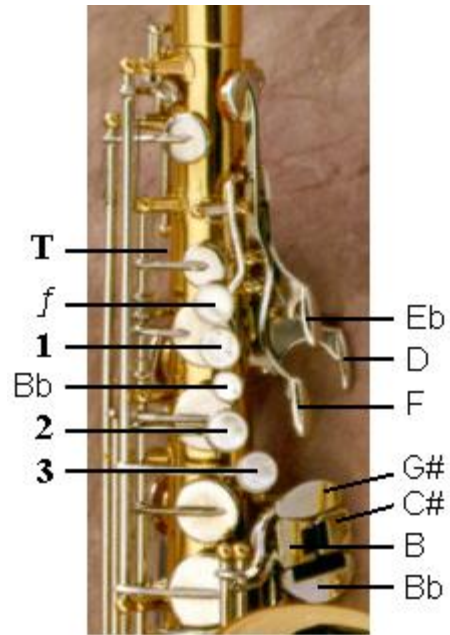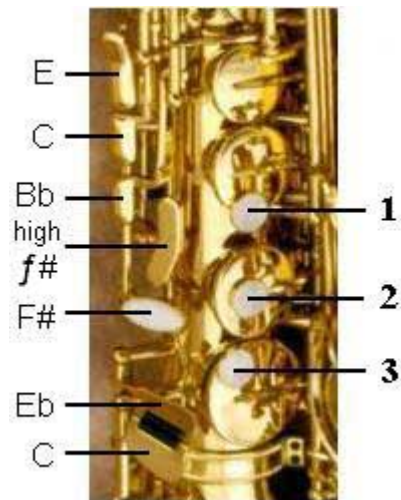## Eb Alto Saxophone

Left Hand

Right Hand

Fingering Scheme for Saxophone

Left Thumb Keys

- **T · Octave Key**
  The octave key is the only thumb key found on most saxophones. It is used as a vent for most second and third octave notes and for almost every altissimo fingering.

Left Hand Main Keys

- **1 · First Finger Key (B)**
- **2 · Second Finger Key (A/C)**
- **3 · Third Finger Key (G)**
- **ƒ · Front F Key**
  The Front F key is the topmost left hand key and is pressed by the first finger. It was designed to provide an altissimo fingering for F_6 as an alternate to using the palm keys. The key is used for various other altissimo fingerings as well.
- **Bb · Bb (Bis) Key**
  The Bb key is pressed by the first finger to play first- or second-octave Bb in passages without B-naturals. It is located between the main keys for the first and second fingers.

Left Hand Palm Keys

- **D · D Palm Key**
  The D palm key is used for playing third-octave D, Eb, E, F, and F# and for trilling to second- or third-octave D. It is the outermost key in the group of three palm keys and is operated by the knuckle of the first finger.
- **Eb · Eb Palm Key**
  The Eb palm key is used for playing third-octave Eb, E, F, and F#. It is the topmost key in the group of three palm keys and is operated by the first joint of the first finger.
- **F · F Palm Key**
  The F palm key is used for playing third-octave F and F#. It is the lower key in the group of three palm keys and is operated by the first joint of the second finger.

Left Hand Little Finger (Pinky) Keys

- **G# · G# Key**
  The G# key is the topmost key in the little finger key group and is used primarily for playing first- and second-octave G#.
- **C# · Low C# Key**
  The low C# key is the outer key in the little finger key group and is used primarily for playing low C#.

- **B · Low B Key**
  The low B key is the inner key in the little finger key group and is used primarily for playing low B.
- **Bb · Low Bb Key**
  The low Bb key is the bottommost key in the little finger key group and is used primarily for playing low Bb.

Right Hand Main Keys

- **1 · First Finger Key (F)**
- **2 · Second Finger Key (E)**
- **3 · Third Finger Key (D)**
- **F# · Alternate F# key**
  The F# key raises first- and second-octave F by a semitone as an alternative to using the right hand middle finger for the corresponding F#.

Right Hand Side Keys

- **E · E Side Key**
  The E side key is the upper side key and is used to play third-octave E, F, and F# as well as to trill second- and third-octave C# to D#.
- **C · C Side Key**
  The C side key is the middle side key and is used as an alternate and trill fingering for first- and second-octave C.
- **Bb · Bb ("Bis") Side Key**
  The side Bb key is the lower side key and is used for the basic and trill fingering for first- and second-octave Bb.
- ***f# · High F# Key***
  The high F# key is a fourth side key on newer models and is used primarily as a third-octave palm-key fingering for the lower altissimo F#.

Right Hand Little Finger (Pinky) Keys

- **Eb · Low Eb Key**
  The low Eb key is the upper right hand little finger key and is used for playing first- and second-octave Eb and acts as a vent in many altissimo fingerings.
- **C · Low C Key**
  The low C key is the lower right hand little finger key and is used primarily for playing low C.

Baritone Saxophone Keys

- **A · Low A Key**
  Baritone saxophones often have a second left thumb key to extend the range down to A.

Saxophone Fingerings

The numbers 1, 2, and 3 are used to represent main holes to be closed while a dash (–) is used to indicate a main hole to remain open. Front F is indicated by ƒ. Left thumb keys are shown first, followed by left hand main keys, a pipe (|) to separate hands, and finally right hand main keys.

<div align="center">

123|1—

T ƒ–2–|1—

</div>

Side keys, palm keys, little finger (pinky) keys, and other keys are shown as superscripts in the left hand and subscripts in the right hand at the position the keys are located.

<div align="center">

$12–|_{Bb}$—

$T\ ^{Eb\ D}$——$|_E$——
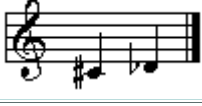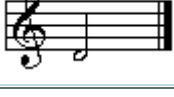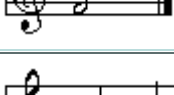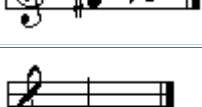
$123^{Bb}|123_C$

$123|1–_{F\#}$–

$T\ 1^{Bb}$—|—

</div>

Basic Fingering Chart for Saxophone
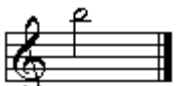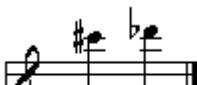
First Octave

Note	Written	Fingering	Description
Bb_3		$123^{Bb}|123_C$	Basic.
B_3		$123^{B}|123_C$	Basic.
C_4		$123|123_C$	Basic.
$C\#_4$		$123^{C\#}|123_C$	Basic.
D_4		$123|123$	Basic.
Eb_4		$123|123_{Eb}$	Basic.
E_4		$123|12{-}$	Basic.
F_4		$123|1{-}{-}$	Basic.
$F\#_4$		$123|{-}2{-}$	Basic.
		$123|1_{-F\#-}$	Chromatic, use in combination with F_4 or F_5.
G_4		$123|{-}{-}{-}$	Basic.
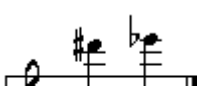
Note	Written	Fingering	Description
G#₄		$123^{G\#}|$——	Basic.
A₄		$12–|$——	Basic.
Bb₄		$12–|_{Bb}$——	Basic.
		1^{Bb}—$|$——	For ease of playing in passages without B natural.
		1—$|1$—	Use in combination with F_4 or F_5.
		1—$|$–2–	Sharp, use in combination with $F\#_4$ or $F\#_5$.
B₄		1—$|$——	Basic.
C₅		–2–$|$——	Basic.
		1—$|_{C}$——	Chromatic.
C#₅		——$|$——	Basic.

Second Octave

Note	Written	Fingering	Description
D₅		T 123$|$123	Basic.
Eb₅		T 123$|$123$_{Eb}$	Basic.
E₅		T 123$|$12–	Basic.
F₅		T 123$|$1—	Basic.
F#₅		T 123$|$–2–	Basic.

Note	Written	Fingering	Description
		T 123|1−F#−	Chromatic, use in combination with F_4 or F_5.
G_5		T 123|——	Basic.
$G\#_5$		T 123$^{G\#}$|——	Basic.
A_5		T 12–|——	Basic.
Bb_5		T 12–|Bb——	Basic.
		T 1^{Bb}—|——	For ease of playing in passages without B natural.
		T 1—|1—	Use in combination with F_4 or F_5.
		T 1—|–2–	Sharp, use in combination with $F\#_4$ or $F\#_5$.
B_5		T 1—|——	Basic.
C_6		T –2–|——	Basic.
		T 1—|C——	Chromatic, use in combination with B_4 or B_5.
$C\#_6$		T —|—	Basic.

Third Octave

Note	Written	Fingering	Description
D_6		T ^{D}—|——	Basic.
Eb_6		T $^{Eb\ D}$——|——	Basic.

E₆		T $^{Eb\ D}$——|$_E$——	Basic.
		T f–23|——	Less stable, use in combination with C₆ and C#₆.
F₆		T $^{Eb\ D\_F}$——|$_E$——	Basic.
		T f–2–|——	Less stable, use in combination with C₆.