

Alto Sax Pad Height Gauge

Item # 257020

Purpose:

To help set a consistent key height between the pad and the tone hole on alto saxophones.



Thoughts:

I describe saxophone set-ups (“actions” if you will) as either close or open. Most recently made instruments are from the “open” side of the tracks. Many student models and older pro horns tend to be more closed.

You as the technician will need to make the determination whether to use the open or the closed settings. You may prefer to use only one, and reset all your jobs to that standard, or you may prefer to reset the heights to the general (close or open) set-up the sax was when it came in, and use the tool to help regulate the relationships to that setting.

So... one end of our tool is open, one close. There are double circumscribed lines towards the close end of the tool to help you know which is which. On either end, the smallest step is for the Palm F. The next largest step is for the Left Hand B stack. The third step is for the Right Hand F. The largest step is for the Bell Bb key.

After setting the key-to-key adjustments, and once you’ve removed lost motion, all others in the stack will arrive at a correct and related height.

“Correct” pad heights are certainly a point of argument even among the experienced and informed. However, standards within a shop or factory should be in place. In the end, it is up to each company to establish internal standards. Our tool may help with this.

Instructions:

Simply open the key up to where you can insert the gauge between the pad and the tone hole at the most open (front) part of the key. The tool should touch but not compress the pad to give the best reading.

Enjoy!



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