

## Aural and Visual Identification of Common Saxophone Repairs

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### Terms:

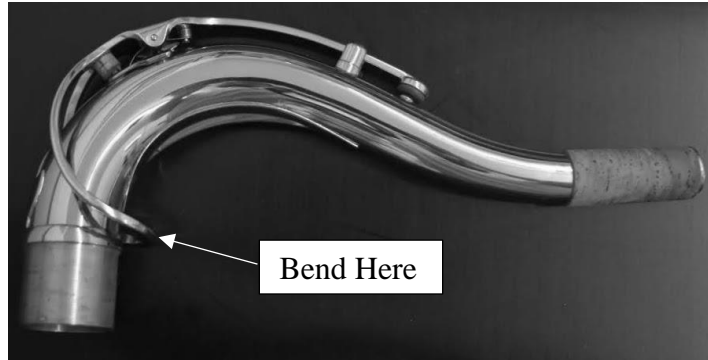
- Pad leak: individual pad not covering the tone hole
  - Damaged/worn pad
  - Bent key
  - Damaged tone hole
- Regulation (aka Timing) leak: Two or more keys not closing at the same time
  - e.g. F key not closing F# and Bis Bb keys simultaneously
  - e.g. Low Bb and low B keys not closing at the same time when playing low Bb
- Over-regulation: secondary key hitting the tone hole prior to the primary key
- Under-regulation: secondary key hitting the tone hole after the primary key

### Preventative Maintenance:

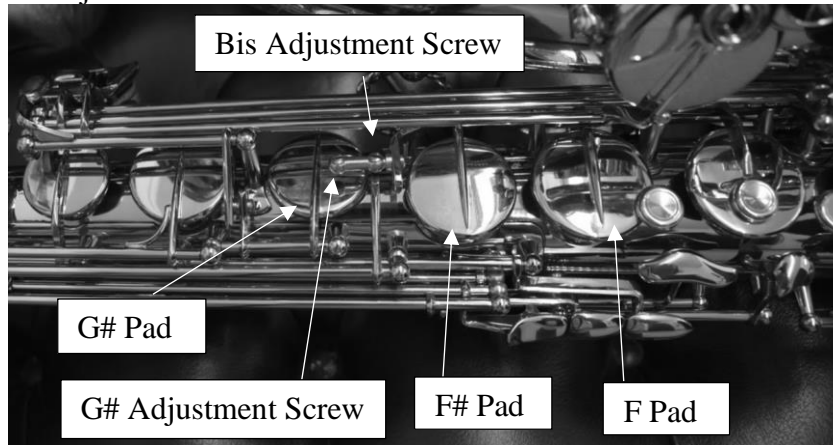
- Daily swabbing of body, neck, and mouthpiece with a microfiber (ideal) or silk (less ideal) swab. Stick style swabs are not adequate. Avoid cheap felt-like swabs.
- Oil keys and rollers 2-3 times per year (no disassembly required)
- Occasionally wipe down instrument with soft cloth (microfiber is ideal)
- Visit a trusted technician once a year
- Get a full clean/oil/adjust every five years (on pro saxophones)

### Emergency Repairs:

- Neck cork repair or replace (with tape)
  - Repair- best done with Teflon tape
  - Replace- can be done with masking tape in an emergency
- Replacing a key cork
  - Synthetic cork (aka tech cork)
  - Super Glue Gel
- Bent octave key

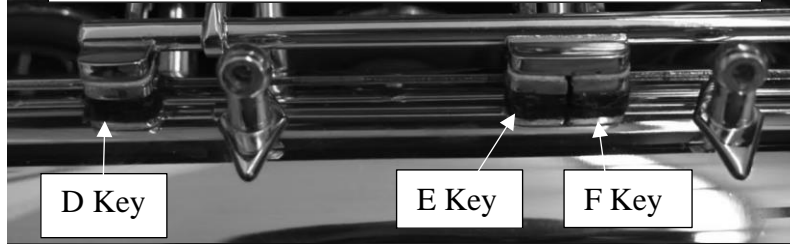


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- Misc. bent keys
  - Smooth jaw pliers, such as Knipex Pliers Wrench
- Bent clothes guard
- Loose screws
  - Screwdriver set, such as the Woodwind Screwdrivers from MusicMedic
- Sticky pads
  - Yamaha Powder Paper
- Sticky neck tenon
  - Rubbing alcohol or mouthpiece spray
- Broken neck screw
  - Ferree's Neck Screw Extractor, part #D14, [www.ferreestoolsinc.com](http://www.ferreestoolsinc.com)
- F#-G#-Bb adjustment screws

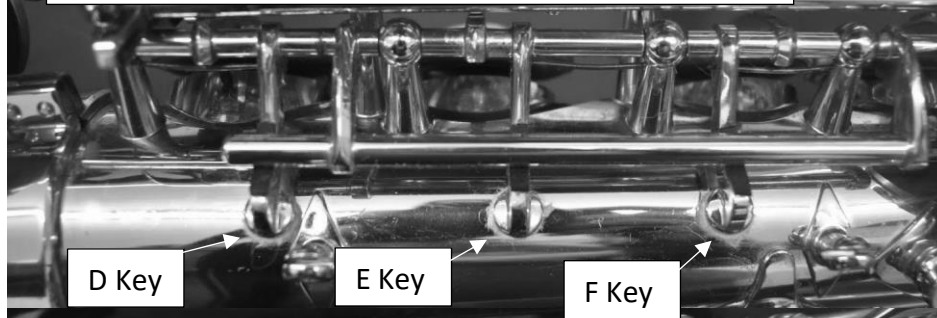


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- When low C#, B, or Bb have a metallic buzz, check the G# adjustment. All of those keys affect the G# key!
- When students complain of a stuffy F#, or there is a metallic buzz when they play F#, check the F# adjustment.

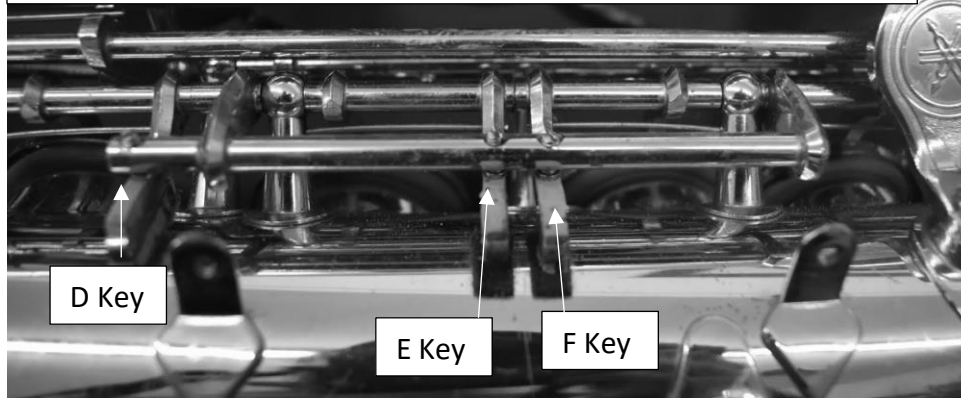
Detail of the F# adjustment on the back of an Eastman 850. No adjustment screws.



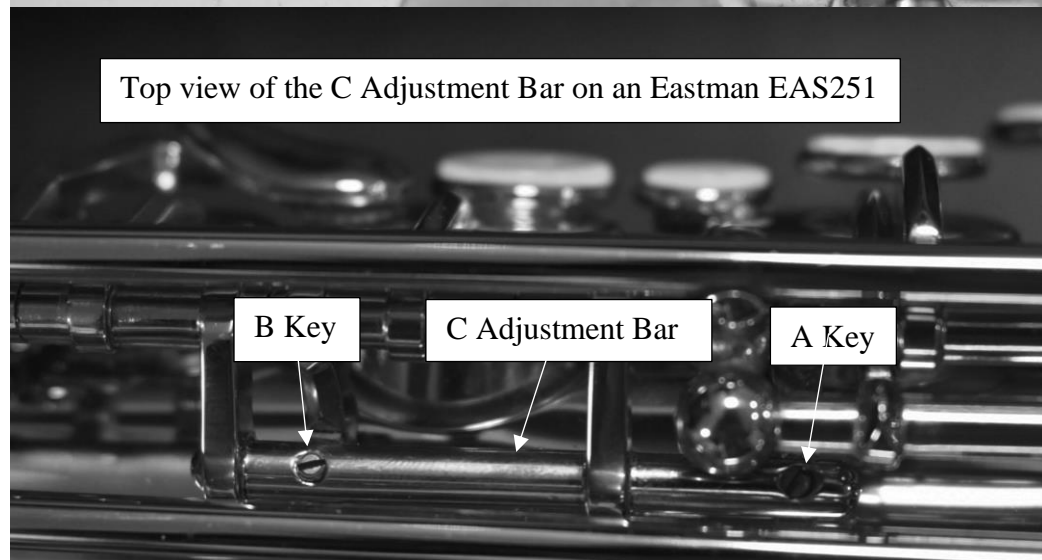
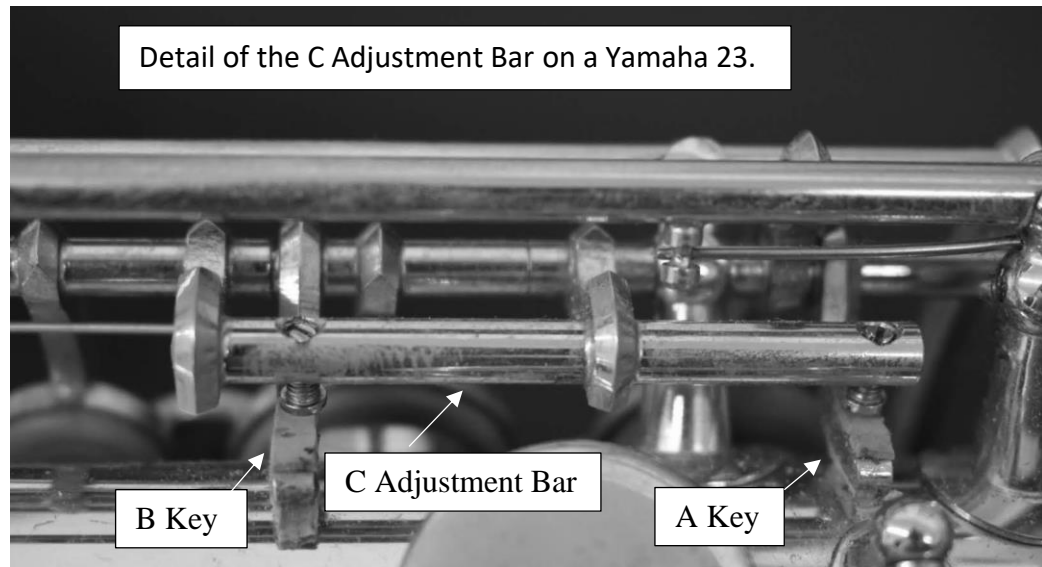
Detail of the F# adjustment on the back of a Selmer. No adjustment screws.



Detail of the F# adjustment on the back of a Yamaha. Separate adjustment screws for D, E, and F.



- Be careful not to over-regulate.
- A-B-C Adjustment
  - Some saxophones have adjustment screws you can adjust if A, B, or C are stuffy or have a metallic buzz.



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- Align bell

#### Things a saxophonist/educator should have:

- Teflon tape
- Masking tape
- Twist ties, zip ties, pipe cleaners
- Set of small flathead screwdrivers
- Smooth-jaw pliers, such as Knipex Plier Wrench
- Crochet hook or spring hook (for putting springs back in place)
- Yamaha Powder Paper
- Pad slick
- Leak light
- Mouthpiece spray
- Ferree's neck screw extractor (if you have lots of student Yamahas)
- Replacement parts assortment (pivot screws, key guard screws, neck screws)

- Super Glue Gel
- Contact cement
- Cork assortment (1/16" if you want to re-cork necks)
- MusicMedic Saxophone Repair Kit (<https://musicmedic.com/products/repair-kits/musicmedic-com-saxophone-repair-kit.html>)

#### Repair tool and supply sources:

- MusicMedic: musicmedic.com
- J.L. Smith: jlsmithco.com
- Ferree's Tools: ferreestoolsinc.com
- Votaw Tool Company: votawtool.com
- Rio Grande Jewelry Supply riogrande.com

#### Paths into Repair Careers:

- Repair Schools
  - Renton Technical College (1yr, Renton, WA)
  - Minnesota State College Southeast (1yr, Red Wing, MN)
  - Western Iowa Tech (2yrs, Sioux City, IA)
- Apprenticeship (tougher to come by in 2024)
- Certificate in Band Instrument Repair Technology Basics at SUNY Potsdam, starting Summer 2025
  - 3 week residential program