

Virtual Band Camp

Skill Sheet #6 - Saxophone Fingering Chart and Note Exercises

To get different notes on the sax, you press down or lift up certain fingers. A Fingering Chart is a picture of which keys your fingers press for different notes.

Here's what the symbols on the Fingering Chart mean:

Octave Key → 
(Located above the black thumb rest on your left hand.)



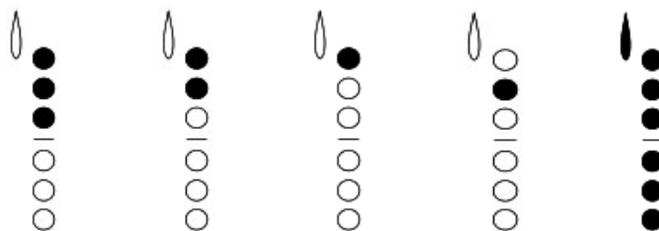
The top 3 circles represent the three fingers on your left hand, which are pressing the circular keys near the top of your sax.

The bottom 3 circles represent the three fingers of your right hand, which are pressing the circular keys on the bottom of your sax.

Notice! You don't need to use your pinkies yet. They will just hang out and not press anything for a while.

Your First Fingering Chart

Here are the first notes you'll learn in band. To play each note, push down the keys that are colored in, and don't press the ones that are left blank.



Saxophone Note and Fingering Exercises

1. The Note-Playing Process

- Find a note you'd like to play on the fingering chart.
- If a key is colored in on the fingering chart, press it down.
- If a key is white, don't press it. Just hover your finger over it.
- Keeping your fingers in position, form a good embouchure, and blow.
- Repeat this process until you've learned several notes!

2. Back and Forth

- Choose two notes that you've learned.
- See if you can play them one after the other, again and again. For example: G, A, G, A, G, A, G, A.
- Do this several times on as many different pairs of notes as you can.

3. Memory

- After you have a good idea of what each fingering is, pick one and study it carefully.
- Now, turn your fingering chart over and see if you can finger that note on your sax without looking.
- Once you've memorized one note, repeat the process to memorize the other notes.
- Can you have G, A, B, C, and D memorized by our first rehearsal?

4. Create Your Own Song

- Using the notes you know, create your own short song.
- After you play the song, see if you can say the note names you used in order.
- Do this as often as you can. You may even want to try playing songs for your family and friends!

Practice Chart

Each time you do one of the exercises above, check it off below. The more checks you get, the better you'll become at playing sax.



Exercise	Checks
The Note Playing Process	
Back and Forth	
Memory	
Create Your Own Song	