

The mechanics of a saxophone

Sound production

A saxophone player produces a musical note by causing the reed on the mouthpiece to vibrate, which creates a column of air inside the instrument. The player placing their top teeth on the mouthpiece then covers their bottom teeth with their lip and places this on the reed. Air is pushed between the thin gap between the reed and the mouthpiece, which then vibrates down the instrument creating a sound.

Reeds

Reeds are an essential item on the instrument as you are aware. These are classified in different strengths from strength 1.5 – 5 in half sizes. As a rule a beginner will usually start on strength 1.5 as this reed is thinner it will make it easier for the reed to vibrate and create a sound. Trevor James saxophones (not Signature Custom) include a strength 1.5 reed with out student saxophones. As a player progresses they will move up a reed strength as their technique and tone improves.

Mouthpieces

On the 'Classic' and Horn 'Revolution II' saxophones we have a specially developed mouthpiece that has been designed to help beginners to play with ease. It has a unique chamber to enhance the quality of the sound the saxophone produces. The material that the mouthpiece is made of is extremely durable. We also provide a quality Cap and ligature. Mouthpieces come in different sizes of tip openings. This creates a different sound and will suit certain players as they advance. Most student mouthpieces are a type of plastic. With experience ebonite and metal mouthpieces are also common.

Crooks

We believe that Trevor James saxophones should have a crook which is extremely responsive for the player. All TJ saxophones have a unique modification made to the crook at point of manufacture to enhance the sound production of the saxophone.

Saxophone strap and case

All Trevor J. James saxophones come complete with an adjustable and durable strap. The 'Classic' saxophones are packaged in Prolite rucksack style case whilst the Horn Revolution II instruments come in a moulded flight case as standard with the optional upgrade to a deluxe Gig rucksack.