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HITTING THE HIGH NOTES

Playing high, or altissimo, notes on the saxophone requires a strong embouchure, strong reed, a quality mouthpiece, and the correct high-note fingerings. A great way to learn how to play high notes is to first practice overtones (Tip 55). Then, when you're comfortable producing overtones, give some high-note fingerings a try!

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HIGH-NOTE FINGERINGS

Here are some fingerings for notes above high F for alto and tenor sax. Some of these fingerings will work; some won't. Also, some will be in tune, and again, some won't. Choose ones that work best for you and your horn.

ALTO With Octave Key

Diagram showing alto saxophone high-note fingerings for notes F[#], G, G[#], A, A[#], B, C, C[#], and D. The diagram is divided into two sections: the top section shows fingerings for notes F[#] through A[#], and the bottom section shows fingerings for notes B through D. Each note is represented by a vertical line with circles indicating finger positions (black for down, white for up). The top section includes a legend for the Alt. F Key and a diagram for the Alt. F Key. The bottom section includes diagrams for Side Key 1, Side Key 2, and Side Key 3.

TENOR With Octave Key

Diagram showing tenor saxophone high-note fingerings for notes F[#], G, G[#], A, A[#], B, C, C[#], and D. The diagram is divided into two sections: the top section shows fingerings for notes F[#] through A[#], and the bottom section shows fingerings for notes B through D. Each note is represented by a vertical line with circles indicating finger positions (black for down, white for up). The top section includes a legend for the Alt. F Key and a diagram for the Alt. F Key. The bottom section includes diagrams for Side Key 1, Side Key 2, and Side Key 3.