

TONE 9 SAX AND CLARI – MOUTHPIECE EXERCISES

If you have control of your sound on the mouthpiece alone it will give you greater control over your tone and pitch when you play your instrument.

1. Hold a long tone on your mouthpiece. Keep the pitch, dynamic and tone the same throughout. Hold as long as you can.



(NB examples may not be at the correct pitch for you)

2. Check the pitch of your long tone on a tuner or find your pitch on a piano. Try to keep the sound consistent, as with No 1, but now keep the pitch in tune with the tuner/piano.
3. Try to move your pitch down or up a semitone. Hold this new pitch just as steady and in tune as the first. Now go back and forth between the two pitches always checking on a piano or tuner that the pitch is accurate.



4. Gradually extend your range down or up. Try to play part or all of a recognisable scale such as a major or chromatic scale. Keep checking your pitch and play on a piano the scale you are working on to get the sound in your ear.



5. Play major and minor arpeggios. The 3rd and 4th leaps will be tricky but keep relying on your ear. Play these first on a piano so you know how it should sound.



6. With time and patience you should be able to extend the range and precision of your mouthpiece playing. Try more advanced technical exercises or simple tunes

