

## Cleaning Guide for SAXOPHONE

### I. MOUTHPIECE

- a. Materials – small cup, water, a small toothbrush or a mouthpiece brush, hydrogen peroxide
- b. Procedure
  - i. Use a paper towel to wipe the cork grease from the mouthpiece cork. You should also remove any built up cork grease from the tenon.
  - ii. Fill cup  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{2}{3}$  full of hydrogen peroxide.
  - iii. Gently place the mouthpiece tip down in the cup of hydrogen peroxide. Let mouthpiece soak for 15 minutes.
  - iv. Use the mouthpiece brush or small toothbrush to gently scrub the inside and outside of the mouthpiece until all residue has been removed.
  - v. Carefully rinse the mouthpiece with cold running water.
  - vi. Allow mouthpiece to air dry in a safe place.

### II. REED

- a. Materials – small cup/bowl, water, hydrogen peroxide
- b. Procedure
  - i. Fill the small cup/bowl most of the way with Hydrogen Peroxide
  - ii. Gently drop the reed into hydrogen peroxide. Let it soak for about 30 seconds or until the fizzing slows.
  - iii. Gently rinse in clean water.
  - iv. Allow reed to air dry in a safe place, on a flat surface.

### III. NECK AND BODY

- a. Materials – towel; clean, soft cloth; child's soft toothbrush; artist's paint brush or woodwind key brush or Q-tips; paper towels, isopropyl rubbing alcohol
- b. Procedure
  - i. Swab the neck several times. Look through the bore. If the inside is not clean, repeat the procedure until it is.
  - ii. Using the paper towel dipped in alcohol, rub the neck tenon (where the neck goes into the body of the saxophone) to remove tarnish and build-up. Move to a clean part of the paper towel and repeat. Repeat the procedure until the paper towel comes away clean.
  - iii. Using a clean paper towel dipped in alcohol, clean the inside of the neck receiver on the body of the saxophone (where the neck goes into the body of the saxophone). Again, keep moving to a clean part of the paper towel, and continue cleaning until the paper towel comes away clean.
  - iv. If you have a swab, swab the inside of the body several times.
  - v. Use a brush or the Q-tips to clean dust from the areas around and under the keys and rods. Take care not to move any springs.
  - vi. Using a clean, soft cloth, gently rub the inside of the bell as far down as your hand will reach. Do this to remove any smudges or water spots.

- vii. Using the soft, clean cloth, wipe the outside of the body and bell to remove all fingerprints and smudges. Wipe the keys with this cloth also. Do not put anything (oil, Vaseline, rubbing alcohol, etc.) on the outside of the saxophone!

#### IV. THE CASE

- a. You should clean the case each time you clean your instrument. Remove any unnecessary items and find them another home.
- b. Thoroughly vacuum the inside of the case before you return the instrument to it.
- c. Be sure to store all items (reeds, swab, cork grease, pencil, mouthpiece, neck) in the spaces provided so that they do not get under the keys or inside the saxophone. Put nothing between the top of the case and the saxophone.