

Figure 6.4. Saxophone Fingering Chart

Saxophone Key Chart

LEFT Hand

- Thumb: Octave Key (thumb rest)
- 1st finger: "Fork/Spatula", Front F
- 2nd finger: B \flat (Bis)
- 3rd finger: E, C

RIGHT Hand

- 1st finger: E \flat , D
- 2nd finger: F
- 3rd finger: G \sharp , C \sharp , B
- 4th finger: B \flat , E \flat , C

Legend:

- S** (yellow arrow up): indicates notes that are often *Sharp* in pitch.
- F** (black arrow down): indicates notes that are often *Flat* in pitch.
- VS** (yellow arrow up): indicates notes that are *VERY SHARP* in pitch.
- VF** (black arrow down): indicates notes that are *VERY FLAT* in pitch.
- F = Flat**, **S = Sharp**
- Stable Tuning Note** (green box): indicates notes most stable for tuning in band.
- Green circle**: indicates suggested fingerings to *add*.
- Red circle**: indicates suggested fingerings to *subtract*.

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	A \sharp B \flat	B	C	C \sharp 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 \sharp E \flat	E	F	F \sharp 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, lip down



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Third Octave				
If S, lip down, or half-close F-key	If S	If S	If S	If S or If S

Lower Altissimo		
If S	If S	If S (If F, lip up)

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?

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

