

Air Support

Think of blowing fast cold air through the center of the saxophone and breath without raising shoulders so the stomach expands, filling lungs from bottom to top (like pouring water into an empty glass). You will need to practice this expansive breathing in order to support the saxophone. Try breathing in and out (never through the nose) in counts of 4 (in 4, out 4). You can also try different counts to work on your stamina and support.

Embouchure

The embouchure is the formation of the lips around the mouthpiece together using the proper muscles for tone production and vibration of the reed. The muscles that are used include the lips, chin, tongue, and the facial structure of the individual.

How To Set The Embouchure:

- Place the mouthpiece in the mouth.
- Slightly roll the bottom lip over teeth.
- Put the upper teeth firmly on top of the mouthpiece.
- Form the mouth to create a circle or an "Ooh" syllable.

Be sure to apply equal pressure from all sides of the mouth. The tendency is to pull the corners back in order to play. Push through the resistance and push the corners towards the mouthpiece.

THE
EMBOUCHURE
WHEEL



The Art of Saxophone Playing – Larry Teal

Oral Cavity – Tongue Position

The tongue position assists in the quality of your intonation and tone production. You can follow the steps below to practice yours.

- Say the word "he" or hiss like a cat. Now memorize what that arch feels like inside the oral cavity.
- The tongue should be touching the top teeth on the sides.
- The tongue should also be at an arch with the tip pointing downward.
- The top of the tongue will be used to push against the reed.

