

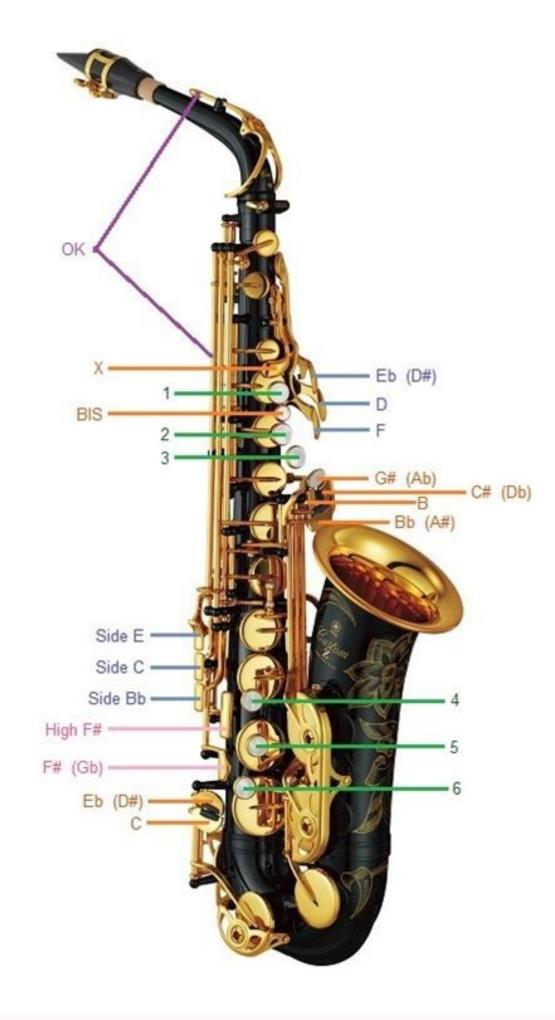
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Tenor sax finger positions

How to hold a tenor sax. Where to put your fingers on a saxophone.

The Notes Are The Same For All Saxophones . Meaning if you're playing a tenor, you play a C the same way you play a C on an alto or soprano etc.

So these fingering lessons apply to you regardless of which type of sax you are playing. The Saxophone is a Transposing Instrument Where it gets confusing to some people is the transposing instrument (Bb and Eb saxophone) matches up with a non-transposing instrument like a guitar or piano (concert pitch). You can ignore all this transposing theoretical stuff at this point and just learn your fingerings, or if you want to learn how it works, then check out one of my other blog posts Saxophone Keys Explained for a detailed explanation on how this all works. Saxophone Fingering Chart PDF – Better SaxDownloadIt's time to discuss the saxophone fingering chart.You've got your brand new saxophone assembled correctly, neck strap in place, reed on, and ready to go.

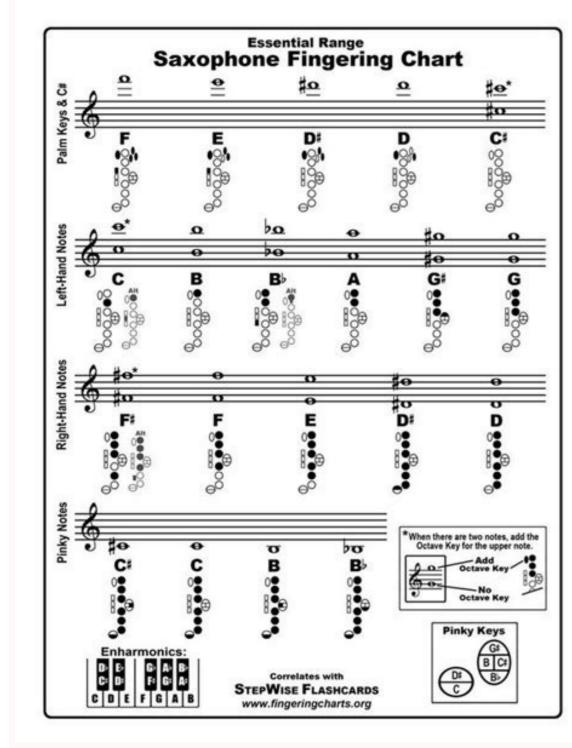


(If you need a hand, check out our video below.)Watch the video for saxophone assembly/disassembly tips here:It's time to start jamming on your first notes, but when you go to place your left hand on the keys at the top of the horn, there's a problem: There's five keys to choose from and all these extras on the side. Where do your fingers go? What do all these other keys do? How do you play the notes to your favorite tune?From the first basic notes you'll typically learn on the saxophone to the full range of the horn, special shortcut and trill keys, and even up into the altissimo register for all you advanced players out there, we want to provide you with a comprehensive guide to saxophone fingerings. In this first post, we're going to start with the basic fingerings for when you're just starting out. Stay tuned for later installments, and let us know what fingerings you're most curious about in the comments. You may be wondering about the difference in saxophone fingerings between the soprano, alto, tenor, and baritone saxophones. The short answer is, there isn't a difference. Once you know how to play on any of these saxophones, you can easily switch between baritone and soprano, tenor and alto without having to learn different fingerings to play the same notes. However, there are a few additional key options on a couple of the saxophones. For example, many pro-level baritone saxophones include a low A key, which extends the range of the horn lower.



Bari sax with low A keyOn the soprano sax, many professional models will include a high G key to extend the saxophone's range a little higher. Soprano sax with high G keyIn addition, some older saxophones, won't have a high F-sharp key, which means some alternate fingerings will be needed to play this note. Horn without high F-sharp key, these are the exceptions and usually don't come into play until after you've got you covered, and if you have questions about how to play a particular note on any saxophone. Hore into play until after you've got you covered, and if you have got you covered, and if you have got you covered, and if you have got you covered, and inght hand goes on the bottom. To start, let's concentrate on what's called the upper part of the saxophone. You'll hand goes on the bottom. To start, let's content te on what's called the upper part of the saxophone. You'll shoull wave play the keys on the upper part of the saxophone. You'll shoul thand goes on the bottom. To start, let's concentrate on what's called the upper stack of the saxophone. You'll shoul thand goes on the bottom. To start, let's controlled by your thumb. This is the octave key, which when pressed takes the basic fingerings and lets you play them an octave higher. Octave keyThe rest of your hand should wrap around the front of the saxophone comfortably. You'll notice three separate skinny, long keys — called plam keys. Spatula keys. Spatula keys back to the left hand and those five keys you have to choose from. Your left hand, Palm keys were to second key in the grouping. Left hand placementWith these three has ckeys, ou can play your first notes, and believe it or not your first finger and close that first key, you're now play in the saxophone, you can reach a seties of own your third finger, the ring finger, goes on the final arge key in the grouping. Left hand placementWith these three basic keys, you can play your first finger and close that first key, you're now playing A. Also press down your third finger at the same time an

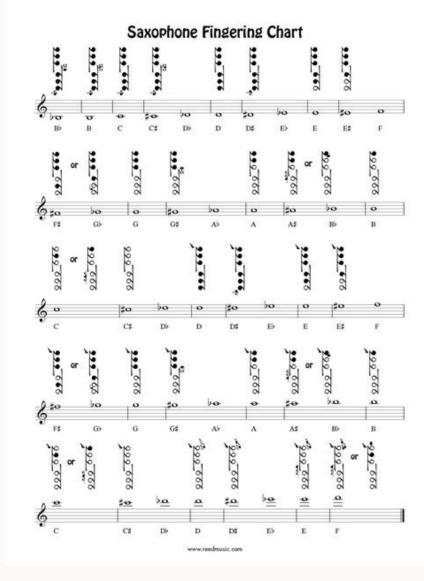
To play a C, press down your second finger only (the middle finger). Left hand C, finger 2This fingering for C produces a note in both the mid-range of the horn, and when you press down the octave key, a higher version of the pitch as well. Now that we've got the left hand situated, let's get your right hand in place on the bottom keys of the horn. First, on the back of your horn facing the body there's an upside down hook-type fixture. Like the thumb rest for your left hand, you'll place your right hand hold the horn steady. With the thumb in place, you'll notice three main key pearls in a line on the bottom portion of the saxophone. You'll want to place your right index finger on the top one (we call it the right hand first finger). Your right middle finger (right hand second finger) will go on the middle key, and the ring finger (right hand third finger) will go on the third of these keys. Right hand position. You'll notice a bar with three additional keys. These are called the side keys. In addition, you'll see an extra one or two keys, depending on your saxophone, beneath this bar. These are the side F sharp and high F sharp keys.



Near your right pinky there are two more keys you can press. These control E flat and low C. Right hand side keysFollowing our additive method, all the notes we'll learn to play with our additive method, add your right hand first finger so you're holding down four keys to play E.And finally, add your right hand third finger so you're holding down all the keys we have learned so far to produce D. Right

hand fingers 1, 2 and 3As you added fingers in the right hand, you may have noticed the notes going lower and it becoming a little harder to play these notes. With some extra practice and some breathing tips, you'll get better at producing these lower notes. Watch the video on how to play low notes on the saxophone here: Also try using the same fingerings while pressing the octave key to play the same notes — F, E and D — an octave higher. Octave keyWe're going to add one more finger in this fingering guide, and that's low C. To play this note, press down all six fingers — the three on your left hand and the three on your right. You'll notice this is the same fingering for the note D we learned earlier. From here, you'll want to go back to those two keys near your pinky, and press down the one farthest away from you, the bottom pinky key.

Right hand with low C keyThis is the fingering for low C. You'll want to keep in mind everything you learned about playing low notes on the saxophone on this one. You may have noticed we didn't cover any accidentals — sharps or flats — in this fingering guide. We'll get to those fingerings soon, but with these first notes we've just gone over, anyone can play a pentatonic scale, which can be used to play countless melodies and improvise solos. With these plain notes (think of the white keys on the piano), we can play three different pentatonic scales — C, G and F.Watch the video on transposition here: Here's what it looks like on the staff. C major pentatonic scale G major pentatonic scale F major pentatonic scale F major pentatonic scale There's even more good news. Once you can get a good sound (think embouchure and reed set-up, which you can find with the rest of our sax fundamentals) and have these fingerings memorized, you're ready to play some cool things. What kind of cool things? Well, Stevie Wonder's "Superstition" for one.



The Temptations used the pentatonic scale for "My Girl." Believe it or not the Rednex used the pentatonic scale for "Cotton Eyed Joe," and great standards such as "Amazing Grace" and "Swing Low Sweet Chariot" all use it too. To get you started, we highly recommend signing up for our Play Sax By Ear Crash Course for free. You can play all the material offered in our great, simple six-video lesson series with the fingerings we just learned. Here's what some BetterSax users have said about trying the course: What are you waiting for?

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We can't wait to hear what you'll learn to play first. In fact, let us know how it goes in the comments. That's all for our basic saxophone fingering guide. Get familiar with these basic notes on your horn so you can start rocking out your pentatonic scales and you'll be ready to add more fingerings soon. To help your practice sessions, we've also created a downloadable fingering guide you can view on your iPad or print out to put on your music stand here [link needed]. Let us know how you do in the comments, and don't forget to chime in with any saxophone fingering questions you may have. Happy practicing! Need another fingering chart? Check out "Altissimo Fingers for Tenor and Alto." Also be sure to follow BetterSax on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube to stay up to date with us for news, giveaways, and other saxophone tips and tricks.