

Chris Stieve-Dawe

Alto Saxophone ***Basics***

No part of this publication, such as the music, text, design or graphics, may be reproduced in any form, or by any means, without the prior written permission of the publisher.
International copyright secured. All rights reserved.

All rights to the compilation of this book are held by
VOGGENREITER PUBLISHERS.

Assembly and layout: B & O

© 2007 Voggenreiter Publishers
Viktoriastraße 25, 53173 Bonn/Germany
www.voggenreiter.de
Telephone: +49 228 93 575-0

ISBN: 978-3-8024-0639-3

Foreword

Playing the saxophone will bring you a great deal of pleasure for many years to come, as you develop as a player and become better, you will surely become a part of various musical groups playing the very varied styles that the saxophone offers.

This book concerns itself with the Alto saxophone only, but once you have mastered one of them you will be able to convert to all of the instruments in the saxophone family as they all use the fingerings and technique.

The most widely used saxophones today are the B \flat soprano, the E \flat Alto, the B \flat Tenor and the E \flat Baritone saxophone, all of which are used in Wind Bands, Big Bands, Jazz music and dance ensembles.

In Alto Saxophone Basics you will learn eight songs in various keys and styles to an elementary level, it is not possible to cover all aspects of saxophone in just 64 pages! There is a Play-along-CD included which will bring you a great deal of fun and enable you to perhaps give a small concert at home for friends and family.

Needless to say you do have to invest some time if you want to play at a good level, hours of practice daily is for professionals, but if you want to play at a reasonable just for fun level then you should consider practicing around 15 to 20 minutes each day and you will certainly see some progress.

The more you practice the better you will play, and the more you will enjoy making music.

Good luck and much success!

Contents

The E flat alto saxophone	6
Putting the saxophone together	7
The embouchure	9
Play the first note!	10
Exercises on the whole and half note	11
Fingering for A, exercises on A, whole and half notes	12
The quarter note	13
Fingering for B	14
The pause, the slur and the eighth note	15
Moving up! Fingering for C	16
A little theory of music pt. 1	17
Moving downwards! Fingering for F & E	18
Fingering for low D	19
Fingering for low C	20
The octave key, C major two octaves, octave key exercise	21
Master play-along 1: Old Mac Donald	22
Fingering for B \flat , the F major scale, F major exercise	23
Short test no. 1	24
Exercises in F major, 4/4, 3/4 and 2/4	25
Master play-along 2: My Bonnie	26
Fingering for F \sharp the G major scale, study in G	27
Twinkle, twinkle; Molly Malone; Yankee doodle	28
A little theory of music Pt. 2	29
Fingering for low and middle C \sharp	30
The D major scale, D major study, This old man	31
Master play-along 3: Frere Jacques	32
Compound time	33
Master play-along 4: John Brown's body	34

Theory of music test 2	35
The fingering for B \flat , B \flat major scale, study in B \flat	36
Study in B \flat , study duet in B \flat	37
Duet in G major: John Peel.....	38
Master play-along 5: Waltzing Matilda	39
Scales, the circle of fifths/fourths	40
The enharmonic change, the fingering for G \sharp / A \flat	41
The scale of E \flat , 4/4 study in E \flat , 3/4 study in E \flat	42
Master play-along 6: Santa Lucia	43
Minor scales	44
The scale of A major, study in A major	45
Master play-along 7: When the saints go marchin' in	46
Theory of music test 3	48
Reference handbook	49
The mouthpiece	50
Reeds, saxophone sling, the saxophone stand	51
The metronome, cleaning your saxophone	52
All major and minor scales	53
The triad, major chord, minor chord and seventh chord	57
Theory test answers	58
Key reference chart	59
The saxophone fingering chart	60
CD track sheet	64

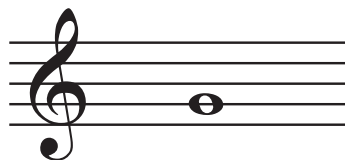
Play the first note!

Have all your fingers placed on the mother of pearl on each key, your left thumb should be placed on the black plastic button at the back where the octave key is, the first, second and third finger of the left hand should be on the keys as shown in the diagram, your right thumb, should be on the thumb hook and the fingers of your right hand gently laying on the keys.



Be sure to have your top teeth on the mouthpiece, do not allow your lower teeth to come into contact with the reed! The lower lip should be on the reed. Strike the tip of the reed with the tongue by saying the syllable “dah” and play the first note G.

G is placed on the second line of the treble clef.

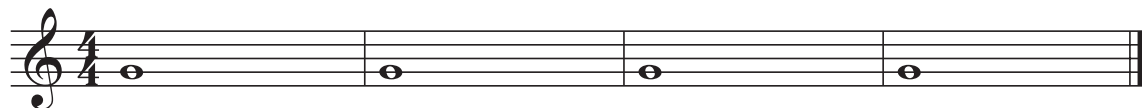


G

This is a whole note and has a duration of 4 beats.

Exercises on the whole and half note

Play the following exercise slowly, the time signature at the beginning 4/4 indicates that there are 4 quarter beats in each bar, we are playing whole notes which have a value of 4 beats.



Count 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

The next exercise shows the whole note rest which must also be counted for 4 beats.



Count 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

Remaining on G but we will now learn the half note, which has a duration of 2 beats.



Count 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4



Count 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4