

INTONATION TENDENCIES OF THE ALTO AND TENOR SAXOPHONES



Alto	+4	+1	-3	-8	-7	-10	-5	-4	-3	-4
Tenor	+3	+2	+4	-1	-8	-4	-3	-5	-2	0

Plus or minus signs indicate the number of cents sharp or flat, as measured on a Strobocoann. (One cent equals 1/100 of a semitone.)



A.	-7	-3	-4	0	+2	0	+8	+5	+10	+6	0*
T.	-4	-1	-7	0**	+6	+3	+3	+6	+9	+5	+2

*Tuning note—Alto
**Tuning note—Tenor



A.	+3	+1	+7	+4	+4	+8	+16	+12	+12	+15	+10
T.	+10	+6	+7	+3	+7	+19	+20	+15	+10	+17	+12

“tone deaf” who have no reaction to intonation discrepancies. The study of music should be limited to those people who have at least an average or better ability of pitch recognition. From this point on ear training can do wonders if properly studied, and the development of a sensitive musical ear is by no means an impossible undertaking. Hearing is an exercise of the mind as well as the ear, and progress may be made in perception capabilities through proper discipline and training. Solfege or other ear training courses are recommended, either preceding or during the study of saxophone.

The human ear is a fickle organ, and if not coached by the mind, it can easily become accustomed to out-of-tune playing. An independent source of pitch measurement is a great aid in laying the foundation

for pitch and interval relationship. The Stroboscope, which measures vibrations electronically, has proved to be a valuable accessory in this respect, as it gives the performer a visual, as well as aural, answer to his intonation problems. When this instrument is used, it is well to realize that the *sound* of the correct reading must be established in the musical memory. A well tuned piano may also be a valuable adjunct, both for matching the intonation and for checking critical interval relationships. Retention of the pitch in the mind when one has heard it correctly will develop only after training and practice, and this is where memory comes into the picture. The habit of listening critically, if properly cultivated, is an indispensable aid in developing a sense of pitch discrimination. Sensitivity is best acquired through constant attention.