: Any Boston Sax Shop Reeds. Black Boxes are slightly darker, and Silver Boxes are bright. Every reed from this box will be great out of the box, unlike Vandoren/Rico where you might have 3/10 good reeds. You end up saving money on good reeds. They run slightly softer, so if I normally play a 3, I recommend 3.5 strength

https://www.bostonsaxshop.com/?gad_source=1

TENOR SPECIFIC:

Mouthpieces (affect the sound the second most amount):

Classical/Marching Band Mouthpieces:

<https://www.wwbw.com/Meyer-Hard-Rubber-Tenor-Saxophone-Mouthpiece-483730.wwbw>

Jazz

Vandoren V16 - T6 Tip Opening

<https://www.wwbw.com/Vandoren-V16-Hard-Rubber-Tenor-Saxophone-Mouthpiece-463123.wwbw#youtubeVideo>

GS Slant - 5* Tip Opening (HIGHLY recommend; copy of the vintage Otto Link, but it is cheaper since it is 3D printed)

https://www.getasax.com/product/gs_slant_tenor_saxophone_mouthpiece/

Reeds (affect the sound the most):

Classical Reeds: Vandoren Blue Box, or Vandoren V12 Reeds

Marching Band Reeds: Legere Synthetic Reeds (I would recommend a .25 strength softer than you normally use)

https://www.amazon.com/Synthetic-Woodwind-Saxophone-Signature-TSG2-25/dp/B00NVJT8Ko/ref=sr_1_6?crid=2ZPLPHUNXX1WJ&keywords=legere+synthetic+alto+sax&qid=1706012064&sprefix=legere+synthetic+alto+sax%2Caps%2C80&sr=8-6

Jazz Reeds: Any Boston Sax Shop Reeds. Black Boxes are slightly darker, and Silver Boxes are bright. Every reed from this box will be great out of the box, unlike Vandoren/Rico where you might have 3/10 good reeds. You end up saving money on good reeds. They run slightly softer, so if I normally play a 3, I recommend 3.5 strength

https://www.bostonsaxshop.com/?gad_source=1

BARI SPECIFIC:

Mouthpieces (affect the sound the second most amount):

Classical/Marching Band:

<https://www.wwbw.com/Yamaha-5C-Baritone-Saxophone-Mouthpiece-462508-462508000000000.wwbw>

Jazz:

<https://www.wwbw.com/Vandoren-V16-Ebonite-Baritone-Saxophone-Mouthpiece-H70393.wwbw>

<https://www.wwbw.com/JodyJazz-HR-Hard-Rubber-Baritone-Saxophone-Mouthpiece-J03117.wwbw>

Reeds (affect the sound the most):

Classical/Marching Band/Jazz Reeds:

Legere Synthetic Reeds (I would recommend a .25 strength softer than you normally use)

I highly recommend using synthetic for Bari. It is a consistent reed that won't get water-locked, warped, and worn down after a month of playing. You end up saving money on reeds because I can use synthetic reeds for years before needing a new one (depends on how often you play as well).

https://www.amazon.com/Synthetic-Woodwind-Baritone-Saxophone-Signature/dp/B00T9VO3N6/ref=sr_1_9?crid=2ZPLPHUNXX1WJ&keywords=legere+synthetic+alto+sax&qid=1706012064&sprefix=legere+synthetic+alto+sax%2Caps%2C80&sr=8-9

REED MAINTENANCE:

1. Make sure the surface of the reed is always smooth. This allows for cohesion between the reed and the table of the mouthpiece for a proper seal. To do this, you can simply rub the flat side of the reed 5-10 times with a clean piece of blank paper on a flat surface.
2. If a reed is too hard (it should be out of the box), then try pressing the reed with your thumb a couple of times while it is on the mouthpiece. That can loosen the fibers of the cane enough to have easier play.
3. If a reed is too hard, you can try lowering the reed placement, so you see a larger line mouthpiece at the top. If a reed is too soft, try adjusting the reed placement higher so there is less or no mouthpiece at the top.
4. If you play every day, you'll come to realize that reeds don't last a month! Keep a rotation of reeds in a reed case (listed in the resources above) to preserve the longevity of your reeds. Humidity packs can help prevent warping as well.



PRACTICING

"The hardest thing you'll have to do is take the horn out of the case."

Saxophone Fundamentals

Brett McCutcheon

The purpose of long tones is to maintain a full and consistent sound while maintaining your breath control. As we descend the notes of the horn, we want all the notes to sound even (even if the saxophone isn't built in our favor in that way)

"Bob Longtones"



Overtones are a create way to work developing tone through the harmonic series. We can start with the middle Bb, finger a low Bb, and go back up to lingering a middle Bb, all while keeping the same sounding note. Manipulate your voicing (inside shape of your mouth), to achieve consistency.



You'll find that you can achieve multiple overtones and the whole harmonic series through pressing a single bottom note. The harmonic series will always follow this format for saxophone, but it keeps going up beyond the altissimo range! If you can't hit some of the overtones, try playing the real note first, and press the low note while keeping the air moving with the same voicing. This opens your sound up a ton if you've never tried it before!!

