



# Saxophone

Please follow these suggestions to keep your instrument in the best possible condition:

## ♪ Assembly

- ♪ Please **hold onto the bell and neck** when assembling the instrument, it is best if you do not hold any of the keys when assembling your instrument. Please **hold onto the neck** when assembling or adjusting the mouthpiece; this will reduce the risk of bending the neck.

## ♪ Maintenance

- ♪ Use **cork grease** as little as possible, but make sure you use it when you need it. To apply it properly you must rub the grease into the cork. Do not use Chap Stick.
- ♪ **Do not leave your reed on your mouthpiece**, or your mouthpiece on your neck. The reed can cement itself to your mouthpiece and you can destroy your neck cork if you leave the mouthpiece on. It is also very unsanitary; just think of all the germs that can be trapped there.
- ♪ Use a drop swab inserted into the small end of the instrument first to **clean out the moisture** before you return it to its case. If you own a "shove-it" do not put it in your instrument until you have used a drop-swab. The "pad savers" only save the pads if you remove the moisture from the instrument first. Otherwise, more harm is done because the moisture is directly next to the pads. "Pad savers" also leave behind lint that can cause the pads not to seal and the mechanisms not to work.
- ♪ The use of a **tenon plug** is essential for the safety of your body octave mechanism. If you do not have one please find one that makes your sax fit snugly in the case.
- ♪ Please **do not leave your neck strap attached** to your instrument when you put it away.
- ♪ Please **do not use lotion silver polishes** on your instrument. The lotion can make a mess and harm your instrument. If you use a treated polishing cloth for any finish make sure it is for the proper finish. An example of why not to use the wrong cloth is that raw brass cloths can **scratch and harm lacquer**. One of the best ways to keep your instrument finish looking nice is to **wipe off your fingerprints** after every use. A **clean non-treated cotton cloth** works well for this.
- ♪ It is recommended that an instrument is taken to a professional repair technician **at least once a year** for general maintenance and cleaning. Doing so may prevent costly repairs that arise from lack of professional repair attention. A **qualified technician** can often discover a problem that you have learned how to overlook, play through or are not aware of.

## ♪ Case

- ♪ Place the case on a **flat, stable surface before opening case** and attempting to remove instrument.
- ♪ Do not set **anything** on top of an instrument in its case. This means sheet music! Damage occurs easily when items are set on the instrument and the case closed. Woodwind keys bend easily when anything is set on the instrument when the case is closed.
- ♪ Make sure the **case is secure**. Check all the hinges, latches, and handles to see if they are solidly fastened to the case and they close the case securely. Make sure that the instrument does not move around inside the case.
- ♪ Please **do not sit, rest feet on or otherwise apply pressure** to the outside of an instrument case. This can damage your case so that it does not properly protect the instrument.
- ♪ Carry the case so that if it does open, it will **open toward your body**, not the ground.

## ♪ Emergencies

- ♪ In an emergency, please **avoid using any adhesives** like glue or tape). Use dental floss, Teflon (plumber's) tape, or something that will be easily removed when the instrument is properly repaired. Super Glue will make a mess if a solder joint breaks. Tape adhesive can create more of a mess than the temporary repair is worth.
- ♪ Also a word of caution, **rubber bands can eat silver plate**, so it is best to avoid any use of rubber bands on silver instruments.
- ♪ **Broken solder joints should not be ignored**, have a qualified technician repair it properly as soon as possible.
- ♪ **Never use pliers or hammers** on your instrument. Improper use of household tools is a common cause of unnecessary damage to an instrument.

This information is provided for the benefit of your instrument by:

